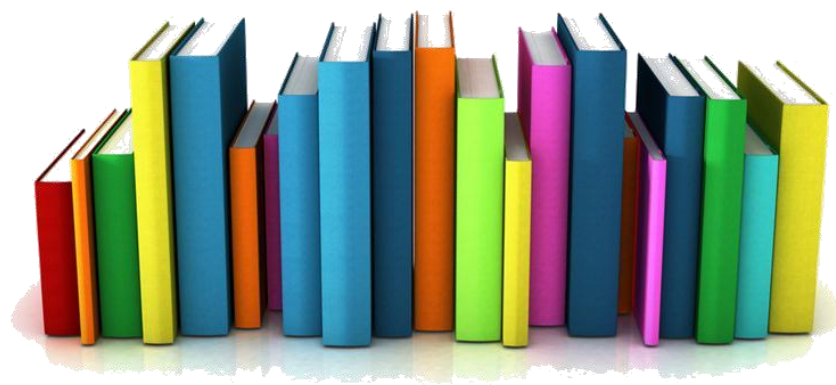




Resource List for Augmentative and Alternative Communication



Print – Online – Camps

This Resource List is part of a project by Calgary and Area Regional Collaborative Service Delivery (RCSD) aimed at improving the services for children and youth with Complex Communication Needs (CCN) and increasing the familiarity of parents, families and practitioners with Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) techniques and strategies. For more information about the project visit www.CalgaryandAreaRCSD.ca or email admin@calgaryandarearcsd.ca.

The items listed were reviewed by health and education professionals working in the field of Complex Communication Needs. This Resource List is not an endorsement of any of the items listed, nor is it prescription or service recommendation. Calgary and Area RCSD always recommends a collaborative service planning approach to ensure the best plan for each individual child.

This list was first published October 2015. To recommend additions to this list, please contact: admin@calgaryandarearcsd.ca

AAC Websites

This document includes a sample of resources. The listing is not comprehensive nor does inclusion of a resource imply any form of endorsement.

Title	Description	Author	Website	Tags
PrAACtical AAC ★ ¹ Supports for Language Learning	PrAACtical AAC includes a blog that shares information about the state of the field and about implementing AAC strategies, provides resources, and discusses news of interest to the AAC community. Includes an AAC e-tool box, videos and strategies.	PrAACtical AAC	http://practicalaac.org	Website; apps; programs; AAC strategies; resources
	This includes 12 grids of core vocabulary words – one for each month of the year. Each grid has 16 cells labeled with core words. AAC symbols that are used can be added and then the grid can be printed and laminated.	PrAACtical AAC	http://practicalaac.org/practical/another-year-of-core-vocabulary/	Website; core vocabulary, Aided Language Input
	Tina Moreno, a mother, who is a SLP and has a child using AAC shares techniques she has used to support AAC students in the classrooms	Tina Moreno	http://practicalaac.org/practical/how-i-do-it-classroom-support-for-students-with-aac-needs	Website; communication; AAC, AAC use in classroom; strategies
HelpKidzLearn ★	HelpKidzLearn is a collection of software for young children and those with learning difficulties. There are five section of software: Early Years, Games and Quizzes, Stories and Songs, Creative Play & Find Out About. The Choose-it-Maker online platform is available on this website.	Inclusive Technology Ltd., United Kingdom	www.helpkidzlearn.com	Website; accessible talking story books
BoardMaker Online ★	Boardmaker Online is a web-based subscription service that can be used to create, edit and play activities, track performance and usage, and access a massive collection of Common Core premade and sample activities.	BoardMaker Online	https://www.boardmakeronline.com	Website; AAC activities
Communication Disabilities Access Canada (CDAC) ★	CDAC promotes human rights, accessibility and inclusion for people who have speech and language disabilities that are not primarily caused by hearing loss. It includes an online course for adults over 18 years of age who use AAC.	Communication Disabilities Access Canada	http://www.communication-access.org	Website; enhancing participation, educating communication partners

¹ ★ This indicates resources identified as “most valuable” by committee members.

