

Tele-AAC Engagement Tips

- Provide caregiver or support staff with a list of “must dos” before session begins
 - Clear expectation of partners engagements participation
 - Limit side conversation
 - Limit environmental distractions
- Have a token board/reinforcement visual with caregiver following your prompts for reinforcement schedule.
- Limit conversation with caregiver as to not distract from the individual during their session, if doing direct services.
- Make sure to include motivating tasks
- Provide a predictable and consistent routine to your session (bookends)
 - Consistency to support focus on content rather than navigation/manipulation
 - Consistency to support communication partners comfort level
- Consider starting with short successful bursts of sessions versus longer sessions when beginning
- Stay positive!
- Have a backup plan. Be comfortable using lite-tech. The goal is communication.
- Use succinct language, and be explicit when supporting the communication partner
- Use the annotation tools within the video conference platform to support engagement, visual supports, etc.
- Consider sharing your whole desktop and minimizing screens to increase access to visual supports. Screen casting the device through another program allows you to share more.
- Clean up your desktop and organize your documents to share prior to beginning session, to limit transition times and decrease visual distractions on your shared screen.
- It’s a process. Meet the communication partner where they are. Don’t underestimate the power of asynchronous tele-AAC supports, especially as a bridge sometimes to the direct synchronous support.