



## *Communication Technology Education Center*

**A Program of the Supported Life Institute**  
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### **SUPPORT STRATEGIES**

Strategies to Support AAC Learners to Use Their Communication Systems  
for Caregivers, Teachers, Families and Friends

- ❖ **Continue learning the communication device and language system**
  - Formal training from manufacturers - often available free of charge
  - Online tutorials - offered by device manufacturers on their websites
  - Demonstrations by AAC users on YouTube - all ages and communication devices
  - CTEC mentors and staff available at AAC Users' Groups - meet monthly
  - [www.ctecaac.org](http://www.ctecaac.org) - check our calendar for monthly events and trainings
  
- ❖ **Become an effective communication *partner***
  - S.L.O.W.: Share activities, Listen, Observe, Wait  
(<http://www.hanen.org/Shop/Products/Allow-Me.aspx>)
  - Allow the individual to lead - to give you direction, to ask you questions
  - Create activities with a purpose - play a game, do or make something together
  - Get the conversation going and keep it going - think turn-taking
  - Modeling the use of the device - you use it too when communicating
  - Prompting: least to most - beware of too much talking; avoid "point to"
  
- ❖ **Become an effective communication *facilitator***
  - Get out and about - you will find learner-directed topics for conversation
  - Foster the image of the AAC user as a valued member of the community
  - Practice communication in the natural environment
  - Help create new relationships and expand communication partners
  - Importance of direct contact with peers and community members
  
- ❖ **Resources**
  - Supportive Training with Active Respect - STAR videos - [www.ctecaac.org](http://www.ctecaac.org)
  - Simple AAC: <https://thinksmartbox.com/news/simple-aac/introducing-simple-aac/>
  - <https://praacticalaac.org/>