

ARTICLE AT A GLANCE (Snap Scene)

Citation: Drager, K. & Light, L. (2006). Designing Dynamic Display AAC Systems for Young Children With Complex Communication Needs. Perspectives of Augmentative and Alternative Communication, April 2006, 3-7.

<p>What question were they trying to answer and why?</p>	<p>Previous research has reported waiting until a child is 3-4 years of age to begin AAC strategies results in a loss of time and opportunities at a critical stage of development. Also, recent research has begun to show that children with even severe disabilities can use AAC strategies at a very young age (ages 1-3), and that starting early with these strategies results in gains in social skills, language development, interaction skills, and even literacy. Therefore, these researchers wanted to answer the question: How can we design AAC systems for very young users to best achieve increased social participation, beginning communication, play, and language learning?</p>
<p>How did they do it?</p>	<p>The authors summarized recent research including some of their own current work with young children (1-3) using visual scene displays on AAC devices.</p>
<p>What were the results?</p>	<p>Although most of the children in the study transitioned to a grid or 'hybrid' grid layout in the future, all of the young children who were just beginning to communicate did best with scene based AAC displays. The authors made suggestions for how to best make these scenes for young users (see below).</p>
<p>How did we apply this?</p>	<p>Snap Scene is designed with a scene-based approach. Consider the researchers' suggestions for designing successful AAC scenes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Make it versatile – the AAC system should work in any position, place, event, or situation 2. Make it appealing – find out what the user enjoys and be sure to include those activities within the system and

	<p>if possible, include the child in choosing what goes onto their AAC device</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="915 302 1386 541">3. Make it easy to learn – typically children learn vocabulary within contexts and organize their vocabulary around contexts or situations so do the same for their AAC system (e.g. roll, pat, and bake are located in a cooking scene).<li data-bbox="915 554 1386 936">4. Build social participation with AAC – just making a great scene that is motivating and appealing is not enough. Practice with the system in functional social interactions is necessary and should occur consistently throughout the child’s environments. The authors recommend modeling for the user and responding appropriately to the user’s communication attempts.
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