5 Guiding Principles for AI & AAC

Preserving Authorship, Agency & Authentic Voice

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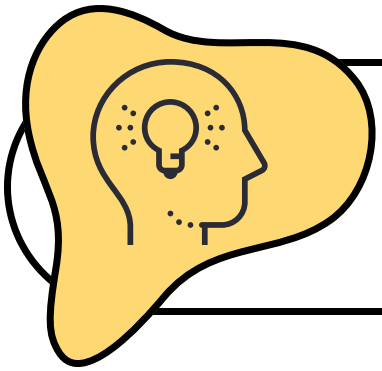


Communication Must Remain User-Directed

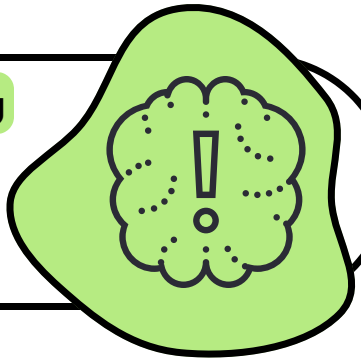
1

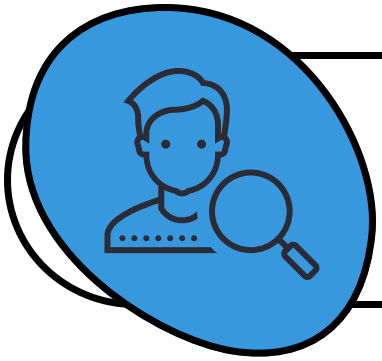
AI may assist, scaffold, predict, or reorganize but the AAC user is always the origin of intent. AI supports expression; it does not generate meaning independently. Speed and efficiency never justify loss of control. Final selection and approval always belong to the communicator.

Brevity Reflects Access Effort & Motor Strategy

2

Short messages, partial outputs, and streamlined language often reflect the physical, visual, and cognitive effort required to produce communication through AAC. Brevity is frequently an efficiency strategy shaped by access demands rather than a reduction in thought, knowledge, or linguistic competence. Interpretation must consider motor planning and fatigue, not assume limitation.





AI Should Amplify Identity, Not Normalize It

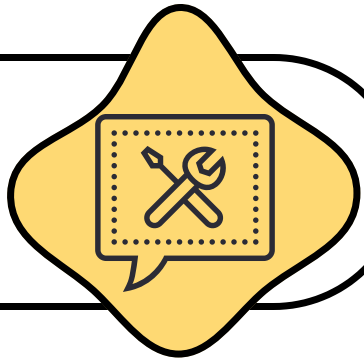
3

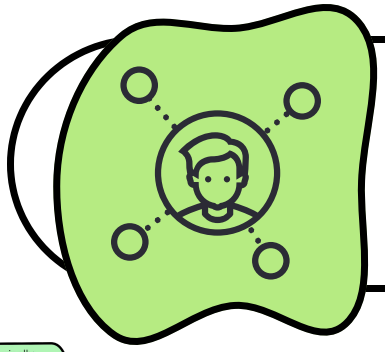
Authentic voice includes tone, personality, humor, and preference but not merely grammatical correctness. The 'best' output is the one that reflects the communicator's intended meaning and identity. AI should expand expressive options without erasing individuality.

Support Must Be Visible and Reversible

4

Users and teams should be able to recognize when AI influences language output. AI involvement should remain transparent, editable, and optional. Outputs must always remain modifiable by the user. Ethical systems preserve awareness and control.





Independence Is Defined by Control, Not Isolation

5

Autonomy does not require the absence of supports. AI, communication partners, and AAC systems are extensions of access, not replacements for authorship. Supported communication remains independent when the user governs decisions. Agency lives in control over tools.

Core Anchor Principle:

AI may influence the ease of communication but never the ownership of thought.