Poster title: Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Users Report on the Peer Support Experiences that Helped Them Learn AAC

AAC is all the ways people who can't speak all the time or can't speak at all communicate.

What is this?

A group of AAC users, disability organizations, providers, and researchers worked together to make a plan to increase peer support for AAC users. Together they were called the AAC Peer Support Consortium.

The Consortium sent a survey to AAC users across the country. The survey asked about their peer support experiences. This was the largest survey about this topic.

The answers to the survey questions showed that most AAC users want peer support. Many AAC users who hadn't had peer support want to have peer support. Peer support helps AAC users in many different ways and can happen in lots of different places. The responses to the survey helped the Consortium make the plan.

Image description: One side of the picture shows the types of help AAC users got or want to get from their peers. The other side of the picture shows quotes from AAC users about the help they got or want to get from their peers

- Type of Help: Getting Information About AAC
  Quote: "Help with using apps, dealing with costs, and choosing the best app."

- Type of Help: Getting and Training Support Staff
  Quote: "How to train staff to help with communication and find money to pay them."

- Type of Help: Navigating College
  Quote: "I want more help from other AAC users on how to handle college, find jobs, and make friends."

- Type of Help: Transportation and Mobility
  Quote: "I can't go to the library because my wheelchair is too big for cars. I need more help with technology now."

- Type of Help: Practicing Real World Skills
  Quote: "How to use devices in different places in the community."

- Type of Help: Community Learning
  Quote: "A guide on starting or finding a group for AAC users would be great. I don't know any other AAC users where I live, but I know they are out there.