
The Short Answer: NO! Research consistently shows that using Augmentative & Alternative Communication (AAC) **does not delay speech development**. In fact, many children begin communicating **more**-and some even increase their spoken words-after AAC is introduced.

What is AAC?

AAC includes **any tool that supports communication**, such as:

- Speech-generating devices (iPads/tablets)
- Picture communication boards
- Core word boards
- Sign language
- Gestures

AAC gives children another way to communicate while speech is developing.

Myth: "If my child uses AAC, they'll stop talking."

✓ **Fact:** AAC **does not replace speech**. It supports communication while encouraging language development.

Think of AAC as giving your child **another voice-not taking one away**.

Why AAC can help

When children can successfully communicate, they often:

- Experience less frustration
- Participate more during play and daily routines
- Learn new vocabulary
- Gain confidence communicating with others

Using AAC gives children repeated opportunities to:

- Hear language
- See language
- Use language

The more opportunities a child has to communicate, the more their language system can grow.

Will We Still Work on Speech?

Absolutely! AAC is used **alongside** speech-not instead of it. Our goal isn't just talking-it's **communication**. Every child deserves a reliable way to:

- Tell us what they want
 - Share ideas
 - Ask questions
 - Connect with family and friends
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Remember: Communication comes first. Giving your child a way to communicate today doesn't prevent speech tomorrow-**it opens the door to learning, connection, and confidence.**