## Questions from the School-Based Speech – Language Pathologist

How do I get my student a personal AAC Device?

Start by asking about your student's current insurance coverage and or funding source. Do they have DDD services? If your student qualifies for DDD/ALTCS, see our ArSHA AAC Flow Chart. If they only have AHCCCs or private insurance, find an in-network speech — language pathologist to conduct the AAC evaluation and submit the evaluation to the device manufacturer and insurance.

Can the school do the DDD/private insurance AAC evaluation? Can we participate in the evaluation?

For Medicaid funded devices, no, often school districts are not in-network with insurance companies due to lack of medical identifiers. However, the AAC Evaluating Agency can perform the evaluation at the school or with the school team. Pending district permissions school-based team members can host and participate. This is best practice, as they know their client better than the evaluator.

Can a school-based SLP make a referral for an

Yes! Refer to the ArSHA Referral form and refer the family to the list of the DDD/ ALTCS AAC Contracted Agencies

Always check with your district first regarding policy and procedures for AAC referrals. All AAC (light tech to high tech) is covered as Assistive Technology under IDEA 2004.

Are there opportunities for parents to attend AAC information sessions?

Yes! There are many virtual resources available for the devices often from the device manufacture. Also, depending on the insurance, devices come with device training and can be conducted in the home or at the school.

Does it matter the type of insurance my student has?

Yes, often each insurance has different coverage for devices. An AAC device is a covered entity for all AHCCCs plans.

Is preschool too young to incorporate an AAC device?

No! AAC can be a strategy to support and build communication. Research continues to support that use of AAC supports building language for all. AAC provides visuals for core vocaublary and modeling with AAC support learning how to use vocaublary in multiple meanings acorss the day and setting.

How do you incorporate AAC into goals?

AAC is a way to supporting language. Ultimately AAC goals are language goals. Write goals to help build different functions of language such as describing, commenting, asking questions, providing personal information, communicating about past events and many more.

## Helpful Links:

ArSHA AAC Referral Form: <a href="https://www.arsha.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/ArSHA">https://www.arsha.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/ArSHA</a> AAC Eval Referral Form Updated 10-11-22.pdf AAC Contracted Agency: <a href="https://www.arsha.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/AAC">https://www.arsha.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/AAC</a> Provider Agencies Contracted with MercyCare and United Health Care Sep142021.pdf