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

- **Linguistic Competence**
  - Demonstrate receptive and expressive language abilities
  - Example: Symbol combination

- **Strategic Competence**
  - Skills that are unique to an AAC system
  - Example: Using the device when communication breakdowns occur

- **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)*