

## **AAC vs Visual Tools: Let's compare strategies and focus on connection**

Shannon Braithwaite<sup>1</sup>

Amanda Hartmann<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> AssistiveWare

### **Short Abstract**

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Do you use both visual tools **and** AAC in your classroom, home or therapy centre? If you looked at them side by side, would you see their different values and functions?

In this interactive session we will put visual tools and comprehensive AAC devices head to head. We will compare and contrast them and put them through our connection versus compliance checklist.

So many visual tools play a role in supporting many learners but is important to put them under the microscope. We will explore where visual tools can go wrong, because while some visual tools are useful, some are less so.

For example, picture choice cards that are used for a child to make requests might help for a time, but they can also restrict language development if other AAC is not offered or considered.

We also see visual tools being used as behaviour management tools or positive behaviour supports.

In the worst case scenarios, students who are nonspeaking are given choice cards and behaviour supports but then not exposed to a robust, comprehensive AAC tool that will build language and support real engagement and communication.

We will share real and practical examples of tools and strategies that can harness the power of both visual tools and AAC, while avoiding the downfalls and traps.

Join us as we focus on connections over compliance.

### **Long Abstract**

*This presentation/workshop is part of the AssistiveWare stream.*

