

95 Theses on Augmentative and Alternative Communication

Dortmund 2017 - 500 Years after Luther

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AAC and Politics

1. AAC is a human right. – Let's insist on it!
2. AAC requires equality. – Let's treat AAC users as equals!
3. AAC means learning. – Let's grant AAC users their right for education!
4. AAC enables meaningful occupation. – Let's create fair working conditions for AAC users!
5. AAC enables autonomous living. – Let's give AAC users free choice of accommodation!
6. AAC takes time. – Let's request a reasonable allocation of staff!
7. AAC costs money. – Let's finance long term consultation and intervention!
8. AAC needs experts in their own cause. – Let's make AAC users competent!
9. AAC needs family. – Let's include relatives!
10. AAC requires teachers. – Let's incorporate AAC into teacher training!
11. AAC requires contributors in living and working spaces. – Let's offer advanced education!
12. AAC needs science and research. – Let's research!
13. AAC irritates. – Let's ensure that there is sympathy for AAC in society!
14. AAC is intriguing. – Let's bring AAC to public attention!

AAC and Autonomy

15. AAC creates a personal opinion. – Let's make sure AAC users can decide for themselves!
16. AAC users can represent themselves. – Let's acknowledge the maturity of AAC users!
17. AAC gives control. – Let's enable AAC users to control their lives!
18. AAC is personal. – Let's allow AAC users to be unique!
19. AAC is about more than just basic human needs. – Let's allow AAC users to ask, comment and discuss!
20. AAC grants independence. – Let's not think and speak for AAC users!
21. AAC makes responsible. – Let's allow AAC users to learn from mistakes!
22. AAC gives autonomy. – Let's make AAC users be responsible from childhood on!
23. AAC goes beyond the welfare approach. – Let's revolt!
24. AAC requires advice on an eye-to-eye level. – Let's establish peer counselling!
25. AAC is Empowerment. – Let's enable AAC users to support themselves!

AAC and Development

26. AAC means development. – Let's support lifelong development!
27. AAC works sustainably. – Let's start early!
28. AAC is never too late. – Let's never give up!
29. AAC grows. – Let's nurture it with enthusiasm, expertise, and real interest!
30. AAC shows character. – Let's respect people in all their facets!
31. AAC encourages individuality. – Let's support personality development!

AAC and Pedagogy

32. AAC requires diagnosis. – Let's evaluate correctly!
33. AAC requires confidence. – Let's have faith: AAC users want to communicate!
34. AAC is an educational principle. – Let's allow AAC users to actively contribute!
35. AAC implies written language. – Let's teach AAC users to read and write!
36. AAC means written language as well. – Let's enable AAC users to express themselves freely!
37. AAC isn't a sheltered environment. – Let's challenge AAC users!
38. AAC demands a culture of conversation. – Let's support culture!
39. AAC isn't "cuddle pedagogy". – Let's give AAC users constructive criticism!
40. AAC requires effort. – Let's encourage active participation from AAC users!
41. AAC isn't a disciplinary measure. – Let's never take away communication aids!
42. AAC signifies independence. – Let's let go!

AAC and Conversations

43. AAC requires assistance. – Let's act as beneficial communication partners!
44. AAC is open to interpretation. – Let's practice co-construction!
45. AAC doesn't demand pity. – Let's meet AAC users with empathy!
46. AAC requires patience. – Let's take some time!
47. AAC is exhausting. – Let's appreciate the effort!
48. AAC is part of everyday life. – Let's create opportunities for communication!
49. AAC is multimodal. – Let's increase the effectiveness through various AAC-channels!
50. AAC provides exiting content. – Let's create a desire for communication!
51. AAC is high-tech. – Let's integrate new technologies!
52. AAC is versatile. – Let's use the full spectrum of communication aids!
53. AAC is more than technology. – Let's recognize the smallest signs!
54. AAC makes you opinionated – Let's equip communication aids with curse words!
55. AAC requires creativity. – Let's craft AAC-materials!

AAC and opportunities

56. AAC offers opportunities. – Let's discover the diversity!
57. AAC is participation. – Let's not exclude anyone!
58. AAC makes you talk. – Let's listen!
59. AAC builds self-confidence. – Let's empower people!
60. AAC overcomes borders. – Let's break down walls!
61. AAC needs explorers. – Let's enter uncharted territory!
62. AAC makes you feel optimistic. – Let's shape the future!
63. AAC has energy. – Let's use its power!
64. AAC builds friendships. – Let's get closer to each other!
65. AAC is networking. – Let's sit at the same table!
66. AAC unites worldwide. – Let's learn from each other!
67. AAC shows skill. – Let's wait and see!
68. AAC is an asset. – Let's profit from being different!
69. AAC is ready for school. – Let's live AAC everywhere, not just in school!
70. AAC is changing. – Let's keep an open mind!
71. AAC intervenes. – Let's take every remark seriously!
72. AAC speaks many languages. – Let's learn foreign languages!
73. AAC means solidarity. – Let's experience interaction and connection!
74. AAC is more than just a fad. – Let's set the long-term trend!
75. AAC is infectious. – Let's publicise AAC!
76. AAC doesn't need a pope. – Let's profit from the knowledge and ideas of many bright minds!
77. AAC is a creed. – Let's preach respect and confidence!
78. AAC utilises experience. – Let's share it among each other!
79. AAC is fun. – Let's laugh together!
80. AAC makes you creative. – Let's create works of art!
81. AAC encourages. – Let's emphasise the best, instead of the worst!

AAC and Challenges

82. AAC means teamwork. – Let's get things done together!
83. AAC gives courage. – Let's try new things!
84. AAC is comprehensible. – Let's stop guessing!
85. AAC demands persistence. – Let's be tenacious!
86. AAC requires structure. – Let's choose a systematic approach!
87. AAC accepts differences – Let's avoid standardising too much!
88. AAC is limited. – Let's support reasoning and language in the mind!
89. AAC is different. – Let's avoid a one size fits all approach!
90. AAC means to doubt. – Let's learn something new!
91. AAC is a marathon, not a sprint. – Let's persevere!
92. AAC requires compromises. – Let's argue!
93. AAC changes you. – Let's go off the beaten path!
94. AAC is rebellious. – Let's embrace resistance!
95. AAC creates jobs. – Let's never get bored again!

What We Hope for ...

like Luther 500 years ago, we hope for change.

- We want to shake up and encourage thought
- We would like to draw attention to the opportunities and challenges that AAC gives us.
- As AAC using people, family members and professionals, we would like to give food for thought.
- We want AAC to be self-evident and society to take the appropriate action.
- We want everyone to know on a small scale what they can do to improve the situation of AAC using people.
- We want to reach the general public with these theses.

Please support us.

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