Augmentative and Alternative Communication Consideration Flow Chart

**Student Communication Level**

1. **The student is NOT able to USE picture symbols to request desired items/objects/actions.**
   - **Student is NOT able to discriminate pictures**
     - Teach picture discrimination
   - **Consider use of sign language**
   - **Consider an object exchange system**

2. **The student is able to INDEPENDENTLY use picture symbols to request desired items/objects/actions.**
   - **NO**
     - Consider a low-tech system
   - **YES**
     - **Does the student have difficulty holding/picking up pictures?**
     - **No**
       - **Consider continued use of a low-tech system**
     - **Yes**
       - **Consider a high-tech system**
         - Have the student’s communication skills grown in complexity requiring a high-tech system (e.g., combining icons, communicating in sentences)?
         - **Yes**
           - Will a high-tech speech generating device promote use of a variety of communication functions (e.g., commenting, asking questions)?
           - **Yes**
             - Is the students’ team able to program and maintain a complex system?
             - **Yes**
               - Use the “AAC Feature Match” document
             - **No**
               - IF YES -- consider a single page or touch screen tablet
               - IF NO -- consider a picture exchange system
         - **No**
           - **Does the student lack mobility and unable to approach other people?**
           - **No**
             - **Consider a low-tech system**
           - **Yes**
             - **Will the use of technology provide motivation to student?**
             - **No**
               - **Consider use of sign language**
             - **Yes**
               - **Consider a high-tech system**
                 - **Has the student’s team able to program and maintain a technology based system?**
                 - **Yes**
                   - Use the “AAC Feature Match” document
                 - **No**
                   - **Consider a low-tech system**

3. **The student has a visual or hearing impairment which will impact the system selected.**
   - **Use the “AAC Feature Match” document**

CONSIDERATIONS

- **STUDENT FACTORS**
  - **Does the student have difficulty holding/picking up pictures?**
  - **Does the student lack mobility and unable to approach other people?**
  - **Will the use of technology provide motivation to student?**
  - **Is the student’s team able to print pictures and maintain materials needed for picture based system?**
  - **Is the student’s team able to program and maintain a technology based system?**

- **MAINTENANCE FACTORS**
  - **If answer is NO to any,**
    - Consider a low-tech system
  - **If answer is YES to all,**
    - **Consider a high-tech system**
      - **Have the student’s communication skills grown in complexity requiring a high-tech system (e.g., combining icons, communicating in sentences)?**
      - **Yes**
        - Will a high-tech speech generating device promote use of a variety of communication functions (e.g., commenting, asking questions)?
        - **Yes**
          - Is the students’ team able to program and maintain a complex system?
          - **Yes**
            - Use the “AAC Feature Match” document
          - **No**
            - IF YES -- consider a single page or touch screen tablet
            - IF NO -- consider a picture exchange system
      - **No**
        - **Consider use of sign language**

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