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Title	Description	Author	Website	Tags
CurriculumSET – BC Curriculum Based Activities ★	SET-BC works in partnership with BC schools in building their technology capacity to support the diverse needs of K-12 students. CurriculumSET is a collection of resources that facilitate the sharing of customized technology-based content among educators working with students who use assistive technology. It includes a searchable database based on the ten areas of the curriculum as set out by the BC Ministry of Education.	BC Education	https://www.setbc.org/	Website; AA activities; curriculum-based
Wisconsin Assistive Technology Initiative (SETT, IPP, and SETT Information) ★	This website includes resources from a volunteer network of assistive consultants from Wisconsin who continue the work of providing AT training and support within Wisconsin educational settings. The website includes classroom materials and resources, and identifies links.	Wisconsin Assistive Technology Initiative	www.wati.org	Website; AAC resources
Alberta Education Infusing Assistive Technology for Learning into the IPP Process ★	This guide explores assistive technology in relation to the IPP.	Alberta Education	https://education.alberta.ca/media/525549/ipp9.pdf	Website; IPP and assistive technology
Alberta Aids to Daily Living (AADL) – Speech Generating Communication Devices ★	This website includes the AADL Policy and Procedures document for speech generating communication devices, and a list of approved products.	Alberta Health	http://www.health.alberta.ca/services/AADL-program-manual.html	Website – manual; documents; AADL applications
ACE Centre ★	This United Kingdom not-for-profit organization specializes in AAC and Assistive Technology, with core specialist services that include assessments, training, and resources.	Ace Centre	http://acecentre.org.uk/	Website; AAC assessment, training, resources
Closing The Gap ★	Closing The Gap Solutions is an online fee subscription offering practical, sound assistive technology resources and training and documented learning.	Closing The Gap	http://www.closingthegap.com/	Website – blog; AAC training

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Title	Description	Author	Website	Tags
Assistive Technology Industry Association ★	The Assistive Technology Industry Association (ATIA) is a not-for-profit membership organization of manufacturers, sellers and providers of technology-based assistive devices and/or services. The mission of ATIA is to serve as the collective voice of the assistive technology industry association so that the best products and services are delivered to people with disabilities. Includes webinars and a conference.	Assistive Technology Industry Association	http://www.atia.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=1	Website; AAC equipment; technology; training
International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (ISAAC) ★	The website shares information and promotes innovative approaches to research, technology and literacy through AAC. Activities of the society include hosting the ISAAC biennial conference, sponsoring projects, and offering awards and scholarships.	International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (ISAAC)	https://www.isaac-online.org/English/home	Website; training; conferences; sponsorship, scholarships
Resources for iPads ★	The website includes orientation videos on iPad use and recommended apps. There are also resources about app evaluation and ratings. Some resources are targeted specifically to SLPs while other are focused on parents.	University of Alberta, Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine	https://rehabilitation.ualberta.ca/departments/communication-sciences-and-disorders/resources-for-clinicians-and-researchers/ipad-resources	Website – videos, handouts iPad apps
Quality Indicators for Assistive Technology (QIAT) ★	This website includes quality indicators to guide the provision of assistive technology services as well as useful resources and an active e-mail list that people can join where issues, strategies, research and upcoming professional development opportunities are discussed.	QIAT (consortium from the United States)	http://qiat.org/index.html	Website – webinar; AT; AAC; strategies; quality indicators; professional development
AAC and Early Childhood	This presentation is part of the New Hampshire AAC Initiative. It explores research about AAC in early childhood and discusses intervention strategies.	Rae Sonnenmeier	https://vimeo.com/91725812	Website; early childhood, AAC, communication, preschool

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Title	Description	Author	Website	Tags
Linda Burkhart	This website includes handouts, lists of books and resources pertaining to simplified technology for children with severe challenges. The author has developed numerous adapted switches and innovative applications for using these devices with children.	Linda Burkhart	http://www.lburkhart.com/	Website; simplified technology, switches
Priory Woods School and Arts College	This website includes downloadable activities that can be used with switches, touch screens and pointing devices.	Priory Woods School	http://www.priorywoods.middlesbrough.sch.uk/page_viewer.asp?page=Resources&pid=4	Website; accessible activities
Tar Heel Reader	Tar Heel Reader has been designed to allow students to use a variety of alternative access methods to make book choices and to page forward and backwards through books. The site can be accessed through a mouse, touch screen, alternative pointing devices, AAC devices with serial output, the IntelliKeys or with switches. Each of these methods of access is described on the website.	Karen Erickson & Gary Bishop	http://tarheelreader.org	Website; accessible books, speech enabled
Patti Tillman	This pinterest site includes a collection of AAC resources covers many aspects of AAC use.	Patti Tillman CCC-SLP	https://www.pinterest.com/PattiTillman/aac-at-speech-therapy/	Website; AAC resources
50+ Ways to Use Voice Output Devices	This blog addresses AAC, access, research, resources and tutorials. It serves as a voice of a constant researcher in the field of educational and assistive technologies so that the best products, strategies and services may be located easily.	Glenda's Assistive Technology Information	http://atclassroom.blogspot.ca/2013/04/50-ways-to-use-voice-output-devices.html	Website; low-tech, participation, communication, social competence
Speaking of Speech	Speaking of Speech.com is an interactive forum for speech language pathologists and teachers to improve communication skills. It includes free AAC materials.	Pat Mervine	http://www.speakingofspeech.com/AugCom_Materials.html	Website; AAC resource materials; advice; caseload management; resource links

