

Using Aug**COMMON SENSE**

A communication device, no matter how expensive or complex, will not immediately enable students to voice their deepest dreams and desires. Create a supportive environment and give students time to practice.



Charge the machine.

Purchase multiple spare batteries and supply school staff with the equipment they need to charge and maintain devices. Create a maintenance schedule. Assign paraeducators or parents with the task of charging the device.

Link the content of a device to the environment.

Program functional vocabulary and relevant phrases that apply to the classroom. Few students express food preferences, announce their emotions, or describe the weather during academic classes.



Limit the number of times you change devices or programming.

When a student masters or entirely fails to use a device, teams often quickly jump to purchase new technology. Give students time to learn, use and enjoy their devices before you ask them to accept and master new technology.

Enable students to ask questions and solicit attention.

Asking questions is an important part of classroom participation. Program questions into devices. Supply students with choices that will enable them to initiate conversations and get attention from friends and family.



Promote socialization outside the classroom.

Enable students to greet peers in the hallway between classes. Extend communication in the cafeteria beyond food and drink choices. Even students that do not take food orally benefit from peer interactions in the lunchroom. Enable students to choose where to sit and who they want to assist them. Consult peers for lingo and slang. Add phrases like "Whaaaz Up?" or "I'm cool with that."

Prepare for backtalk.

Adolescents frequently criticize, disagree, remark sarcastically and use colorful language. Recognize the difference between what you want to hear and what the student actually wants to say.



Refrain from censorship.

Removing buttons from a student's device does not teach them to communicate appropriately. Let students take risks, make mistakes and accept consequences.