

aacommunity.net



**All the Time  
and Everywhere**

**The place, time and people  
around a person all affect  
communication.**



Most of us take talking for granted. Most of us only lose our voice when we're sick. Most of us can talk unless we have laryngitis or are in a loud place. **People who use a tool to communicate need their voices with them—all the time and everywhere.**

When people don't talk naturally, ensuring they have their voice takes more effort. More effort to remember. More effort to charge. More effort all around. It is another responsibility. But...

- How can we avoid theft of the tool?
- If the person throws objects, will the tool be safe?
- If it's not important to the person, why should the team care?
- The person uses the tool to make impossible requests. Can I take the tool away?
- The person says the same thing over and over again. It is annoying. Can I remove the tool?

• Who will be blamed if the tool is lost or stolen?  
These are problems that the team can solve or at least address. When we make consistent access a priority, creative solutions emerge.

- We can anchor the tool to the person or wheelchair.
- We can use a military grade protective case.
- We can clearly state roles and responsibilities.
- We can help the person be quiet at appropriate times. Just like we do if they communicate naturally.
- We can consider a temporary light tech solution.

Obviously, we believe that communication is important. Too important to be left on a shelf. We hope that we can convince you to believe that too. The first step is committing to everyone's right to communicate. With a commitment, solutions to the barriers will follow.