



**AAC INFORMATION NIGHT  
FOR CAREGIVERS**

*Communication  
Bill of Rights  
(Rights 8 - 10)*

July 12, 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 - Bill of Rights 8-10

# 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 importance of informing an AAC user with their system (alternate modality)
- The learner will understand the difference between interventions and supports, and have ideas for use in different contexts
- The learner will be empowered to acknowledge communication intent, with or without true understanding of the intended message

# Communication Bill of Rights

## #8 The Right to be *informed* about people and events in one's life



*informed*-educated, knowledgeable, what the informed person should know

- We must provide information to AAC users; AAC users have a basic right to know what is happening around them (and to them)
- We must provide information using a modality that supports their receptive language
- This may include giving information using both verbal language and picture supports
- Inform AAC users using Aided Language Stimulation





Inform AAC users about the PEOPLE in their lives.

- When a teacher is absent
- When they are seeing a new dentist
- When a classmate changes schools
- When someone is sick
- Etc.

Give input using Aided Language Stimulation along with wait time; this gives the AAC user a chance to make a comment or ask a question





## #9: The right to access *interventions* and *supports* that improve communication

Interventions (intervene)- to take a decisive role in order to modify or determine events or their outcome



Supports: to provide the necessities of life for (a family, person, etc)

# Intervention= AAC therapy

- AAC users have a right to therapeutic intervention to help them learn how to use AAC
- This is true for any AAC user at any age
- Typically, a Speech/Language Therapist will provide or supervise the AAC intervention
- This intervention can be done in many settings: home, school, hospital or clinic
- Parents can partner with their SLP; parents can also become knowledgeable about AAC intervention
- <https://www.assistiveware.com/learn-aac>
- <https://www.nwacs.info/learn-about-aac>
- <https://aaclanguage.com/>



**SUPPORTS:** In addition to therapy, AAC users have a right to ongoing supports:

- School Support
- Family Support
- Community support
- Support from other therapists

[Video summary](#) of what support looks like for one family.

# #10: The right to have communication acts acknowledged and responded to even when the desired outcome cannot be realized

- Non-verbal communication
  - Looking intently, gestures, signs
- Vocalizations/Word(s)
- Use of their AAC system

# Acknowledgement does not mean obtaining, and sometimes you have to make your best guess

- Acknowledged so the AAC user is heard/messages conveyed
- Validate by stating known facts
- Use statements such as “are you telling me...” or “are you asking for...” or “are you feeling...”
- Indicate when is an appropriate time for the request
- It is OK to say “no,” “not right now,” or “later”
- Repetition- just as you might repeat yourself for a typically developing child or family member!

# "I want a cookie"

## 15 minutes before bedtime or right after breakfast

"Not right now,"

"Tomorrow"

"Later"



# “Park”

“I know you **like** the park.”

“We went to the **park** yesterday. We had **fun.**”

“We will **go** to the park Saturday.”





# Resources:

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

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

<https://www.assistiveware.com/learn-aac>

<https://www.nwacs.info/learn-about-aac>

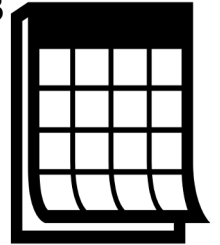
<https://aaclanguagelab.com/>

# Upcoming Events

## Parent Information Nights\*

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.