AUGMENTATIVE AND ALTERNATIVE COMMUNICATION (AAC) SERVICE DELIVERY MODEL

**STEP 1**

**ASSESSMENT**

**Goal:** To determine the best AAC tool, access and/or strategies for the child.
- Set communication goals
- Explore AAC tools, access and/or strategies

Visits can occur virtually, onsite at Holland Bloorview and/or in the community
- **Timing:** up to 6 months

**STEP 2**

**a) TRAINING**

**Goal:** To provide training to ensure the child, family and community partners are familiar and comfortable with the AAC tool, access &/or strategies provided
- Set training goals
- Provide child and partner training based on identified goals

Visits can occur virtually, onsite at Holland Bloorview and/or in the community
- **Timing:** up to 4 months

**b) HOME/PRACTICE**

**Goal:** To continue practicing use of the AAC tool, access and/or strategies.
- Goals from the training block and/or new goals are set for child, family and community team to work on.

- **Timing:** up to 4 months

**FOLLOW-UP VISIT** to review progress and determine next steps:
- Re-assessment (**back to step 1**)
- Extended home practice (**go to step 3**)
- **Timing:** up to 12 months

**STEP 3**

**EXTENDED HOME PRACTICE**

**Goal:** To ensure the AAC tool, access and/or strategies that have been provided, continue to meet the child’s current communication needs.

**Follow-up Training:** During this Extended Home Practice, the family can request up to four training sessions if they feel that more support is needed for the current AAC tool, access and/or strategies.

**Re-Assessment:** During this Extended Home Practice the team may recommend a reassessment (**back to step 1**) if the current AAC tool, access and/or strategies are no longer meeting the child’s communication needs.

**End of Service:** At the end of the Extended Home Practice, the child’s file will be closed if the AAC tool, access &/or strategies continue to meet the child’s communication needs. Further progress can be supported by the community team.

**If leasing a high tech device, the child’s family will be contacted yearly for up to 5 years to confirm the device is continuing to meet the child’s needs**
- **Timing:** up to 12 months

**GLOSSARY**

- **Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC):** refers to various methods that help the child who is unable to use speech or whose speech is difficult to understand
- **AAC Tools:** refers to what the child uses to communicate
  - Low-tech communication tool: paper based tools such as choice boards, language boards, books on which you may place symbols and/or photos
  - Mid-tech communication tool: devices with paper based displays and recorded speech output
  - Single Message communication tool: devices that can record single messages or a series of messages
  - High-tech communication tool: computerized speech generating devices for storage and retrieval of messages
- **AAC Access:** refers to how the child uses the tool (e.g. direct touch, eye gaze, switches etc.)
- **AAC Strategies:** refers to the ways we facilitate the use of the AAC tool