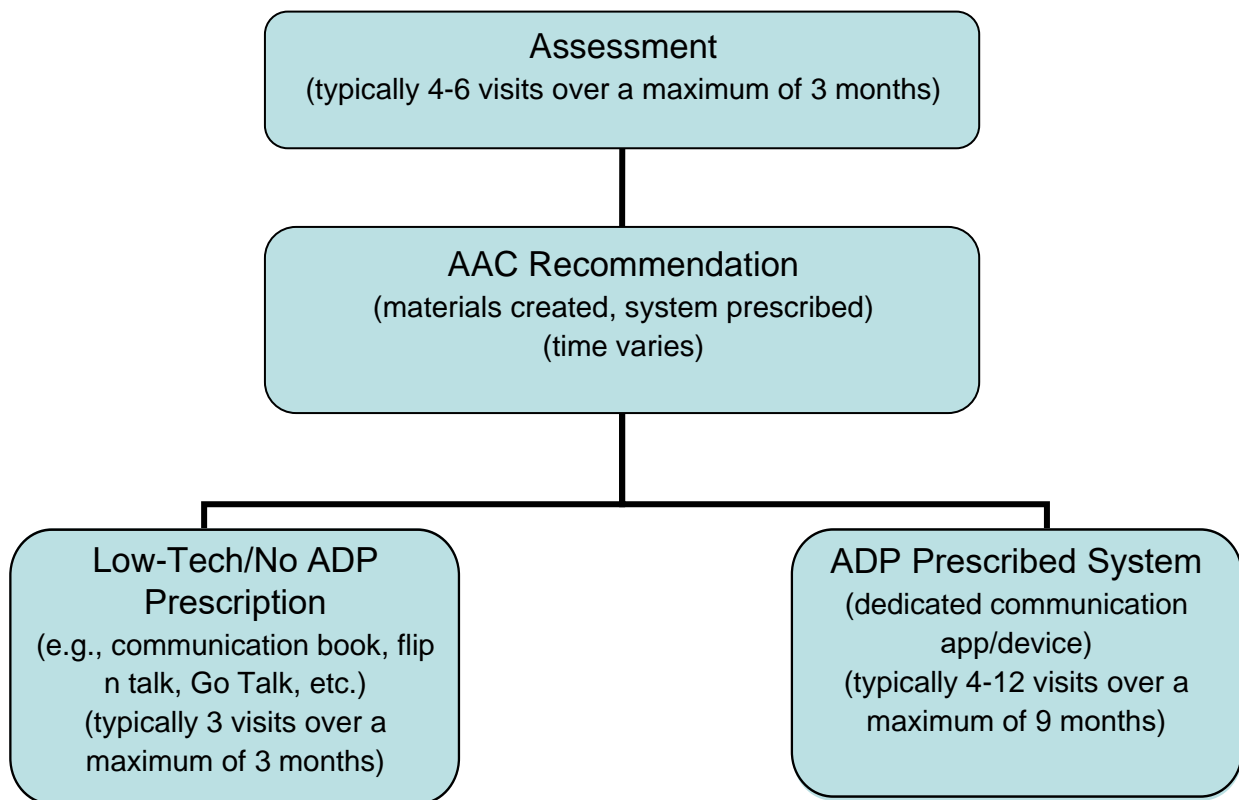


What is ACCS?

The CTN Augmentative Communication Consultation Service (ACCS) is a specialized service for children and youth with complex communication needs. The ACCS team includes Speech-Language Pathologists, Occupational Therapists, and Communicative Disorders Assistants. The goal of the service is to work with the child/youth, the family, and the local team* to find the best way for the child/youth to communicate.

What to Expect from ACCS?



The primary focus for ACCS consultation is to the client and home environment. There must be a need for the communication device/system in the home environment. The clinical assessment may include different settings that the child/youth participates in (preschool, school, community, etc.). The service model is a hybrid model that will include some virtual and some in-person visits based on the goals, needs, and stage in service delivery. Parents and caregivers are vital members of the team, and are required to participate in all aspects of the service as outlined on the next page. Please be aware that there will be a cost to families if the decision is made to proceed with a device for communication. Funding options may be available to cover some of the costs.

More ACCS information and resources are available on our website at the following link
[https://www.ctnsy.ca/Program-Services/Augmentative-Communication-Consultation-Services-\(.aspx](https://www.ctnsy.ca/Program-Services/Augmentative-Communication-Consultation-Services-(.aspx)

*Local Team refers to the full team supporting the client and family and includes the family and other professionals. These could include the classroom teacher, resource teacher, educational assistant, childcare provider, other rehabilitation professionals, etc.

Roles and Responsibilities

ACCS

- Complete assessment and make recommendations
- Develop a plan with family for implementation
- Provide initial training of communication system to family and local team
- Follow up and update communication goals prior to transferring client back to local team
- Respond to problems/concerns with the communication system

Family

- Attend and participate in appointments with their child
- Provide information as requested
- Assume responsibility for ongoing support of communication system/strategies with new communication partners (family, friends, teachers, etc.)
- Participate in development of goals and expectations
- Provide client with multiple opportunities to communicate with AAC system
- Contact ACCS team or ACCS Clinic with any questions/concerns as they arise

Please note that when possible families are expected to provide adequate notice if they need to reschedule an appointment. Repeated failure to do so may result in discharge from the service.

F-Words in Child Development

CTN supports families and clients by focusing on the "F-Words" throughout our consultation. The 6 F-words for Child Development are words that reflect some of the most important aspects of child development. They were first published in 2012 by CanChild's Dr. Rosenbaum and Dr. Gorter and are now used internationally when working with children with disabilities and their families. Inspired by over two decades of CanChild research and continual discussion amongst members of the CanChild family, the paper features six F-words that the authors state should be the focus in childhood disability - Function, Family, Fitness, Fun, Friends, and Future.

Function:	refers to what people do - how things are done is not what is important; synonyms include 'role', 'job', 'task', etc. (for children, 'play' is their 'work')
Family:	represents the essential 'environment' of all children
Fitness:	refers to how children stay physically active, including exercise and other recreational opportunities
Fun:	includes particular activities children are involved in or enjoy participating in
Friends:	refers to the friendships established with peers; social development is an essential aspect of personhood
Future:	is what child development is all about; it refers to parents and children's expectations and dreams for their future