

Using Translation Tools to Support Multilingual AAC Families

A Quick Guide for Language-Affirming AAC Practice

Why It Matters

Translation tools support communication with children and families in their languages and support collaboration, coaching, and integration of their languages into AAC options.

What You Can Use

- **Email translation:** Let families write in their preferred language (e.g., Indonesian) —translate and respond using tools like DeepL or Google Translate.
 - **Canva Translate:** Easily convert handouts, visual schedules, and low-tech boards into a target language.
 - **AI-powered tools:** Use modern translation services that offer increased accuracy (check accuracy with professionals and/or audience).
 - **Bilingual print materials:** Consider pairing visuals with text in both English and the family's language/s.
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Practical Tips

- **Invite multilingual input:** Encourage families to communicate in whatever modality is most comfortable — spoken, written, or digital.
 - **Translate what matters:** Start with daily routines, key vocabulary, communication boards, and behavior supports.
 - **Double-check accuracy:** Collaborate with interpreters or cultural liaisons when possible to validate sensitive or nuanced material.
 - **Be proactive:** Don't wait for families to ask — offer translated options as part of standard practice.
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