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The Dynamic AAC Goals Grid 2

DAGG-2

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Developed by Tobii Dynavox in conjunction with Dynamic Therapy Associates of Kennesaw, GA. (2014).

Introduction to the DAGG-2

The primary objectives of the Dynamic AAC Goals Grid-2 are to provide a systematic means to assess (and reassess) an individual's current skills in AAC and to assist partners in developing a comprehensive, long-reaching plan for enhancing the AAC user's communicative independence. This tool strives to assist with the team's consideration of the myriad of components that make for successful AAC use.

A comprehensive assessment should help us determine the level at which the individual is currently communicating. During the evaluation stage, the DAGG-2 serves as a checklist for ensuring that all areas of Light's (1989) communicative competencies are considered. It allows the AAC team to analyze patterns of strengths and weaknesses to better assist in determining the appropriate next steps for intervention.

During reassessment and progress measurement, the prompting hierarchy (Chain of Cues) for each goal allows a team to acknowledge increased independence at even the most dependent level of communicative ability. It allows the individual to demonstrate progress towards independence in very small increments. Goals can be set and met based on minor improvements.

It is our goal that the DAGG-2 presents a big picture view of the individual when assessing and developing goals for today and tomorrow. Today goals are reflected in promoting success within the individual's current level of communicative independence across the four competency areas. Tomorrow goals are based on projections of future opportunities, needs, constraints, and capabilities resulting from instruction within those competencies (Buekelman & Miranda, 2005).

How to Use the DAGG-2

There is no "one size fits all" to use the DAGG-2 in assessment and intervention planning. Consider the following steps*:

If using the DAGG-2 for initial assessment:

STEP 1: For initial assessment, use the Ability Level Continuum as a starting place to determine target goal areas. The Ability Level Continuum helps to provide insight to current and potential skills and strengths based on an individual's observable communication behaviors.

STEP 2: Choose appropriate goals to address in one or more areas of communicative competence. Mark the level of cueing currently needed for successful communication.

STEP 3: Use the AAC Goals Worksheet to write specific long and/or short term goals for the individual. Think about what the individual does during the course of his/her day to identify activities and communication partners in which to address the target skills. Activities that occur frequently and are motivating will provide more opportunities to practice skills.

When using the DAGG-2 for reassessment:

STEP 1: Return to the Dynamic AAC Goals; mark any progress in the level of cueing using a different color pen or by date of reassessment.

STEP 2: Use the AAC Goals Periodic Progress Report to record progress towards goals in each competency area and/or at each Ability Level at intervals appropriate for your facility or setting.

STEP 3: Revise goals to reflect progress.

Note:

Using this tool, an individual's progress could be measured in several ways:

- Movement along the Ability Level Continuum
- Mastering more goals in a specific communicative competency
- Mastering more goals in more areas of communicative competence
- Mastering more goals within an Ability Level
- Reducing the levels of prompting needed to meet a specific goal
- Increased complexity of a goal

^{*}For a more detailed description of the DAGG-2 components and case study, please refer to the addendum on page 17.



Ability Level Continuum*

Use this guide to help provide insight to current and potential target skills and strengths. Mark the statements that best describes an individual's observable communication behaviors. You may not check all of the boxes in any skill area. You may also find that you check boxes in more than one Ability Level.

Ability Level	l: Emergent	Ability Level 2: Emergent Transitional
Understanding	Limited or no understanding that symbols (e.g., pictures, words) represent ideas. Pictures may or may not help increase understanding and expression. Difficult to determine how much he/she understands verbally.	Understanding Responds to common gestures (e.g., come here, go away, greetings). Shows understanding of the use of common objects. Pictures seem to help increase both understanding and expression. May be starting to follow simple directions within familiar routines and activities.
Expression	 May communicate most successfully using facial expression, body language, gestures, and/or behavior (either socially appropriate or challenging). May indicate acceptance (e.g., smile) or rejection (e.g., turn away) but does not reliably answer other yes/no questions. May desire or try to communicate in familiar and motivating activities. Requires help from communication partner to communicate successfully (e.g., narrowing choices, interpreting gestures/body language/behavior). Sensory behavior is very important for calming (e.g., rocking, mouthing objects) and determining likes and dislikes. 	□ Understands symbols (e.g., objects, pictures) for basic, common or concrete items. □ Starting to use clear and simple symbols (including objects, photographs and picture symbols) in motivating situations or favorite activities. □ If using picture symbols, he/she will use one picture at a time to communicate messages. □ May use gestures, body language, facial expression or behavior intentionally to communicate (e.g., pointing, showing, giving); however, reliability varies from day to day or activity to activity.
Social Interaction	 Reacts to familiar people and/or motivating activities. Takes turns in familiar and motivating routines (e.g., "high five" or when someone spreads arms to receive a hug). May respond to close physical interaction by looking, smiling, or reaching. 	Social Interaction Shows clear preference for certain objects, activities, and people. May be starting to show some interest in social interactions, especially in specific situations. May not use symbols to interact socially.
Literacy Skills	May not be interested in reading or book activities.	Literacy Skills May demonstrate a beginning interest in participating in shared reading and/or is beginning to engage with books more independently. May be able to identify own name and a few other frequently seen words.
Other	Performance with forms of AAC may be inconsistent. Benefits from help from his/her communication partner as skills are developing.	Other Performance with forms of AAC may be inconsistent. Benefits from help from his/her communication partner as skills are developing.

