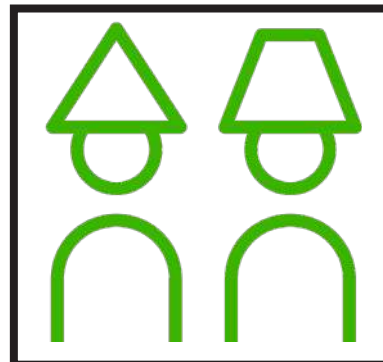




Who Does What? – Professional Roles

Who are the people that can help make decisions about AAC?



Who is part of AAC decision-making team?

- **Person needing AAC**—should have as much input as possible by indicating their needs/goals/interests.
- **Family/Friends**—long term support/advocacy for person needing AAC with deep insights into historical communication needs.
- **Caregivers /Support Personnel**—current support system for person who often assist with communication when there is misinterpretation and have insights about vocabulary needs/interests.
- **Speech/Language Pathologists (SLPs) and Communication Specialists**—professionals who specialize in evaluation/treatment of communication disorders.
- **AAC Specialists**—SLPs with additional expertise/training in AAC can assist team in selecting/maintaining appropriate systems
- **Occupational/Physical Therapists and Assistive Technology Specialists**—professionals who can help determine how a person with physical difficulties can access an AAC—identifying barriers/maximizing chance for success.

- **Others** with knowledge of the person may provide insights: ASL Interpreters, Social Workers, Teachers, Job Coaches

Who typically leads the decision-making team?

- **SLPs and AAC Specialists**—gather information from decision-making team for AAC assessment, make recommendations, provide treatment and may identify funding sources.

How can AAC decision-making have the full involvement of team members?

- Sharing process for making decisions rather than take decision out of their hands. Ex: *You may want to encourage them to start by identifying what they want AAC to do, clarify what they want and then encourage them to evaluate each option against their goals.*
- Gathering/sharing information from all team members
- Combining knowledge/expertise in planning process
- Carefully made decisions will go a long way toward successfully implementing any AAC system.

(Communication Assistance for Young Adults
<http://www.cayabc.org>)