

The Assessment of Learning Process (ALP) for AAC™

STAGE	PHASE	Activity & Movement with AAC Device	Understanding of AAC device use	Attention	Social interaction	Expressions/emotions
Explore Performance <i>Extrovert - Focus on body, tool/s, environment & occupation</i>	8 Expert "I'm not thinking about how to use this - I just do it."	Uses tool for <i>multiple activities in various settings</i> . Effortless tool-use for interaction & communication. Movements automatic, fluid, precise.	<i>Integrated tool use</i> Tool use is sub-conscious/ automatic. Consciousness is focused on interaction and communication in the actual situation and occupation.	<i>Attention regulation</i> is well established/ sustained	Consistently/simultaneously interacts with tool, environment and social partners	Depends on the occupation involving interaction/ communication
	7 Proficient "I'm in control and use it fluently."	<i>Controlled, smooth tool use</i> for interaction and communication. Refinement of movement fluency. Uses full scope of communication device.	Complete awareness of tool use; Refines choices and correcting mistakes	<i>Shares attention</i> on multiple items Generally focused	Open to multiple interactions at once; Uses tool to facilitate social interaction	Happiness Satisfaction
	6 Competent "I can use this to communicate."	Uses tool in a <i>goal-directed</i> way for interaction and conveying messages. Movements are purposeful, but coarse and unrefined.	<i>Competent tool use</i> ; Conscious of how to respond to interaction and create own messages. May ignore mistakes	<i>Focus on goal</i> ; Can focus on many items, but easily disrupted	Consecutive interactions one after the other; tool use interrupts social interaction	Serious Contented Laugh Excited
Explore Sequencing <i>Difficult transition - Focus on body, tool/s & environment</i>	5 Sophisticated Beginner "I know its use and try to master it."	<i>Puts chains of acts/effects together (sequencing)</i> Knows the message, focuses on how to say it. Repeated, varied, eager movements when experimenting to find best pattern. May appear to be stuck/ plateauing.	Aware of the AAC device's expanded use for communication & language; Searches patterns for linking effects into meaningful expressions. May be reluctant/ unwilling to follow directives.	<i>Active concentration</i> ; Two channeled shared attention	Engages partner in interaction, communication on object, or other person.	Eager Smile Serious Frustration
	4 Advanced Beginner "I find out more ways to use it."	<i>Builds chains of acts/effects (early sequencing)</i> Explores more effects & ways to approach the tools for choosing output. Able to find and select targets. Intentional, cautious movements.	Conscious that the tool can be used to interact with the environment/ communicate. Aware of variations and choice of effect/output.	<i>Attentive</i> ; Spontaneously shifts between two foci (e.g., environment and task) for attention	Involves others in interaction; May indicate need for help	Serious Smile Sometimes laugh
Explore Functions <i>Introvert- Focus on body & tool/s</i>	3 Beginner "I'm making that happen."	<i>Acts to get anticipated effect with intent</i> Activates tool/s; Distinct targeted movements; Able to find a target, and may select	<i>Basic tool use</i> Conscious of cause-effect relationships. Anticipates a specific effect/output	<i>Alert</i> . One focus for attention but able to shift att'n when prompted.	Initiates interaction Keeps and responds to eye-contact Facial signaling	Serious Contented Smile
	2 Curious Novice "Something is happening, but not sure how or why."	<i>Attempts approximate activation</i> ; Explores all parts of the tool/s without clear purpose or intent; Diffuse vague multi-directed movements; May try various body parts to get effect	<i>Awareness</i> that something happens at activation but not conscious of where, when and how	<i>Increased alertness</i> ; One focus for attention	Responds to interaction; Some eye-contact; Behavioral mirroring	Contented Curious Anxious Angry
	1 Novice "This is all new to me."	Excited interest – look, touch; or Non-act; or Rejecting behaviors	<i>No or vague idea</i> of how to use the AAC device for interaction and communication	Alert/ curious; or Non-focused/ passive; or Distractible	Limited interaction with others	Open Indifferent Anxious

NOTE- "AAC Device" could be replaced with any type of low or high tech AAC solution, or another computer interface being used. 2 - "Tool" refers to a combination of the access method (e.g., finger/ switch/ eyes/ head) and device (e.g., AAC device, low tech board, computer interface, etc.).3 - This is meant to be a qualitative assessment based on what is observed during a specific activity.