

# Parents and Professionals as Partners in the Implementation of AAC

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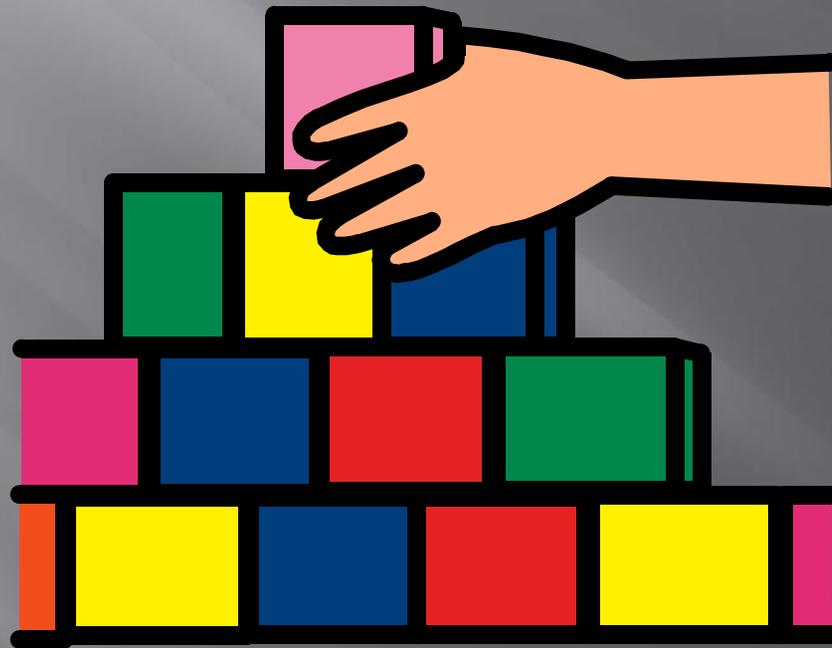
# Introduction



# Back Then...Trying to Form A Partnership Between US(parents) and the Professionals



# Barriers...what are they?



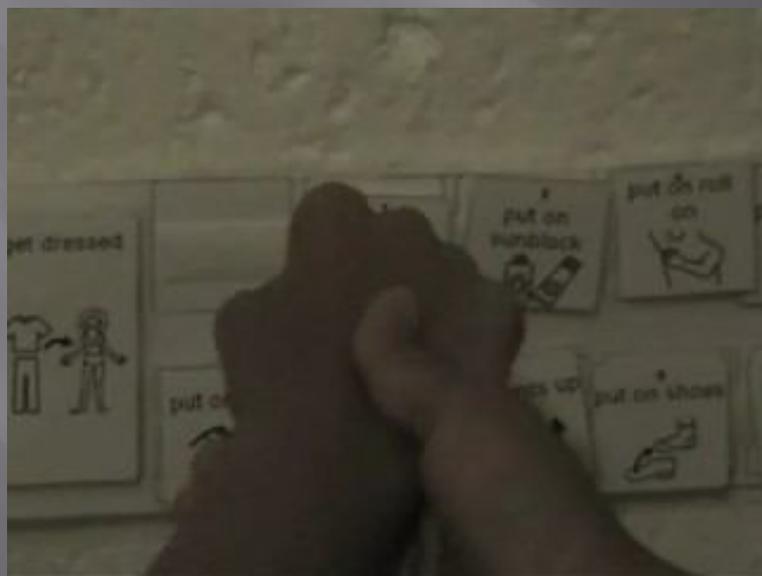
## *Some barriers that impact on the parent and professional partnership are:*

- ▣ *communication problems*
- ▣ *a lack of understanding of the intervention or the process*
- ▣ *feelings of inferiority*
- ▣ *not understanding a child's disability*
- ▣ *devaluation of someone's input*
- ▣ *apathy*
- ▣ *stereotyping*
- ▣ *negative attitudes*

# *Now...The Team Approach*



# Why Parents & Professionals as Partners for the Implementation of Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC)?



## Parents as Partners in the IEP Process Guide -Utah Parent Center

- ▣ *“As a team, the professionals and parents need to work together to accomplish the goal of identifying and meeting the child’s educational and support needs. We should not seek to gain more “control,” “power,” or “say so” than the other team members. In doing so, the focus on the child may be lost and the goal of designing an appropriate program may not be reached. The team’s focus should be on the **needs of the child.**”*

*The Parent's Guide to Speech and Language Problems - Debbie Feit with Heidi. M. Feldman, M.D.,PH.D*

- *“Your child’s speech therapist may be a trained professional with all the letters after her name, but she needs your help in improving your child’s speech and language disorder. To think that therapy, on it’s own, will solve your child’s problems is like putting a Band-Aid on a broken arm - not too effective. Yes the SLP is doing important work with your child; but it’s likely that she only sees him in half-hour increments a few times a week. You as the parent, spend far more time with your child. And it’s time that can be spent helping him.”*

*Fostering Parent and Professional  
Collaboration*"-National Parent  
Technical Assistance Center,  
Minneapolis

- ▣ *“Parents truly are experts on their children and should be treated accordingly. Even when engagement is difficult, their wealth of knowledge is worth pursuing, and it can make a real difference in services (PACER, serving, 2006). Families are emotionally invested in their child’s outcomes and follow daily progress in a way that others generally do not.*

## .....Parent Technical Center, Minneapolis

- *While professionals often see the child in only one setting, families are accustomed to dealing with multiple systems and knowing what has worked in different situations. Parents can also facilitate communications between school providers and other agencies. Because of the strengths parents and professionals bring to collaboration there are different actions each can take to make the relationship more productive."*

*Parents & Professionals as Partners  
for Savannah Pillay -Meagan Meiring,  
HOD Senior Phase, JHB Hospital  
School.*

- ▣ *“Due to the information received from Savannah’s family, we have insight into Savannah’s life outside school. This has helped us to create communication opportunities around functional daily life activities which have been most beneficial to Savannah. Communication needs to be encouraged and praised at every positive attempt, especially when initiated, and as we are continuously informed of Savannah’s communication that take place outside school, when she replicates that in school, she is easily understood and we have the opportunity to further develop her communication”.*

# *The Role of Professionals*

- ▣ First do no harm
- ▣ Be sensitive to parents
- ▣ Provide specific help and support
- ▣ Work with parents
- ▣ Give credit where credit is due



# *The Role of Parents*

- ▣ First do no harm
- ▣ Be honest
- ▣ Provide information
- ▣ Work with professionals
- ▣ Give credit where credit is due

*Partnering means a Lighter  
Load...Enabling Parents to  
Enjoy Parenting*



# Conclusion