^{*}Adapted from Patricia Dowden, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, University of Washington, Communicative Independence Model.



Ability Level Continuum

Ability Level	3: Context-Dependent	Ability Level 4: Transitional Independent
Understanding	 Understands photographs or picture symbols representing objects, common actions (e.g., run, paint, eat), people or situations. Starting to understand more abstract picture symbols (e.g., think, big, hot, few). Follows simple instructions in both familiar and unfamiliar routines. Understands and follows general conversations. 	Understanding Understands conversations as well as same age peers. Follows simple to complex directions given verbally.
Expression	 Uses a combination of communication methods to express messages (e.g., gestures/ pointing, symbols, speech/vocalizations, and device). Uses symbols and objects spontaneously to communicate basic needs and make a variety of requests. Beginning to use symbols to comment and/or ask questions with support. Communicates best in routines, about familiar topics, and with familiar communication partners. Beginning to combine two or more symbols to create longer messages (e.g., uses carrier phrases "I want; I like; I see"). 	 Communicates about a broad range of topics with both familiar and unfamiliar communication partners. Consistently combines 2 or more symbols to create longer, more complex and/or an increased variety of messages for different communicative functions (e.g., comments, questions, or sharing information). Uses a wider variety of vocabulary or communication tools within his/her communication device.
Social Interaction	 Initiates conversations and social interactions with familiar communication partners. Benefits from help to take additional turns in conversation. Answers routine questions appropriately with familiar communication partners. 	Social Interaction Uses socially appropriate comments/questions to initiate with familiar communication partners. Appropriately answers routine questions with a variety of communication partners.
Literacy Skills	Literacy skills growing to include: identifying letters of the alphabet, connecting some letters with corresponding sounds, understanding word boundaries, reading a small number of high frequency sight words, reading and writing name, beginning to spell words but not necessarily with conventional spelling.	Literacy Skills Literacy skills growing to include: increased letter-sound awareness, additional sight words, conventional spelling of simple words; adding word endings as appropriate (e.g., past tense "ed", plural "s" or "ing), and solid understanding of the connection between spoken words and print. May be beginning to utilize word prediction with symbol support. Reads printed material that is somewhat below an age-appropriate level.
Other	 May continue to benefit from the help of his/her communication partner to communicate successfully, especially when the topic, partner or environment is unfamiliar. Able to use simple strategies (e.g., repeat) to repair communication when not understood with support from the communication partner. 	Other Strong "mental mapping" of where things are in his/her device including navigational symbols. Able to use a variety of strategies to repair communication when not understood; and, in some cases, with the support of communication partners. Programs content in the communication device when it's desired or missing given support as needed (e.g., add favorite foods in Word List food category).



Ability Level Continuum

Ability Level 5	: Independent
Understanding	Understands communication and directions the same as same-age peers.
Expression	Combines single words, spelling and phrases together to communicate about avariety of subjects as others would at his/her age. Able to expand on a thought in conversation.
Social Interaction	Social interaction skills, environments, and activities are similar to other of his/her age.
Literacy Skills	Literacy abilities are on par with same-age peers.
Other	 Able to use various strategies to repair communication when he/she is not understood. Able to utilize rate enhancement features of the device (e.g., word prediction) though he/she may not choose to do so. Able to program desired content (e.g., personal narratives, etc.) into device.

Notes: Additional observations of communication characteristics in each skill area such as strengths, barriers, other communication modes, etc.
Understanding
Expression
Social Interaction
Literacy Skills
Other: (e.g., environment, favorite communication partner/s, motivating activities/topics, behavior, etc.)

ABILITY LEVEL SUMMARY

In the chart below, mark the individual's Ability Level for each skill area to provide you with a "big picture" view.

