

# AUGMENTATIVE ALTERNATIVE COMMUNICATION (AAC)

## What is AAC?

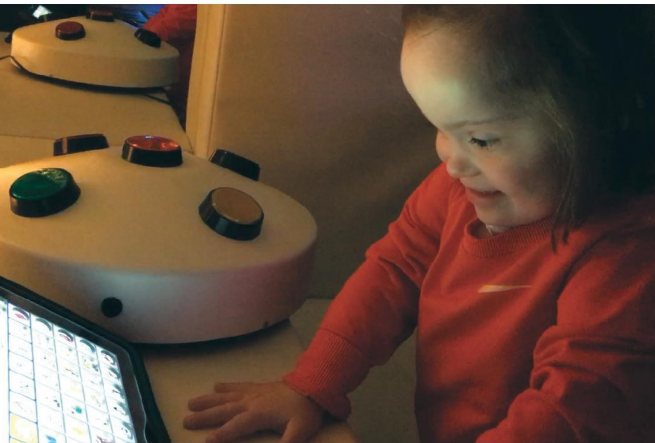
Augmentative Alternative Communication or AAC is a collective term used to describe the use of symbols, aides, devices, or techniques with individuals with severe speech and/or language disabilities to enhance or better their ability to communicate.

AAC provides the individual with the system to augment or enhance their skills through gesture, verbal, or written communication.

AAC can range in complexity from a simple picture meant to represent a want or need to a complex voice output system giving the individual the ability to have a spontaneous and novel conversation.

## Who uses AAC?

Children and adults with communication impairments secondary to cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury, stroke, autism, etc. utilize AAC.



Research suggests that approximately 10 in 1,000 persons demonstrate communication impairments that could benefit from the use of AAC.\*

## Turnstone's ACC Lab

Turnstone's therapists utilize the AAC Adaptive Technology and Computer Lab to perform assessments and to treat children and adults with disabilities in a setting that accommodates their skills, abilities, and unique needs. Turnstone's AAC Lab offers an accessible environment necessary to determine the positioning, lighting, and access methods of the AAC device.

The AAC Lab can be adapted to provide family access under therapist supervision to help illustrate the functionality of the communication device.

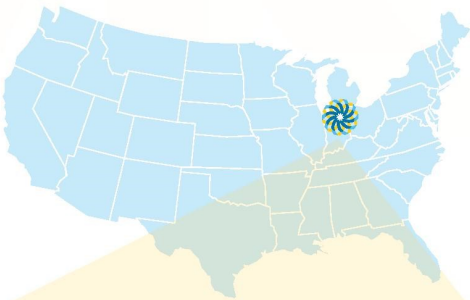
The family will work in collaboration with the therapy team to support and provide functional use of any communication device that is recommended. Families will be encouraged to participate in therapy sessions and use the lab with the speech language pathologist's guidance and support.

Offering a customized service, Turnstone's AAC Lab is unique to northeast Indiana. Our AAC Lab provides children and adults with disabilities access to the resources and technology necessary to create a positive impact while also meeting the current needs of our community.

\*Matas, et. al. 1985, Beukelman & Ansel 1995, and Light, et. al. 2003



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Creating possibilities.

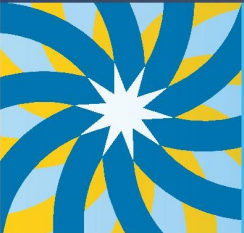


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# REHABILITATION THERAPY SERVICES



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About Turnstone

Turnstone empowers people with disabilities to reach for their full potential in every aspect of life. The agency’s programs and services evolve and expand to respond to the needs and desires of people with disabilities and their families throughout our regional community.

We are guided by the vision that one day, all people will live, work, learn, and play in a community based on abilities, not disabilities. To accomplish this, Turnstone is a national leader in the provision of therapy (occupational, physical, speech, and aquatic therapy), as well as health and wellness, child care, adult day services, and sports and recreation programs for people with disabilities.

Turnstone is where disabilities are turned into possibilities.

What We Do

Turnstone’s licensed therapists are experienced, client-focused, and dedicated to maximizing the independence of every client they see. Therapists determine the scope of therapy through an initial evaluation and create an individualized treatment plan. Therapists work in tandem with other agency services to provide a continuum of care unmatched in our community. The ultimate goal is to empower children and adults to maximize their independence.

Physical and Aquatic Therapy

Turnstone’s physical therapists focus on helping clients gain gross motor and core strength, coordination, balance, and endurance. Therapists provide muscle “re-education” activities and exercises, transfer and gait training, as well as wheelchair and equipment assessments.

Occupational Therapy

Turnstone’s occupational therapists focus on the development of fine motor strength and coordination. Therapists utilize activities to develop daily-living skills, build sensory integration and perceptual motor skills, and assess adaptive equipment needs and training.

Speech Pathology

Turnstone’s speech language pathologists focus on expressive and receptive communication, cognition, memory, and judgment issues. In addition, our therapy staff works with clients on articulation fluency, voice disorders, oral motor strength, and swallowing. The Augmentative Alternative Communication Lab allows for evaluation and treatment using various communication devices.

Call (260) 483-2100 today to get started.



Who We Serve

Individuals served in Turnstone’s therapy programs have physical and neurological disabilities that are often the result of birth anomalies, accidents, or are acquired later in life.

Specifically, Turnstone pediatric therapists are specialized in working with children from birth to 18 who have diagnoses or disabilities, including:

- Spina bifida
- Cerebral palsy
- Muscular dystrophy
- Spinal cord injury
- Down syndrome
- Developmental delay
- Brain injury
- Autism
- Communication disorders
- Other neurological and orthopedic diagnoses

Turnstone adult therapists are specialized in working with adults with congenital and acquired physical disabilities, including:

- Amputation
- Degenerative joint disease/replacement
- Stroke
- Traumatic and acquired brain injury
- Brain injury
- Multiple sclerosis
- Spinal cord injury
- Parkinson’s disease
- Other neurological and orthopedic diagnoses



FAQs

How Do I Get Started?

Call Turnstone at (260) 483-2100 to speak with a social worker in pediatric or adult services. Our social workers will work with the therapists to determine if the program is a proper fit for you or your family member.

What Are Your Fees?

Therapy fees may be billable to Children’s Special Health Care Services, private insurance or Medicaid. Turnstone offers a sliding-fee scale for services that may be applied for by submitting proof of the household financial situation.

Why Choose Turnstone?

Turnstone offers superior outpatient therapy services to people of all ages. Turnstone therapists have years of experience, specialized training, and education in working with children and adults with disabilities.

Throughout the client’s course of treatment, the plan of care is updated as progress is made, goals are met, and new goals are established. As the client’s need for skilled therapeutic involvement decreases, the therapists will work with the client and family to transition into a lifetime fitness, including ongoing home programs and utilization of Turnstone’s health, wellness,adaptive sport and recreation opportunities.