



## Strategies for Communication Partners

It is important to remember that not being able to talk doesn't mean someone has nothing to say. AAC users have just as much to say as people who do not use AAC. Here are some tips to use when communicating with people who use AAC:

- Speak directly to the person
- Be patient and give the person enough time to construct their message
- Allow the person to have equal share of the conversation
- Ask open questions
- Try not to ask multiple questions at once
- Don't be afraid to ask the person to clarify if you are not sure what they are trying to say
- Don't speak for the person.

Exceptions to the rules above can occur when you are providing agreed communication support. Sometimes you may have an agreement with your communication partner to be a communication support person that can share information or answer questions on behalf of the person using AAC. This should only be done when the person using AAC actively chooses this support to help enable quicker and more detailed communication, than they would otherwise be able to do given the situation.