SKILLS	ABILITY LEV	EL				
	Emergent	Emergent Transitional	Context- Dependent	Transitional Independent	Independent	Notes:
Understanding						
Expression						
Social Interaction						
Literacy Skills						
Other						



Linguistic Competency

Ability Levels			Goals	Cha	in of (Cues	
Emergent	•	GM	Communicates behaviorally (e.g., eye gaze, point, pull partner toward) to request/respond/comment and socially interact.	IC	DVC	DPC	PA
	0	GM	Rejects undesired propositions or items behaviorally (e.g., brief glance, nod, eye contact, smile or touch).	IC	DVC	DPC	PA
	•	GM	Accepts propositions, activities and/or offered items behaviorally.	IC	DVC	DPC	PA
	0	GM	Demonstrates intent to communicate with a partner such as selecting single button message in a joint action routine (e.g., repeated story line, request repetition of preferred activity).	IC O	DVC	DPC	PA
	0	GM	Signals a desire for something (e.g., gesture, device, speech).	IC	DVC	DPC	PA
	0	GM	Engages in turn-taking for one communication exchange (can include gestures, pointing, facial expression, eye movement).	IC	DVC	DPC	PA
	•	GM	Demonstrates joint attention toward an object with partner.	IC	DVC	DPC	PA
Emergent Transitional	•	GM	Uses at least 3 reliable signals (e.g., sign/sign approx., obj/pic symbol, verbal/verbal approx.) to control their immediate environment (e.g., "More." "All done." or "Stop!").	IC O	DVC	DPC	PA
	0	GM	Requests/comments/labels a tangible object with single noun symbol given an array of 2 or more symbols in familiar routine/context.	IC	DVC	DPC	PA
	•	GM	Requests/comments/labels a familiar concrete action with single verb symbol given an array of 2 or more symbols during a familiar routine/context.	IC	DVC	DPC	PA
		GM	Selects single button messages in familiar contexts to participate in or move an interaction along.	IC	DVC	DPC	PA
Context-	•	GM	Uses a variety of nouns in categories to include 7 categories with 5 examples in each category.	IC	DVC	DPC	PA
Dependent	0	GM	Uses abstract descriptive concepts: quantitative/qualitative/spatial (at least 2 in each category).	IC	DVC	DPC	PA
	0	GM	Uses learned sentence constructions (carrier phrases) for creative 2+ word phrases (e.g., "I want" "I see" "I have") in structured or routine activities.	IC	DVC	DPC	PA
	0	GM	Uses action concepts (at least 10 verbs across situations).	IC	DVC	DPC	PA
	•	GM	Generates novel or creative 2+ word simple sentences.	IC	DVC	DPC	PA
	0	GM	Uses plural "s" to denote more than one.	IC	DVC	DPC	PA
	•	GM	Recognizes letter/sound associations.	IC	DVC	DPC	PA
	0	GM	Demonstrates early use of letter combinations (e.g., initial sound recognition, creative spelling).	IC	DVC	DPC	PA
	•	GM	Generates simple grammatical sentences using present ("ing") and past ("ed") tense.	IC	DVC	DPC	PA

Chain of Cues Prompting Hierarchy



Linguistic Competency - Continued

Ability Levels			Goals	Chain of Cues						
Transitional	•	GM	Sequences information in a logical manner to tell or retell a story (narrative).	IC	DVC	DPC	PA			
Independent	0	GM	Asks and answers a variety of pre-stored question forms.	IC O	DVC	DPC	PA			
	•	GM	Generates creative messages (at least 3 words) by combining individual words/phrases/spelling in novel activities.	IC O	DVC	DPC	PA			
	0	GM	Uses abstract descriptive concepts: quantitative/qualitative/spatial (at least 6 in each category).	IC O	DVC	DPC	PA			
	•	GM	Able to use available words/messages to convey a new meaning or substitute for a word/concept that is not available (i.e., circumlocution).	IC O	DVC	DPC	PA			
	0	GM	Recognizes and uses high frequency onsets and rhymes to spell familiar words.	IC	DVC	DPC	PA			
Independent	0	GM	Generates creative messages with more than 3 individual words/phrases/spelling.	IC	DVC	DPC	PA			
	0	GM	Creatively combines existing vocabulary to describe new word/concept not in device (i.e., flexible vocabulary use).	ic O	DVC	DPC	PA			
	0	GM	Constructs complex and compound sentences (e.g., uses "because" "and" or "that").	IC	DVC	DPC	PA O			
	0	GM	Uses question reversals conversationally (e.g., "Can I?" "Did you?" or "Are they?").	IC	DVC	DPC	PA			
	0	GM	Demonstrates independent spelling skills at age level with or without word/symbol prediction.	IC	DVC	DPC	PA			
	0	GM	Understands and uses morphological endings to qualify verbs ("er"or "ly").	IC O	DVC	DPC	PA			

