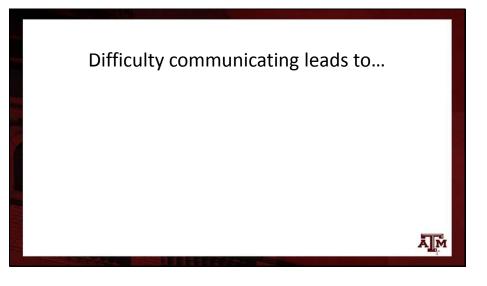


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# **Evidence-Based Communication Interventions**

- Behavioral interventions (prompts, task analysis, time delay, reinforcement)
- Augmentative and alternative communication interventions
- Functional communication training
- Naturalistic behavioral interventions (PRT, Incidental teaching)
- Modeling (video and in vivo)
- Peer-mediated interventions
- Visual scripts

### Research Support: Skills Taught

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- Supports limited communicative functions
  - Behavior regulation
  - Information exchange
  - Social Interaction
- Supports early phases of communication instruction
- Unfounded concerns regarding AAC and speech

## **Research Support: Participant Characteristics**

- Primarily preschool and elementary ages
- More support with people with ASD without co-occurring conditions
- · Girls/women tend to be underrepresented
- Little support for use of interventions with culturally and linguistically diverse learners

#### **Research Support**

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- Small scale:
  - Much of the research has been conducted with small numbers of participants
- Limited contexts:
  - Only limited research has been conducted in natural settings/contexts
  - Instructional strategies tend to be didactic
- Mobile tech revolution...

## High-Tech Versus No- or Low-Tech

- Limited research
- Little apparent different in results
  - between high- and low-or no-tech
  - Exception: unaided AAC (such as sign language)
- This is an emerging area of research

## Strengths of High-Tech-Based Interventions for Communication • Social validity/ acceptability • Portability

- Affordability
- Increasingly intuitive
- Flexibility and just-in-time use
- Integrate communication with other tech tools

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Mobile Tech-Based Interventions May Not be Suited for Everyone

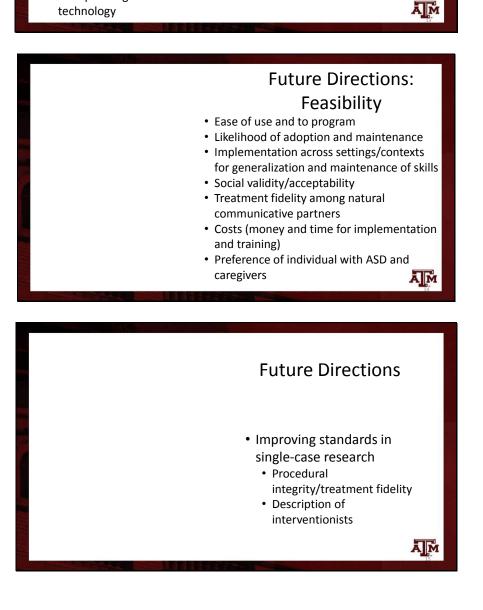
- Preference
- Distractions on the device
- Difficulties with funding
- Future research on mobile tech...

#### **Future Directions**

- Characteristics of participants
  - Large group studies
  - Adolescents and adults
  - Matching participant characteristics to interventions
- Communicative functions
  - Behavior regulation
  - Information exchange
  - Social Interaction



- Intervention packages
  - Overlap between intervention components across packages
  - Same thing, different name
  - Multimodal communication interventions
  - Expansion to broader communicative functions/skills
  - Incorporating mobile technology



#### **Future Directions**

 \*Addressing unestablished/ controversial treatments accepted by the public\*

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#### **Final Issues**

- Success of an intervention has more to do with the intervention techniques than materials/technology
- Avoid controversial/ unproven "treatments"
- Communicative competence: People with ASD deserve access to the full range of communicative functions and broad vocabularies

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