



## AAC INFORMATION NIGHT FOR CAREGIVERS

# *Introduction to the Communication Bill of Rights*

January 11, 2022 at 6pm Pacific  
(Zoom meeting)



# Welcome to the Parent Information Night

## **Agenda**

Introductions

Margaret Edwards, SLP

Caralee Wirth, SLP

Other attendees

NWACS Introduction

Presentation - Introduction to the Communication Bill of Rights

Questions and Answer Period

# About NWACS

- Stands for the Northwest Augmentative Communication Society
- Founded in the late 1970s
- One of the oldest and longest running organizations supporting individuals with complex communication needs in the northwest
- Holds an annual conference
- Is run by volunteers

We are here to serve you, let us know what you need

# Learning Outcomes:

- The learner will understand the purpose and content of the Communication Bill of Rights
- The learner will understand the function of the National Joint Committee for the Communication Needs of Persons with Severe Disabilities (NJC)
- The learner will understand how AAC can be used to build social closeness

# National Joint Committee for the Communication Needs of Persons with Severe Disabilities

- The purpose of the NJC is to advocate for those with significant disabilities that impact communication
- The committee began in 1984 in an effort to develop national guidelines for this population of people
- A symposium held in 1985 was sponsored by the US Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs and Technical Assistance Development Program
- In 1986 The American Speech/Language Hearing Association (ASHA) and The Association for Persons with Severe Handicaps (TASH) organized the NJC
- The NJC has published articles such as Evidence Based Practice in the area of communication and multidisciplinary approaches.
- One of their published documents is the Communication Bill of Rights

# Communication Bill of Rights

- There are 15 fundamental communication rights listed
- There is a [PDF version](#) that can be downloaded
- Kate Ahern developed this [adapted](#) communication bill of rights
- These rights are applicable to both children and adults, across all settings, and are not specific to any one diagnosis

# The opening statement of the bill of rights. Which part(s) resonate with you?

*“All people with a disability of any extent or severity have a basic right to affect, through communication, the conditions of their existence. Beyond this general right, a number of specific communication rights should be ensured in all daily interactions and interventions involving persons who have severe disabilities. To participate fully in communication interactions, each person has these fundamental communication rights....”*

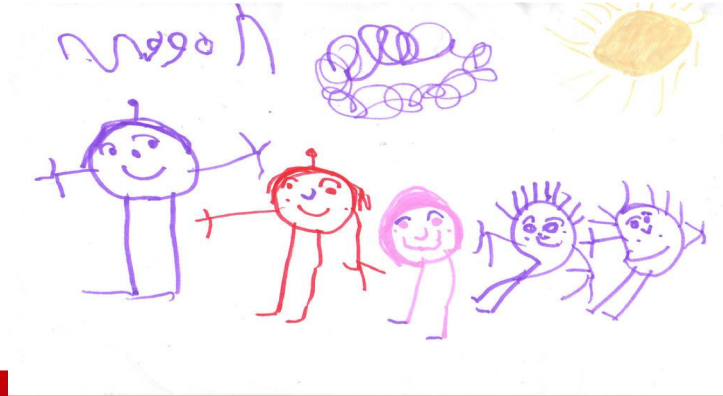
[A video overview](#) of the Communication Bill of Rights.

After watching, feel free to share one right that you are ready to learn more about!



# Number 1:

The right to interact socially, maintain social closeness, and build relationships



# Interact Socially.....

- Common social phrases on AAC
- Activities to interact socially



# Maintaining Social Closeness.....

- AAC phrases to maintain social closeness
- Activities to maintain social closeness



# Building Relationships:

- AAC Phrases that build relationships
- Activities that build relationships



## Resources:

<https://www.asha.org/njc/communication-bill-of-rights/>

<https://www.asha.org/njc/>

# Upcoming Events

## Parent Information Nights\*

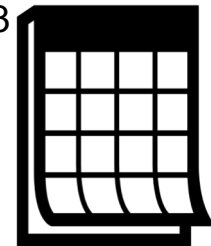
Tuesday March 8th : Communication Bill of Rights - Fundamental Rights 2-4

Tuesday May 10th: Communication Bill of Rights - Fundamental Rights 5-7

Tuesday July 12th: Communication Bill of Rights - Fundamental Rights 8-10

Tuesday September 13th: Communication Bill of Rights - Fundamental Rights 11-13

Tuesday November 8th: Communication Bill of Rights - Fundamental Rights 14-15



\*Dates are tentative

# Get Connected with NWACS

<https://www.nwacs.info/get-involved>

Here is where you can find NWACS on social media:

[Facebook](#) | [Pinterest](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#)

[Northwest Augmentative Communication Caregiver Society \(NWACCS\)](#) - This group is for families in Washington State. It is for parents and family members of children who are unable to meet all their communication needs with mouth words.