Chain of Cues Prompting Hierarchy



Operational Competency

Ability Levels			Goals	Cha	in of (Cues	
Emergent	•	GM	Demonstrates visual, auditory or physical attention to AAC system by quieting, orienting to or moving into action.	IC O	DVC	DPC	PA
	0	GM	Demonstrates active engagement with the AAC system (e.g., exploring, touching screen, hitting the switch, etc.) not necessarily with intent.	IC O	DVC	DPC	PA
Emergent	•	GM	Transports AAC system in routine or familiar activity with partner reminders as needed.	IC O	DVC	DPC	PA
Transitional	0	GM	Positions AAC system for use with partner reminders as needed.	IC O	DVC	DPC	PA
	•	GM	Locates high frequency and/or high interest vocabulary in routine or familiar activities (e.g., basic functional categories such as requesting highly motivating objects/activities, feelings, needs, greetings).	ic O	DVC	DPC	PA
	0	GM	Demonstrates early developing navigational skills to include "next page" or "go back" navigation.	IC O	DVC	DPC	PA
	•	GM	Demonstrates recognition that AAC system requires adjustment (e.g., volume change or system not working) by looking, quieting or moving into action.	IC O	DVC	DPC	PA O
	0	GM	Demonstrates ability to turn system on/off (or asks) when appropriate.	IC	DVC	DPC	PA
Context-	0	GM	Asks for assistance if equipment requires adjustment.	IC O	DVC	DPC	PA
Dependent	0	GM	Adjusts volume appropriate to environment.	IC O	DVC	DPC	PA
	•	GM	Demonstrates ability to charge and care for device (or asks).	IC	DVC	DPC	PA
	0	GM	Adjusts screen or position (or asks) for best visibility and access.	IC O	DVC	DPC	PA
	•	GM	Navigates to logical page/message/vocabulary during familiar topic or context.	IC O	DVC	DPC	PA
	0	GM	Navigates by noun categories.	IC O	DVC	DPC	PA
	0	GM	Demonstrates ability to manage simple Message Window operations (e.g., clear, delete).	IC	DVC	DPC	PA
	0	GM	Participates in adding vocabulary by selecting symbols, location or choosing from offered message choices.	ic O	DVC	DPC	PA
	•	GM	Recognizes the need to transfer AAC system from one activity or environment to another by moving into action or requesting help from partner.	IC O	DVC	DPC	PA

Chain of Cues Prompting Hierarchy



Operational Competency - Continued

Ability Levels			Goals	Chai	n of (Cues	
Transitional Independent	•	GM	Recognizes the need for additional topics or vocabulary in system and is beginning to actively participate in programming or in the process of programming (e.g., selects edit/modify button).	IC O	DVC	DPC	PA
	0	GM	Adjusts volume and speech controls (rate/voice) appropriate to environment.	IC O	DVC	DPC	PA
	•	GM	Navigates to logical page/message/vocabulary for novel topics and partners.	IC	DVC	DPC	PA
	0	GM	Navigates between different message types or tools (e.g., pre-programmed messages, single words, keyboard).	IC	DVC	DPC	PA
	•	GM	Navigates by grammatical categories.	IC	DVC	DPC	PA
Independent	0	GM	Meets communicative needs by creatively combining different message types or tools (e.g., pre-programmed and/or generative messages/words/phrases/spelling) within system.	IC O	DVC	DPC	PA
	0	GM	Arranges equipment upgrades, troubleshoots, initiates repair procedures.	IC	DVC	DPC	PA
	0	GM	Independently adds vocabulary specific to constructs of the system.	IC	DVC	DPC	PA
	0	GM	Demonstrates ability to access external equipment independently (e.g., phone, email, text, computer, IR).	IC O	DVC	DPC	PA
	0	GM	Independently stores files, customized messages and sequences.	IC	DVC	DPC	PA
	0	GM	Demonstrates understanding of the operation of device software features (e.g., word prediction, pronunciation exceptions, editing features).	ic O	DVC	DPC	PA

