The AAC Profile: A Continuum of Learning

The AAC Profile is a subjective measure of a student’s communication skills using an augmentative/alternative communication system. The profile divides the assessment items hierarchically into ability-based levels under four major areas that a student should develop in order to achieve communicative competence with an AAC system. These areas are:

1. Operational-how to run the AAC device
2. Linguistic-language abilities when using the AAC device
3. Social-use of social etiquette when communicating with the AAC device
4. Strategic-using strategies to repair a message with the AAC device if others do not understand the message

Each area is broken down into 5 Skill Sets which range from Skill Set 1-basic/functional communication to Skill Set 5-demonstration of mastery of the AAC system. Each skill is scored on a 3 point scale as follows: 3-frequently demonstrates, 2-Sometimes demonstrates but requires help, 1-Seldom or never demonstrates. A student’s skill set is determined based on the Skill Set Level that shows the most frequently applied skills by the student. Communication partner’s skills are also scored to determine any training needs to support the AAC user. The following was XXXXX’s Skill Set Levels:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | | **Operational** | | | | **Linguistic** | | **Social** | | **Strategic** | |
| Skill Set Levels |  | Motor | Cognitive | Scanning | Comm.  Partner | Receptive | Expressive | Person who  Uses AAC | Comm.  Partner | Person who  uses AAC | Comm.  Partner |
| 5 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |