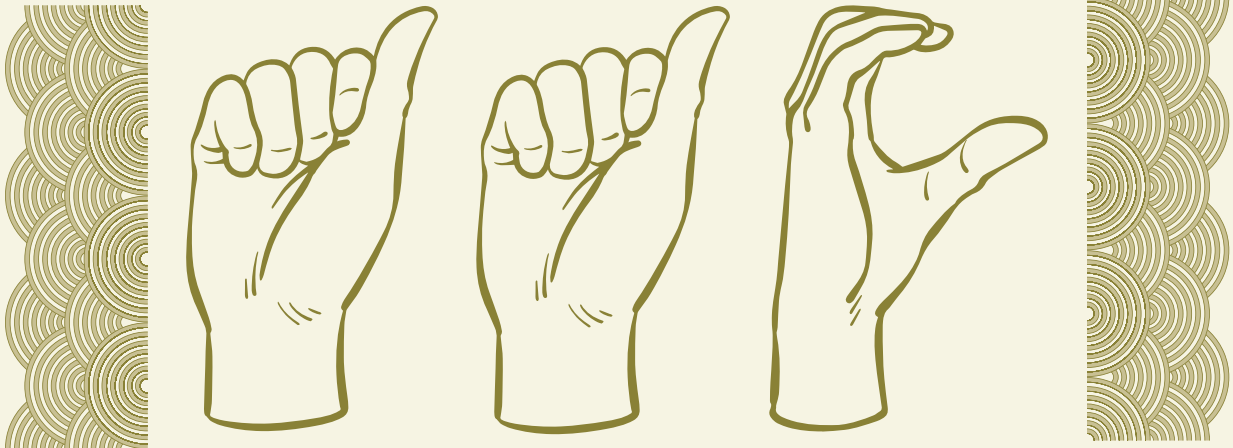


ADVOCACY

People First of Toledo Monthly Newsletter



Nonverbal Communication

By Quinn Thomas

Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) is any system of communicating other than traditional speech. It can be gestures, body language, pointing, text-to-voice programs, etc. Many people use AAC every day. We wave to say goodbye or hello, we give a thumbs up to show approval, and we point to things instead of saying their name.

These everyday gestures are considered “no-tech” or unaided AAC. There is also low-tech and high-tech AAC. Some examples of low-tech AAC could be things like picture or letter boards, communication charts, and using a pen and paper to write or draw. High-tech AAC is usually an advanced

UPCOMING EVENTS

STORYTELLING WORKSHOP BEGINS

January 9, 6:00-7:30, Waterville Branch Library. Same time and place for the next 7 weeks.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE WEBINARS

January 9 & 30, 6:30 over Zoom. Presented by the Arc of Ohio.

ACTING WORKSHOP

January 25, 5:30-6:30, UToledo Center for the Performing Arts. Same time and place for the next 14 weeks.

NO LIMITS SOCIAL GROUP

January 17, 6:00-9:00, Pheonix Theaters in Northtowne Mall. RSVP by January 15. 18+

NIGHT TO SHINE

February 9, 6:00-9:00, Conerstone Church. 14+

computer program. Typically, people will type or tap on a word or picture, and the program will say it aloud.

It may take someone who uses aided AAC longer to communicate. It is polite to wait and allow them the time they need to express their thoughts.

Some people speak with sign language rather than verbal words. American Sign Language (ASL) is not English. It is its own language, with its own grammar structures. Just because someone knows ASL does not mean they also know English. In fact, it's very hard for someone who only knows sign to learn a language that they can't hear, speak, or read. This is why writing things down is not a good enough accommodation in most cases. A real interpreter is necessary. It is also why ASL translations of written documents exist. Knowing sign does not equal knowing English, and that goes for written language as well.

One thing that is particularly hard to translate is someone's name. Name signs are unique. There is no standardized sign for any name. Each one is created for a specific individual. No one ever creates their own name sign, and name signs can only be given by a Deaf person. This may take months or years as the Deaf community slowly gets to know someone. It is often compared to Native Americans giving an honorary name to an outsider they have welcomed in. People without name signs will have their names fingerspelled.

Nonverbal communication has a rich history, and as much depth as any other language, in whatever form it may take.



**People First
of
Toledo**

OUR NEXT MEETING

January 18th, 6:00-7:30, virtually on Zoom or in-person at the Ability Center at 5605 Monroe Street, Sylvania. Meeting dues are \$5 or \$50 for twelve months.

Dr. Ross and Dennis Slotnick from SPAN Ohio will present on Medicare For All. There will be a group advocacy action component at the end of the meeting.