Chain of Cues Prompting Hierarchy



Social Competency

Ability Levels			Goals	Cha	in of (Cues	
Emergent	•	GM	Interacts socially through behaviors such as smiling, object-based turn taking or waving (demonstrating basic understanding of social cause and effect).	IC O	DVC	DPC	PA
	0	GM	Responds to communication by facial expression, gesturing, quieting or moving into action.	ic O	DVC	DPC	PA
	•	GM	Periodically references communication partner during interaction through brief glance, nod, eye contact, proximity or touch (joint attention).	IC O	DVC	DPC	PA
Emergent Transitional	•	GM	Uses simple communication to replace challenging behaviors (e.g., "More." or "All done.") with partner reminders as needed.	IC O	DVC	DPC	PA
Iransitional	0	GM	Demonstrates conversational turn taking in errorless or familiar interaction/activity.	IC O	DVC	DPC	PA
	•	GM	Responds to initiating or terminating interactions using a single word message such as "Hi!" and "Bye!"	IC O	DVC	DPC	PA O
	0	GM	Maintains attention to partner in conversation (e.g., eye contact, orientation).	IC	DVC	DPC	PA
Context-	•	GM	Comments appropriately when engaged in activity with navigation support as needed.	IC	DVC	DPC	PA
Dependent	0	GM	Uses polite social forms (e.g., "Please." or "Thank you.").	IC O	DVC	DPC	PA
	•	GM	Initiates/terminates conversations using scripted or pre-programmed messages for more than two conversational turns.	ic O	DVC	DPC	PA O
	0	GM	Shares several pieces of pre-programmed "news"/information with partner navigational assistance and/or reminders as needed.	C	DVC	DPC	PA
	•	GM	Demonstrates conversational turn-taking (social/activity based) for more than two turns.	IC	DVC	DPC	PA
	0	GM	Uses humor.	ic O	DVC	DPC	PA
	•	GM	Demonstrates ability to continue a conversation by selecting comments or general questions.	IC O	DVC	DPC	PA O
	0	GM	Requests a variety of actions (e.g., "Turn the page." or "Get the for me.").	IC O	DVC	DPC	PA O

Chain of Cues Prompting Hierarchy



Social Competency - Continued

Ability Levels			Goals	Cha	in of (Cues	
Transitional		GM	Maintains topic with a non-obligatory turn (e.g., comments "Cool!" "Yuck!" or "Me too.").	IC	DVC	DPC	PA
Independent		GM	Shares personally meaningful novel information using phrases, word lists, core words, and/or keyboard.	IC (DVC	DPC	PA
		GM	Shifts topics smoothly with suggestions (e.g., common segues such as "I have something to tell you." or "Guess what?").	IC	DVC	DPC	PA
		GM	Selects topic of mutual interest to self and communication partner.	IC O	DVC	DPC	PA
		GM	Shifts communication style based on partner and/or situation.	IC O	DVC	DPC	PA
		GM	Knows when/how to interrupt an interaction.	IC	DVC	DPC	PA
		GM	Requests information (e.g., "When?" or "Where?").	IC O	DVC	DPC	PA
		GM	Asks partner-focused questions specific to the conversation.	IC (DVC	DPC	PA
Independent	0	GM	Requests clarification.	C	DVC	DPC	PA O
		GM	Uses non-obligatory commenting and/or questions related to conversational topic.	C	DVC	DPC	PA
		GM	Initiation/closure of conversation using a variety of both pre-programmed and/or generative messages.	IC	DVC	DPC	PA O
		GM	Uses partner-focused questions to continue conversation with specific subject related vocabulary.	IC	DVC	DPC	PA
		GM	Demonstrates ability to initiate, maintain, extend and terminate conversations appropriately.	IC O	DVC	DPC	PA