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Title	Description	Author	Website	Tags
Communication and people with the most complex needs - what works and why this is essential?	This report provides some answers to the question "Communication and people with the most complex needs - what works and why this is essential?" Recommended approaches are based on a review of the research literature, discussions with family carers and researchers, and a survey of SLPs.	Research Institute for Health and Social Change Manchester Metropolitan University	https://www.mencap.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/2010-12/Comms_guide_dec_10.pdf	Website – report; complex communication strategies
Vanderbilt University KidTalk	Vanderbilt KidTalk provides language intervention to young children with disabilities through ongoing research and demonstration projects. The website includes tips for parents and resources for professionals.	Vanderbilt University	http://vkc.mc.vanderbilt.edu/kidtalk/	Website - Interactive forum; AAC references; autism
AAC Basics and Implementation: How to teach students who "talk with technology:"	This is the Colorado Department of Education's school-based State-wide Assistive Technology, Augmentative and Alternative Communication practical introductory guide for school-based service providers. It includes background material on communication and AAC systems (the tools), and brief descriptions of the specific implementation procedures and strategies.	Paul Visvader	http://www.swaaac.com/Files/AssessandImp/AACBasicsandImplementationBook.pdf	Website- guide; AAC and communication; AAC tools, implementation
The Open Access Resource Centre (OARC)	This Manitoba website includes an overview of different AAC technologies, resources, and training opportunities.	The Open Access Resource Centre (Manitoba)	http://oarc.ca	Website - AAC technology, training, conferences
AAC Strategies and Communication Tools	This website includes downloadable AAC resources for teachers and families. The focus is on prekindergarten children.	Prekindergarten Program for Children with Disabilities	http://prekese.dadeschools.net/AdaptationStation/communicationtools.html	Website; communication tools; pre-kindergarten
Participation at High School	This video presents ideas for supporting participation in high school.	British Columbia Provincial Inclusion Outreach Program	http://www.pisp.ca/video/videos/High_School_Participation.mov	Website – webinar; high school age users

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Title	Description	Author	Website	Tags
A Conversation with Russell Cross - Part 1 and 2	This webinar with Russell Cross discusses AAC and core vocabulary.	Russell Cross	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yX21EZ2IaU0 · https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VvdthBarInU	Website – webinar; core language
Don't Wait to Communicate: Why Your Child Needs Augmentative and Alternative Communication	This webinar provides a parent's perspective about the importance of presuming competence in a child's communicative abilities as well as tips for how to plan and build a rich vocabulary for a child using AAC.	Dana Nieder	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OyHtoKUNU7c&list=PLRt8N3Siu_0hDtRx1rYY4WlxAR9wH8Ilp&index=1	Website – webinar; parent perspective
Aided Language Input with Kendal	This webinar provides an example of Aided Language Input in conversation and to support conversation.	AAC Chicks	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PUi8kD53NQg&list=UUZ9nA7I5duHtMOI09d21lSg	Website – webinar; Aided Language Input; AAC strategies
Aided Language Stimulation During Reading Using Low-Tech	The webinar provides an example of Aided Language Input when book-reading using no tech or low tech tools.	Communicare	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MwMZDQ-c58U	Website – webinar; Aided Language Input; AAC strategies
Literacy Instruction in the Inclusive Class	This webinar is presented by a parent who has a graduate degree in education and is a parent of a child with Angelman Syndrome.	Erin Sheldon	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VfUKgFa3ubo	Website – webinar; literacy instruction; parent perspective
A Right to Communicate	This eight minute video highlights the experiences of AAC technology users.	Dumfries & Galloway NHS	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fx338vnATIA	Website – Video; enhancing participation with AAC technology
Autism and Augmentative and Alternative Communication: Research-based Best Practices	This webinar discusses the features and types of AAC that best correlate with ASD processing styles, lists evidence-based and promising practices in aided AAC and ASD, and demonstrates effective AAC interventions.	Joanne M. Cafiero	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cwhKHfRkgAI	Website – webinar; Autism communication
Lilly Gets New Words!	This video shows aided language input and AAC use in conversation in a pre-school/kindergarten class.	Lindy McDaniel	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tmVs8dUFXPY#t=27	Website - webinar AAC, aided language input

