

## Center for Autism and Related Disorders at Kennedy Krieger Institute

The Center for Autism and Related Disorders (CARD) at Kennedy Krieger Institute has established an Augmentative Alternative Communication (AAC) team to establish and accelerate language, social, and cognitive development in children with autism spectrum disorders whose spoken language development is not occurring as expected in response to intervention. The AAC team provides AAC evaluations to determine whether or not an AAC system is appropriate for a child. If appropriate, recommendations may include low tech picture-based communication systems (e.g., Picture Exchange Communication System) or Speech-Generating Devices.



Once it is determined that a child is appropriate for an AAC system, the AAC team tailors the AAC intervention and system to the child's needs, and 'grows' the AAC system with the child. The AAC team teaches children how to communicate using the AAC system, and to increase variety and complexity of language skills. The AAC team offers a variety of services throughout CARD's clinical and classroom-based intervention program. Our AAC team also provides training to parents so that they may effectively support their child's spoken and aided (using the AAC system) communication development. Parents also learn how to program the recommended AAC systems to increase the complexity of language and ideas that may be expressed as the child's skills increase.

Finally, the AAC team communicates with school-based intervention providers and private intervention providers within the community to assist with carry-over of the recommended AAC systems across all environments.



For more information, please call 443-923-7630  
or visit [KennedyKrieger.org](http://KennedyKrieger.org)

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