Chain of Cues Prompting Hierarchy



Strategic Competency

Ability Levels			Goals	Cha	in of (Cues	
Emergent	•	GM	Understands that his/her communication (regardless of modality) has an effect on the environment or communication partner.	IC O	DVC	DPC	PA
	0	GM	Recognizes the intended message was not conveyed by exhibiting non-communicative behaviors.	C	DVC	DPC	PA
Emergent	•	GM	Recognizes the need to obtain the communication partner's attention before initiating a message.	C	DVC	DPC	PA
Transitional	0	GM	Recognizes the need to repeat message when intended message is misunderstood, ignored or system did not activate/speak.	C	DVC	DPC	PA
	•	GM	Uses different mode of communication (e.g., gesture, vocalization, behavior) for misunderstood message.	C	DVC	DPC	PA
	0	GM	Requests or obtains the communication system when appropriate.	C	DVC	DPC	PA
Context-	•	GM	Uses an introduction strategy with unfamiliar communication partner (e.g., "I use this device to talk." or pointing to the device to show they use it to communicate).	IC	DVC	DPC	PA O
Dependent	0	GM	Actively engages communication partner during the interaction to monitor their attention and understanding.	IC O	DVC	DPC	PA
	•	GM	Uses a repair strategy for communication breakdowns (e.g., repeat, rephrase, provide additional key word or information, draw attention to message window, use non-verbal cues, gesture/body or facial expression, first letter cue).	IC O	DVC	DPC	PA O
	0	GM	Demonstrates beginning use of simple rate enhancement strategies (e.g., telegraphic strategy).	IC (DVC	DPC	PA
	•	GM	Persists in repeating message when intended message is misunderstood, ignored or system didn't activate/speak.	C (DVC	DPC	PA
Transitional	•	GM	Independently uses an introduction strategy with unfamiliar communication partner (e.g., descriptive instructions on how to best communicate with him/her).	IC	DVC	DPC	PA
Independent	0	GM	Communicates intent to contribute to a conversation (e.g., "I have a question.")	C	DVC	DPC	PA
	•	GM	Recognizes the intended message was not understood and uses a message to alert ("Wrong try again." "Let me tell you another way." or "Wait.")	C	DVC	DPC	PA
	0	GM	Proactively manages the interaction (e.g., interjects with "Wait." or "Hang on." while he/she retrieves message; or "Yeah." letting listener know he/she is engaged).	C	DVC	DPC	PA
	•	GM	Signals a topic change with appropriate message.	C	DVC	DPC	PA
Independent	0	GM	Independently utilizes several strategies to prevent or repair communication breakdowns.	IC	DVC	DPC	PA O
	0	GM	Plans ahead to contribute effectively in a conversation (e.g., compose and stores messages for the doctor before appointment).	IC (DVC	DPC	PA
	0	GM	Selects a communication mode appropriate to a variety of situations and listeners.	IC O	DVC	DPC	PA O
	0	GM	Creatively uses system features to communicate effectively and efficiently.	IC	DVC	DPC	PA
	0	GM	Independently analyzes errors in communication interactions and devises strategies to address it.	ic O	DVC	DPC	PA O

Chain of Cues Prompting Hierarchy



AAC Goals Worksheet

Goal	Skill from AAC Goals Grid	Partner Familiar/Unfamiliar	Activity Routine/Novel	Prompting Type	Criteria % or # of Occurrences
				O NC	
				O IC	
A				O DVC	
Long-Term				O DPC	
Goal				O PA	
				O NC	
				ic	
				O DVC	
1 Short-Term				O DPC	
Goal				○ PA	
				O NC	
				_ ıc	
				O DVC	
Short-Term				O DPC	
Goal				O PA	

Goal	Skill from AAC Goals Grid	Partner Familiar/Unfamiliar	Activity Routine/Novel	Prompting Type	Criteria % or # of Occurrences
				O NC	
				O IC	
В				O DVC	
Long-Term				O DPC	
Goal				○ PA	
				O NC	
				O IC	
				O DVC	
1 Short-Term				O DPC	
Goal				O PA	
				O NC	
				○ IC	
				O DVC	
2 Short-Term				O DPC	
Goal				O PA	

Chain of Cues Prompting Hierarchy



AAC Goals Worksheet

Goal	Skill from AAC Goals Grid	Partner Familiar/Unfamiliar	Activity Routine/Novel	Prompting Type	Criteria % or # of Occurrences
				O NC	
				O IC	
C				O DPC	
Long-Term Goal				O PA	
				O NC	
				○ IC	
1				O DVC	
Short-Term				O DPC	
Goal				O PA	
				○ NC	
				○ IC	
2				O DVC	
Short-Term				O DPC	
Goal				O PA	

Goal	Skill from AAC Goals Grid	Partner Familiar/Unfamiliar	Activity Routine/Novel	Prompting Type	Criteria % or # of Occurrences
				O NC	
				O IC	
D				O DVC	
Long-Term				O DPC	
Goal				O PA	
				O NC	
				ic	
				O DVC	
1 Short-Term				O DPC	
Goal				○ PA	
				O NC	
				O IC	
				O DVC	
Short Torre				O DPC	
Short-Term Goal				O PA	

Chain of Cues Prompting Hierarchy



AAC Goals Periodic Progress Report

Date: Notes:

COMPETENCY	ABILITY LEVE	ABILITY LEVEL					
	Emergent	Emergent Transitional	Context- Dependent	Transitional Independent	Independent		
Linguistic	%	%	%	%	%		
Operational	%	%	%	%	%		
Social	%	%	%	%	%		
Strategic	%	%	%	%	%		

Date:

COMPETENCY	ABILITY LEVEL				
	Emergent	Emergent Transitional	Context- Dependent	Transitional Independent	Independent
Linguistic	%	%	%	%	%
Operational	%	%	%	%	%
Social	%	%	%	%	%
Strategic	%	%	%	%	%

Date:

COMPETENCY	ABILITY LEVEL				
	Emergent	Emergent Transitional	Context- Dependent	Transitional Independent	Independent
Linguistic	%	%	%	%	%
Operational	%	%	%	%	%
Social	%	%	%	%	%
Strategic	%	%	%	%	%

