

## Myth

There are prerequisites to accessing speech devices and robust communication.

### Fact

Research shows there are no pre-requisites to accessing speech devices and robust communication. To demonstrate skill, people first need access to appropriate tools, strategies, opportunities, and instruction. Using high-tech AAC is a great way to learn and practice skills in context! Let's presume competence in all individual's by giving them the tools they need to reach their full potential.

# What about...

# Finger Isolation

Adjust the grid size on a device to allow for larger buttons that are easier to access if your client is not displaying finger isolation. Our Quick Talker Freestyle can also be paired with a switch!

## **Sustained Attention**

Individuals are able to hear and learn through modeling, even if they may not be visually attending. Provide consistent modeling- similar to language exposure for infants- to facilitate learning.

## Picture Discrimination

Speech applications that support motor planning allow learners to navigate a device, while practicing their picture discrimination skills. Select any app with the QuickTalker Freestyle!

## Cause and Effect

Device use is a great way to teach cause and effect in context, aiding learning through practical application!

#### Motivation

Try incorporating child-led and play based activities that will enhance engagement and motivation with the device!

<sup>1.</sup> Kangas, Kathleen & Lloyd, Lyle. (2009). Early Cognitive Skills As Prerequisites to Augmentative and Alternative Communication Use: What Are We Waiting For?. Augmentative and

<sup>4.</sup> Romski, MaryAnn PhD, CCC-SLP; Sevcik, Rose A. PhD. Augmentative Communication and Early Intervention: Myths and Realities. Infants & Young Children 18(3):p 174-185, July 2005. 5. Romski, M. Å., & Sevcik, R. (1988). Augmentative and alternative communication systems: Considerations for individuals with severe intellectual disabilities. Augmentative and Alternative Communication, 4(2), 83-93.