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Title	Description	Author	Website	Tags
Gail Van Tatenhove	This SLP's website includes handouts, resources and links.	Gail Van Tatenhove	www.vantatenhove.com	Website - Word Documents, PowerPoint
Apps For AAC	This website includes a full list of apps for iPad, iPod, and iPhone organized by category, speech system and symbol system used.	Will Wade	http://appsforaac.net	Website; apps for iPads. iPhones, iPods
Patti King-DeBaun	This website includes tips, a catalogue of resources, featured products and applications.	Patti King-DeBaun	http://www.creativecommunicating.com	Website; AAC apps, resources, products
Jane Farrell Consulting	This website includes a blog, information about AAC apps and switch apps, with a focus on literacy and AAC.	Jane Farrell	http://www.janefarrall.com/	Website; literacy, AAC technology, AAC and switch apps

AAC Technology Reference Manuals and Catalogues

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Title	Description	Author	Website	Tags
Apple iOS Accessibility Tips & Tricks	This is Apple's guide to using its operating systems for iPads, iPods and iPhones to support use of assistive technology. Includes information about accessibility features and third party apps.	Apple	https://www.apple.com/ios/accessibility-tips/	Website - manual; iPad, iPod, iPhone Use
Microsoft Accessibility Guides	This is Microsoft's guide to integrating technology into the classroom and teaching students with disabilities. The site includes specific accessibility solutions, support in selecting assistive technology for students, a teachers' workshop and curriculum resources.	Microsoft	http://www.microsoft.com/enable/education/	Website – manual; Microsoft computer use
Spectronics Inclusive Learning Technologies	This is a Spectronic's site that sells hardware and software to support inclusive learning (Australia).	Spectronics Inclusive Learning Technologies	http://www.spectronics.com.au	Website; AAC equipment; technology
Tobii/Dynovax Supports and Downloads	This website highlights Tobii's range of new AAC solutions that help individuals with speech impairments communicate.	Tobii/Dynovax	http://www.tobii.com/en/assistive-technology/north-america/support-downloads/	Website; Information and support about Tobii/Dynovax products
The Assistive Technology Solution Center	Silver Kite is a resource from Saltillo and PRC (communication technology companies) that provides solutions for people with adaptive living needs. The catalogue and website provide information on communication devices and other products and accessories.	Silver Kite	http://www.silver-kite.com/home	Website; AAC equipment; technology

AAC Books

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Title	Description	Author	Tags	Year
Assistive Technologies: Principles and Practice	Based on the Human Activity Assistive Technology model, this book provides detailed coverage of the broad range of devices, services, and practices that comprise assistive technology, and focuses on the relationship between the human user and the assisted activity within specific contexts.	Albert Cook & Janice Miller Polgar	AAC technology; service delivery; activities; contexts	2014
Aided Communication for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)	This book offers readers a solid grounding in ASD, related complex communication needs, and AAC, especially visual and computer-based technologies. Widely used interventions and tools in AAC are reviewed and assessment of people with ASD and complex communication needs is discussed.	J. Ganz	AAC for individuals with autism spectrum disorders	2014
Augmentative and Alternative Communication: Models and Applications for Educators, Speech-Language Pathologists, Psychologist, Caregivers, and Users	This book describes the framework of how communication is shaped by internal and external factors (including technology) and how communication affects social functioning as well as other (mainly cognitive) functions.	Filip Loncke	AAC models	2014
AAC in the Schools: Best Practices for Intervention	This is a comprehensive guide for systematically overcoming barriers in the school for students who use AAC. The tools and strategies enable the SLP to help students master the skills needed to learn in all subject areas and social settings. http://www.attainmentcompany.com/aac-schools-best-practices-intervention	Nancy B. Robinson & Gloria Soto	AAC tools and strategies; school and social environments	2013
Augmentative and Alternative Communication – Supporting Children and Adults with Complex Communication Needs	This textbook presents a life-span approach to improving the lives of children and adults who have severe communication disorders. Step-by-step intervention approaches are offered, as well as discussions of principles and procedures of assessment; planning and implementation of AAC interventions; symbol options; alternative access; message management; vocabulary selection and service delivery.	David Beukelman & Pat Mirenda	AAC assessment, intervention, service delivery	2013