Date:

COMPETENCY	ABILITY LEVE	ABILITY LEVEL				
	Emergent	Emergent Transitional	Context- Dependent	Transitional Independent	Independent	
Linguistic	%	%	%	%	%	
Operational	%	%	%	%	%	
Social	%	%	%	%	%	
Strategic	%	%	%	%	%	



AAC Goals Periodic Progress Report

Date: Notes:

COMPETENCY	ABILITY LEVI	ABILITY LEVEL				
	Emergent	Emergent Transitional	Context- Dependent	Transitional Independent	Independent	
Linguistic	%	%	%	%	%	
Operational	%	%	%	%	%	
Social	%	%	%	%	%	
Strategic	%	%	%	%	%	

Date:

COMPETENCY	ABILITY LEVEL				
	Emergent	Emergent Transitional	Context- Dependent	Transitional Independent	Independent
Linguistic	%	%	%	%	%
Operational	%	%	%	%	%
Social	%	%	%	%	%
Strategic	%	%	%	%	%

Date:

COMPETENCY	ABILITY LEVEL					
	Emergent	Emergent Transitional	Context- Dependent	Transitional Independent	Independent	
Linguistic	%	%	%	%	%	
Operational	%	%	%	%	%	
Social	%	%	%	%	%	
Strategic	%	%	%	%	%	

Date:

COMPETENCY	ABILITY LEVE	ABILITY LEVEL				
	Emergent	Emergent Transitional	Context- Dependent	Transitional Independent	Independent	
Linguistic	%	%	%	%	%	
Operational	%	%	%	%	%	
Social	%	%	%	%	%	
Strategic	%	%	%	%	%	



Overview of the DAGG-2 Components

A. Ability Level Continuum

Influenced by the work of Patricia Dowden, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, the Ability Level Continuum describes an individual's observable communication behaviors to help provide insight into current and potential target skills and strengths. These levels are represented on a dynamic continuum to provide direction in assessing how an individual is communicating right now, what goals to address to support increased independence at the current level, and what "tomorrow goals" to introduce to further develop communicative competency skills.

B. Communicative Competencies

The ability to communicate with others is not inherent. We all must learn the skills required to communicate effectively and efficiently with a variety of people and in a variety of situations. For individuals using an AAC system, competency is impacted by the demands of the natural environment, the communication partner as well as the challenges imposed by the constraints of their disability and communication systems. It is imperative that we address goals across the following four competencies in order to achieve the highest level of communicative independence possible.

- Linguistic Expressing and understanding language; learning and using vocabulary in increasing number, variety and complexity; learning and using linguistic codes unique to one's AAC system.
- Operational The ability to operate and maintain the communication system to the greatest extent possible.
- Social Skills needed to communicate effectively in social situations (discourse strategies).
- Strategic Strategies to overcome or minimize the functional limitations of the AAC system (e.g., speed, lack of prosody) and to prevent or repair communication breakdowns.

C. Intervention Planning

1. Chain of Cues

The Chain of Cues provides a progression and structured (least to most) cueing hierarchy to elicit a communicative response. It can be a systematic way to measure progress as well as teach communication partners. The ultimate goal is that the individual recognizes the opportunity to communicate with the least directive and most natural conversational and environmental cues.

2. Goals

The intersection of Ability Levels and each area of communicative competence determines the goals within the Dynamic AAC Goals Grid. The goals are "dynamic" because they are based on the best we know now—through current research and clinical experience. It is important to keep in mind that the goals reflected in the DAGG-2 are BROAD goals to help keep the bigger picture of communicative competence in the forefront.

3. AAC Goals Worksheet

The AAC Goal Worksheet helps you to plan annual, long-term and/or short-term goals based on targets identified in the DAGG-2. Selected goals would then be transferred to your facility's required documents (e.g., IEP or written plan of care).

4. AAC Goals Periodic Progress Report

Use this tool to record progress towards goals in each competency area and/ or at each Ability Level at intervals appropriate for your facility or setting. Record a percentage of goals achieved in a specific competency area/level. For example, under Linguistic, Sarah has met 40% of the goals in Emergent and 10% at Emergent Transitional. Sarah's Linguistic skills are at the Emergent Ability Level; however, she is demonstrating progress towards the next Ability Level.

Note: In your facility's records, you can also address progress at the cueing level to reflect smaller amounts of progress for specific skills/goals. For example, Sarah has met 40% of Linguistic goals at the Emergent Level; however, she continues to demonstrate progress as she now requires only DVC (direct verbal cues) for 3/4 of the target goals.

