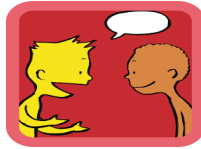
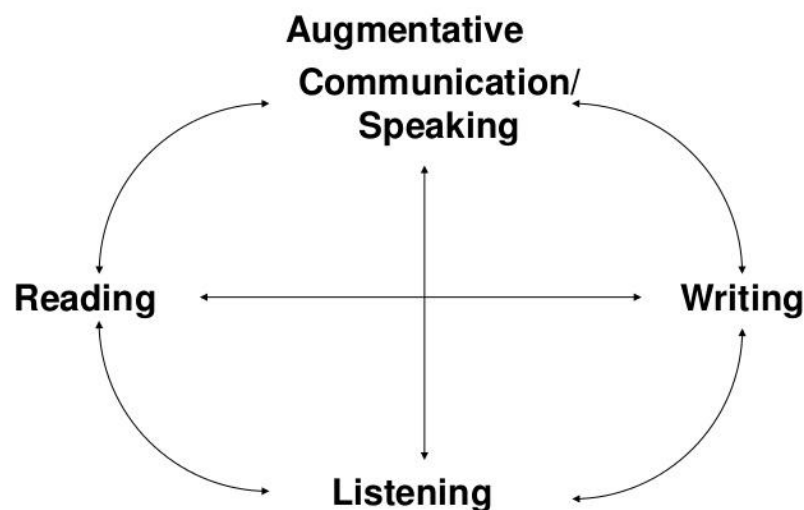


Symbol Based Communication



Augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) refers to the different ways (other than speech) that people use to communicate with each other. Although we may not be conscious of it, we all use augmentative communication techniques on a daily basis, such as facial expressions, gestures, writing, and increasingly, sending text messages and pictures. In difficult listening situations (noisy rooms, for example), we tend to augment our words with even more gestures and exaggerated facial expressions.

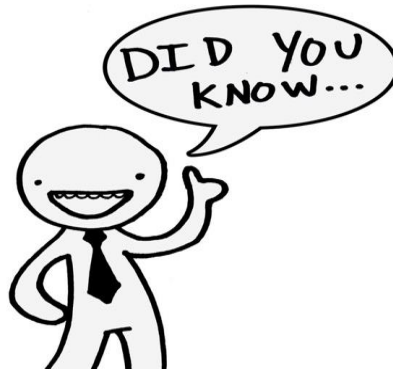


Oral and Written Language Development

(Koppenhaver, Coleman, Kalman & Yoder, 1991. Adapted from Teale & Sulzby, 1989)

People with complex communication needs often require special augmentative techniques that have been specifically developed for them.

Some of these techniques include the use of communication aids, such as charts and language boards. On aids such as these, objects may be represented by pictures, drawings, letters, words, sentences, special symbols or a combination of all of these methods.



- **Symbol based communication IS language communication.** Through the use of picture symbols, students are still receiving language input, but their output is individualized and may involve alternative modalities.
- Literacy has its own symbol set - the alphabet where as communication itself has a variety including speech, auditory, sign, pictures...



Check These Out!

What is Aided Language?
(YouTube)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=flFNMky22-U>

Language Stealers
(YouTube)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iOVm8q0mCYA>