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Title	Description	Author	Tags	Year
AAC Strategies for Individuals with Moderate to Severe Disabilities	This book helps readers establish a beginning functional communicative repertoire for learners with severe disabilities. It includes an in-depth intervention framework, a guide to AAC modes and technologies, variables to consider when selecting AAC, and how AAC research can be used to support practice.	S. Johnston, J. Reichle, K. Feeley, & E. Jones	AAC strategies and interventions, AAC modes and technologies	2012
A Picture's Worth: PECS and Other Visual Communication Strategies in Autism	This guide introduces the Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS), a communication tool in which partners exchange cards with photos or line drawings representing objects, attributes, and actions. A child or adult who has delayed or no speech can easily express his basic desires (e.g., "ice cream") or needs using a PECS card without prompting from another.	Andrew S. Bondy & Lori Frost	Picture Exchange Communication system; low tech	2011
What Every Speech Language Pathologist Should Know About Augmentative and Alternative Communication	This book provides readers with a basic overview of what AAC is and who might benefit from its use. Characteristics of this population are discussed, and case examples are provided.	C. Binger & J. Kent-Walsh	AAC general	2010
The Beyond Access Model: Promoting Membership, Participation, and Learning for students with Disabilities in the General Education Classroom	This book guides educators and administrators through every phase of the Beyond Access Model, from assessing current student supports to reviewing and sustaining the benefits of new inclusive education strategies. Vignettes and examples—including a detailed, real-life "before and after" case study—illustrate how the model improves students' educational experiences and outcomes.	Cheryl Jorgensen, Michael McSheehan, & Rae M. Sonnenmeier	Beyond Access Model; inclusive education	2010
Transition Strategies for Adolescents and Young Adults Who Use AAC	Combining the best research-based practices from diverse fields—including special education, vocational rehabilitation, and communication disorders—this resource covers every aspect of transition planning for young adults with a wide range of disabilities.	David McNaughton & David Beukelman	Transitioning for young adults; AAC users	2010

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Title	Description	Author	Tags	Year
Autism Spectrum Disorders and AAC	This book includes perspectives from 30 experts on a wide range of AAC methods and technologies. There is discussion about evidence-based AAC interventions that can be used to promote children's natural speech and language development, expand literacy skills, modify challenging behaviour, build social interaction skills, encourage students' full membership and participation in inclusive classrooms, and give children socially appropriate ways to express needs and preferences.	Pat Mirenda & Teresa Iacono	AAC for individuals with autism spectrum disorders	2009
Practically Speaking: Language, Literacy, and Academic Development for Students with AAC Needs	This book provides clear descriptions of instructional techniques, guidelines for curriculum adaptations, and practical tools and visual aids such as model intervention plans, task analysis forms, and charts of sample accommodations.	Gloria Soto & Carole Zangari	Literacy, AAC	2009
Children with Disabilities: Reading and Writing the Four-Blocks® Way	This book provides a glimpse into an inclusion special-education classroom that uses the Four-Blocks(R) Literacy Model. It includes a collection of ideas, strategies, and resources as well as information on self-selected reading, guided reading, writing, and working with words. It also includes strategies for reading and writing success in special-education classrooms, variations for students with disabilities, teacher's checklists, individualized goal suggestions, examples of assistive technology, and answers to commonly asked questions.	David Koppenhaver & Karen Erickson	Literacy, AAC	2007
Rules	This is the story of a twelve-year-old girl who wants a normal life while living with her brother with autism and a family that revolves around his disability. She has spent years trying to teach David the rules from “a peach is not a funny-looking apple” to “keep your pants on in public”.	Cynthia Lord	Sibling perspective	2006

