

## Parent information

### What is AAC?

AAC stands for Augmentative and Alternative Communication. AAC is when a person uses **something other than speech** to communicate. AAC can be used in addition to or instead of speech.

Some types of AAC are:

- AAC apps on a computer or device
- Books and single pages with pictures
- Gesture and signing (Key Word Sign)

To learn to use AAC, students must first watch other people using the AAC system. When we talk to students using the AAC system, this is called **modelling**.

### AAC at Redcliffe Special School

At Redcliffe Special School, staff model AAC for all students who need support to communicate. Many different AAC systems are modelled at Redcliffe Special School, such as student's personal AAC systems, Key Word Sign, communication (PODD) books, and an iPad app called Proloquo2Go.

Ask your child's class teacher which types of AAC are being modelled in class.

### Private speech pathologists

Private speech pathologists can prescribe AAC systems and write applications for NDIS funding for AAC systems.

To find a private speech pathologist, contact your child's NDIS plan manager or GP or use the Speech Pathology Australia 'Find a Speech Pathologist' search page ([https://www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au/Public/Shared\\_Content/Smart-Suite/Smart-Maps/Public/Find-a-Speech-Pathologist.aspx](https://www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au/Public/Shared_Content/Smart-Suite/Smart-Maps/Public/Find-a-Speech-Pathologist.aspx)).

### Advocating for AAC

1. Ask your child's private speech pathologist to prescribe an **AAC system**.
2. Ask the private speech pathologist for "**communication partner training**" for yourself and other people who communicate with your child often. Communication partner training is when the speech pathologist teaches you how to use the AAC system.
3. Tell your child's class teacher about the AAC system your child has been prescribed. **Send the AAC system to school** each day so staff can model the system for your child.