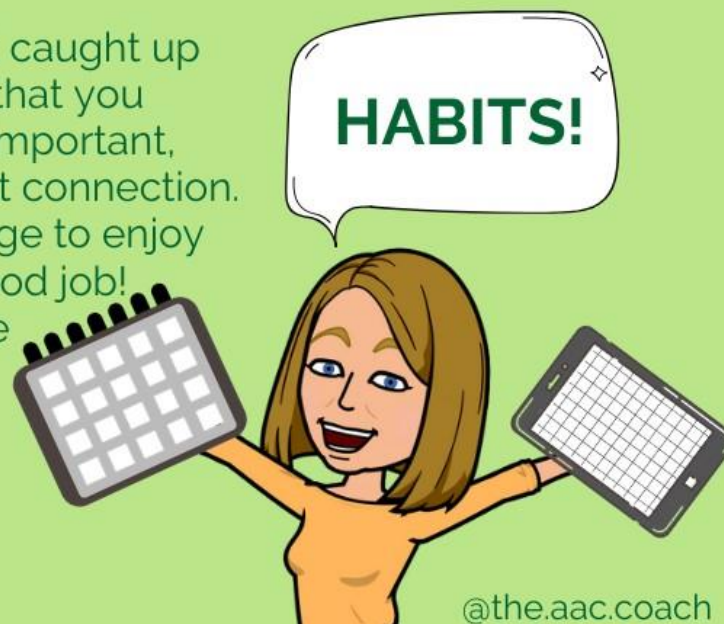# I Have an AAC System...Now What?

After you have a robust AAC system that your learner can access (i.e., well matched for motor and vision needs), getting started with AAC really comes down to establishing good habits. Not habits for the AAC user! Habits for the people supporting them!

Here are some habits to establish early on:

- **Make the AAC system available AT ALL TIMES.** Easier said than done, but critical! You can't model and they can't use it if it's not there. Problem solve barriers. How are you going to make it available in every environment, all positions, across the day, with all partners etc?
- **Model without expectation.** This means using the AAC system to speak to the learner without expecting them to use it at all. That means no prompts or cues, no testing, and no asking them to find things on the device. Start small with modeling (a word or two) and build from there. You're modeling won't be perfect, but it does not matter! It will get easier with practice!
- **Focus on connection!** It's easy to get caught up in what words to teach or messages that you should model. Those things may be important, but more than anything else it's about connection. If you are using your learner's language to enjoy your time together, you're doing a good job!
- **KEEP GOING**! Not giving up is half the battle. The longer you do it, the more you will learn and the more the process will make sense!

HABITS!

I Have an AAC System…Now What?

So you got a robust AAC system, but how do you really get started?

It's normal to feel overwhelmed at first. Having small steps to focus on can help. Before you worry about the "right" words to model or getting your AAC learner to use the system, establish some foundational habits. We want these things become second nature. We want your focus to be on building relationship through language on the AAC system and enjoying time together.

Take your time! It's ok if it takes weeks just to figure out how to make the AAC system available at all times! It might not feel like you're making progress, but in the long run these habits pay off.