

# AAC Myths

## Part One

# **Myth #1:**

**AAC will keep a person from  
talking with natural speech**

# FACT:

- AAC does not keep a user from talking!
- Research shows the opposite; AAC can help facilitate natural speech.
- A multi-modal approach to communication should be encouraged.

A systematic review was completed by Schlosser and Wendt (2008) and determined:

*“Results indicated that AAC interventions do not impede speech production. In fact, most studies reported an increase in speech production. However, in-depth analyses revealed that the gains were rather modest.”*

# THE RESEARCH

## **Myth #2:**

**A child can be too young for  
AAC**

# FACT:

- There is no hierarchy or prerequisite required to introduce AAC.
- An AAC system may be necessary to give the user an early opportunity to develop language skills.
- There is no age requirement for language immersion.

Romski & Sevcik (2005) state the following:

*“There is no evidence suggesting that children must be a certain chronological age to optimally benefit from AAC interventions.”*

# THE RESEARCH

# **Key Take-away:**

**Use of AAC is an evidence based intervention appropriate for all age levels and will not stop speech from developing.**

Romski, M., & Sevcik, R. (2005). Augmentative communication and early intervention: Myths and realities. *Infants and Young Children*, 18(3), 174-185.

Schlosser, R., & Wendt, O. (2008). Effects of augmentative and alternative communication intervention on speech production in children with autism: A systematic review. *American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology*, 17, 212-230.

<https://www.tobiidynavox.com/learn/what-is-aac/common-questions/?redirect=true>

<https://www.assistiveware.com/learn-aac>

## REFERENCES