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)
  ➢ [https://praacticalaalac.org/](https://praacticalaalac.org/)