

Communication Aids & Systems Clinic

AAC Competencies & Goals

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Functional use of augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) includes proficiency in five key competency areas. Treatment goals at the Communication Aids & Systems Clinic (CASC) are individualized to include targets across all areas of competence at the level appropriate for the AAC user's skills and needs. The five AAC competency areas are:

Operational Competence

Skills required to use the AAC system or device

Example: Powering the device on and off

Social Competence

Skills required for social interaction

Example: Initiating & maintaining conversation

Strategic Competence

Skills that are unique to an AAC system

Example: Using the device when communication breakdowns occur

Linguistic Competence

Demonstrate receptive and expressive language abilities

Example: Symbol combination

Psychosocial Competence

Skills required to handle challenges of everyday life

Example: Self-regulation, expressing emotions

Client's Goals (EXAMPLES)

Short-Term Goal 1: Within therapy sessions, Client will use SGD to express termination, desire for a break, or request for a calming strategy in 80% of situations in place of non-linguistic behaviors (e.g., self-injury, elopement, hitting, pinching). **(AAC Strategic Competency Goal)**

Short-Term Goal 2: Client will use at least 40 vocabulary words/symbols to express at least 5 communicative functions given min-no cues within a one hour therapy session. **(AAC Social and Linguistic Competency)**

Short-Term Goal 3: During a 60-minute therapy session, Client will identify a basic emotion (e.g., happy, sad, frustrated, excited) and its cause (e.g., I want a break) when provided with moderate to minimum cues at least 5 times. **(AAC Psychosocial & Strategic Competency Goal)**

Short-Term Goal 4: To support generalization of skills, Client and his care team (i.e., school team and family) will participate in a home program designed by CASC therapist as measured by verbal report of completion. **(AAC Strategic Competency)**

Operational

Social

Strategic

Linguistic

Pyschosocial