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Title	Description	Author	Tags	Year
Augmentative and Alternative Communication: Developmental Issues	<p>This book provides a perspective on the lives of children who use AAC. It provides a developmental approach to the question of AAC by exploring the development of alternative language forms through the lens of typical child and language development.</p> <p>The text includes chapters written by important voices in the field of AAC from Europe, North America and the Middle East about how the use of AAC impacts and influences language development in children who must use alternative forms to be understood.</p> <p>This text also includes a chapter on AAC implementation and teacher training.</p>	S. Von Teitzchner & N. Grove	Language development and AAC	2003
Speaking up and Spelling it Out	<p>Twenty-eight diverse individuals who use AAC, from teens to senior citizens, give first-person accounts of how living with AAC has affected them, what using AAC is about, and what works (and doesn't work) for them as they face the daily challenges of communication. These touching and humorous stories give insight into how to improve communication supports for AAC users, from AAC users themselves.</p>	Melanie Fried-Oken & Hank Bersani	AAC users perspective, classroom,	2000
Communication without speech: Augmentative and Alternative Communication around the World ISAAC Series: Volume 1	<p>This book answers commonly asked questions and offers practical tips and illustrations. Topics include communication boards, vocabulary selection, assessment and education.</p> <p>https://www.isaac-online.org/English/online-store/books/</p>	Anne Warwick	AAC tips; communication boards	1998
Beneath the surface: Creative Expressions of Augmented Communicators. ISAAC Series: Volume 2	<p>Beneath the Surface features the creative works of 51 augmented communicators from 12 countries. All the writers and artists who contributed to the book use AAC to communicate. They express their views about love, life, war and other experiences through art, poetry and prose.</p> <p>https://www.isaac-online.org/English/online-store/books/</p>	Michael Williams & Carole Krezman	AAC users perspective	2000

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Title	Description	Author	Tags	Year
Breaking the speech barrier: Language development through augmented means	This book describes seminal research in using speech output devices and augmentation of language input to support communication and language development in children with complex communication needs. It describes how the authors brought their research from the language lab to the school setting in order to determine how the process of language learning through augmented means develops, conditions that may facilitate it, and its broader impact on the general course of development of youth with significant developmental disabilities.	M. A. Ronski & R. A. Sevcik	Language learning process, developmental disabilities	1996

AAC Camps

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Title	Description	Organization	Website
Camp Thrive	<p>Camp Thrive is a year round respite centre and summer camp by ISAND (www.isand.ca). It is situated on about 100 acres of land approximately one hour north of Toronto.</p> <p>With a variety of different activities and programs on site, Camp Thrive offers attendees a chance to develop skills in areas including from communication and assistive technology, socialization, schedule structure, independence, task-focus and experience doing job related tasks such as carpentry, agriculture and more.</p> <p>The augmentative communication program iCan Communicate 2 has an emphasis on utilizing different communicative apps to teach language expression and development through an assistive device. The major goal of this is to teach each individual skills and methods that allow them to better express their emotions, their opinions and things they see and want that may be causing anxiety or OCD.</p>	Integrated Services For Autism And Neurodevelopmental Disorders (isand.ca)	http://www.campthrive.com/#lican-communicate/cw8s
Camp AAction	<p>The Kinsmen Children’s Centre in Saskatoon has run Camp AAction every summer since 2009. It is a therapeutic summer program supported by a team of AAC consultants. The AAC team includes speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists, a psychologist, an equipment specialist, a social worker, and physical therapists. It is an opportunity to deliver intense communication therapy in a fun and engaging setting.</p> <p>The camp runs for one week and consists of theme-based activities designed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase communication skills using pictures, signs, communication devices or words. • Provide opportunities for children to communicate with other children, camp leaders and volunteers. • During camp, caregivers will attend a group led by a Speech-Language Pathologist. This will be an opportunity to develop your child’s communication system and network with other parents. 	Alvin Buckwold Child Development Program	https://www.saskatoonhealthregion.ca/locations_services/Services/Alvin-Buckwold/Pages/Programs.aspx

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Title	Description	Organization	Website
United States AAC Camps	These websites describe day and overnight camps offered across the United States.	Various state colleges, not-for profits and schools	https://www.prentrom.com/camps https://www.pinterest.com/aacandat/aac-camps/