

**PLEASE DON'T LEAVE MY VOICE ON THE SHELF**

What do you do when you have no choice?

When you rely on AAC to serve as your voice?

AAC is my bridge,  
It's my sense of self.

So please

Don't leave my voice on the shelf.

I don't always know which buttons to press,

So I need more opportunities  
to press them,  
Not less.

When I'm tired or sad,

And want to fade like a ghost,  
That is when I need it the most.

When I have my voice,

I preserve my dignity.  
Please teach me with patience,  
Please take responsibility.

It may not seem like I notice,

But I really do,  
When my device runs out of power,  
I do too.

So lift me up,

Let me be myself,  
Please don't leave,  
my voice on the shelf.

by Claudia Doan, M.S. CCC-SLP

**PLEASE DON'T LEAVE MY VOICE ON THE SHELF**

What do you do when you have no choice?

When you rely on AAC to serve as your voice?

AAC is my bridge,  
It's my sense of self.

So please

Don't leave my voice on the shelf.

I don't always know which buttons to press,

So I need more opportunities  
to press them,  
Not less.

When I'm tired or sad,

And want to fade like a ghost,  
That is when I need it the most.

When I have my voice,

I preserve my dignity.  
Please teach me with patience,  
Please take responsibility.

It may not seem like I notice,

But I really do,  
When my device runs out of power,  
I do too.

So lift me up,

Let me be myself,  
Please don't leave,  
my voice on the shelf.

by Claudia Doan, M.S. CCC-SLP