**Dos & Dont’s for AAC Device**

JoBr

JoBr comes to center with an AAC (augmentative and alternative communication) device, which is cream and teal colored, and can be found inside client’s backpack that is on the back of his wheelchair. This is his device, therefore should never be left here at center. His device is equipped with pictures/icons of his preferred items, people, activities, and locations that client has exhibited HRE (happy, relaxed and engaged) with, for example a picture of him slamming doors, which is highly preferred for client. It also has pictures of essential items such as his Pediasure (main food source), wheelchair, water, etc. As with any communication device, this device is intended to be his main form of communication, therefore not having it available to him at all times is equivalent to taking away his voice. *“AAC device users should be able to say what they want, when they want!”*

When to use AAC device

One of the most effective means of teaching an individual to use an AAC device is to teach them to mand as a mand specifiys its own reinforcer. When JoBr is showing body language that is indicative of a mand (reaching towards an object, transitioning to a different area, trying to hand an adult an object) BT should use this opportunity to prompt engagement in AAC. If JoBr is reaching towards a door to slam it, BT should prompt JoBr to verbalize “Slam door” via his AAC device. If JoBr is reaching towards magnet blocks, BT should prompt JoBr to verbalize “Magnets” via his AAC device.BTs should aim to capture any and all opportunities for the client to verbally mand throughout session.

How to navigate device:

🡪 Touch **Home** button (shaped like a house) in the top left corner

* Touch **Joshua’s New Page** -> includes **Acitivities, Foods, Quick Phrases, Feelings,TV Shows, People, Physical Therapy**, and **About Me**
* Touch **ABA** -> includes preferred items such as **Cause and Effect Toys**, **Places** (includes **hall, gym**, and **lobby**), and **Shake** (Pediasure)
* Touch **Core Words** -> includes **All Word Lists**, and simple words such as “***want***”, “***like***”, and “***more***”
* If at any time you need to go back, touch “**🡨**” button in top left corner, next to **Home** icon

\*\*If needing more guidance or to be shown, please don’t hesitate to ask!

Data Collection

There will be a handful of specific target mands within JoBr’s catalyst that we will be teaching at any given time. Each time one of the targets within Catalyst is used/prompted, data should be taken on that individual target. There will also be an independent and prompted mand frequency trackers that should be used each time JoBr uses his device to independently request items/activities or is prompted to do so by his BT.

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| **Dos** | **Don’ts** |
| Keep on client at all times; this is his intended form of communication | Force client to use device if he is pushing it away (exhibiting R1/R2 behaviors) |
| Present device whenever applicable: transitioning, while client is out of chair and on the ground, between rooms, when client appears stagnant, etc. | Choose for client, i.e., touch icons for client, or physically prompt client’s finger to choose any given icon |
| Allow client to navigate device independently | Model more than one word at a time |
| To the best of your ability, honor/follow through on mands (e.g., Client touches “Brown Bear” book icon, you should then present the book to him) | Forget to honor ALL forms of communication such as gestural, positional, and vocally |
| Treat device as if it’s verbal communication, i.e., host a conversation with client, e.g., “Yeah man, I love that you asked to read *Brown Bear,* that’s such a great book; let’s go get it!” | Allow other clients to manipulate/play with JoBr’s device |
| Model use of device for client |  |
| Contrive opportunities to utilize device, such as when transitioning while on floor |  |
| Provide enough time for client to respond with device |  |