

Top 10 Myths of Augmentative Communication
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A myth is: A commonly-held but false belief or a popular conception about a real person or event which exaggerates or idealizes reality.

What is your favorite urban legend?

True or False?

AAC users:

- 1. Don't have careers.**
- 2. Have limited Dreams.**
- 3. Are NOT Creative.**
- 4. Are NOT independent.**
- 5. Do NOT seek relationships.**

Before providing AAC services you need to:

- 1. Make sure the user understands and demonstrates cause and effect.**
- 2. Make sure you don't mix AAC interventions with other teaching/communication ideas (signing, verbalization, gesturing, pointing, PECS, etc.)**
- 3. Make sure you never expect the AAC user to speak naturally.**
- 4. Make sure the AAC user is not an infant or toddler.**
- 5. Obtain advanced training and preferably an advanced degree or endorsement.**

This session will explore each of these statements and provide honest discussion using research and personal experience from AAC users and providers throughout the country. A DVD will be provided with free material and suggested strategies to each participant to assist in understanding and fighting myths. It will also be available after the conference at the Computer Center for Citizens with Disabilities.

References:

Burkhart, L. (1993). *Total Augmentative Communication in the Early Childhood Classroom*. Eldersburg, MD: Linda J. Burkhart. For ordering information contact: [Linda J. Burkhart](mailto:Linda.J.Burkhart@washstate.edu). In particular, see page 37: Augmentative Communication Techniques Can Reduce Pressure for Speech Production

http://depts.washington.edu/enables/myths/myths_aac_people.htm (enAbles)

<http://atto.buffalo.edu/registered/ATBasics/Populations/aac/consider.php#myths>

www.lburkhart.com/gphb.htm

www.lburkhart.com/learned_helplessness.pdf

www.asha.org/speech/disabilities/disabilities.cfm