CHAIN OF CUES EXAMPLE

- Situation: Entering a room
- Communication Opportunity Targeted: Greeting others ("Hi!")
- Natural Cue: Others saying hello.
- Indirect Cue:
- Search light randomly moving light/pointer over device
- Verbal "Did you hear what they said?" or "I wonder if there is something you could say back."
- Visual/Gestural waving hand or pointing to the people
- Direct Verbal Cue: "They said, hello to you."
- Direct Pointer/Light Cue: Showing the location of "Hi!" on the device without activating it.
- Physical Assistance: Brief physical help to select the correct button or picture.



Addendum: Part Two

Case Study: Laura

Laura is 4 years old and just received her new communication system. She understands and follows general conversations. She is starting to use clear and simple symbols in motivating situations or favorite activities. In addition, she is beginning to show more interest in social interactions which is one of the main reasons the school SLP suggested an evaluation for a high-tech communication device. Below is her overall picture from working through the Ability Level Continuum.

SKILLS	ABILITY LEVEL						
	Emergent	Emergent Transitional	Context- Dependent	Context- Dependent Transitional	Independent		
Understanding			~				
Expression		~					
Social Interaction		~					
Literacy Skills	~				_		

CHOOSING GOALS FOR LAURA:

Laura overall appears to be at the Emergent Transitional Ability Level. She is Emergent in Literacy skills; however, we also notice the potential for growth toward Context-Dependent (Comprehension). From the **AAC Goals Grid**, we chose the following goals and marked the type of cues she would presently need to support successful communication:

Linguistic:

Uses at least 3 reliable signals (e.g., sign/sign approx., obj/pic symbol, verbal/ verbal approx.) to control their immediate environment (e.g., "More." "All done." or "Stop!").	O O	DVC	DPC	PA
Requests/comments/labels a tangible object with single noun symbol given an array of 2 or more symbols in familiar routine/context.	()	DVC	DPC	PA
Operational:				
Transports AAC system in routine or familiar activity with partner reminders as needed.	IC	DVC	DPC	PA
Locates high frequency and/or high interest vocabulary in routine or familiar activities (e.g., basic functional categories such as requesting highly motivating objects/activities, feelings, needs, greetings).		DVC	DPC O	PA
Social:				
Demonstrates conversational turn taking in errorless or familiar interaction/activity.	IC O	DVC	DPC	PA
Responds to initiating or terminating interactions using a single word message such as "Hi!" and "Bye!"	C	DVC	DPC	PA
Strategic:				
Recognizes the need to repeat message when intended message is misunderstood, ignored or system did not activate/speak.	IC O	DVC	DPC	PA



Addendum: Part Two - Continued

WRITING GOALS FOR LAURA:

Thinking of her daily schedule and motivating activities, we used the AAC Goals Worksheet to create the following goals for her IEP:

1. Long-Term Goal:

Using her communication device, Laura will identify main characters and places with familiar partner during story reading activity with IC with 80% accuracy.

 a. Short-Term Goal: Laura will identify main characters and places with familiar partner during story reading activity with DVC with 80% accuracy.

Note: This goal would address both the Linguistic (B) and the Operational (A & B) goals.

2. Long-Term Goal:

Using her communication device, Laura will initiate interaction and engage in turn taking (at least 2 turns) by commenting (e.g., more, fun, your turn) with familiar partners during game activity (e.g., bubbles, simple board game) with IC with 80% accuracy.

b. **Short-Term Goal**: Laura will initiate interaction and engage in turn taking (at least 2 turns) by commenting (e.g., more, fun, your turn) with familiar partners during game activity (e.g., bubbles, simple board game) with DVC with 80% accuracy.

Note: This goal would address the Linguistic (B) Operational (A & B), Social (A & B) and Strategic goals.

3. Long-Term Goal (Operational A):

Laura will transport her communication device to all activities in her daily schedule with IC with 80% accuracy.

 a. Short-Term Goal: Laura will transport her communication device to 3/6 activities in her daily schedule with DVC with 80% accuracy.

REPORTING LAURA'S PROGRESS:

At our first interim reporting, we used the AAC Goals Periodic Progress Report to help us write the following narrative for Laura:

Laura continues to make progress towards her long-term goals. She continues at the Emergent Transitional Ability Level in Linguistic Competency. She has made progress in 2/4 Linguistic goals. At time of initial assessment, she required either PA or DPC and presently requires only DVC to support successful interactions. Socially, she is participating in turn taking at least two turns during motivating activities with fewer cues (DVC) from time of initial assessment (PA). In addition, she has met her short-term Operational goal. She consistently brings her communication device to half of her daily activities with DVC.



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 - ~ V. Clarke & H. Schneider

