

# Facilitated Communication & Rapid Prompting Method

The AAIDD Board of Directors believes that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities have the right to make their own choices and express themselves. To do that, they need a reliable way to communicate.

However, the AAIDD does **not** support two popular methods called **Facilitated Communication (FC)** and **Rapid Prompting Method (RPM)**.

## Here's why:

- **FC:** Science has shown that this doesn't work as advertised. Studies suggest that the helper—not the person with the disability—is actually the one guiding the messages, even without meaning to.
- **RPM:** There isn't enough scientific proof that this works either, and experts have the same concern—that the helper may be influencing what gets communicated.

Instead of giving people with disabilities a real voice, these methods can actually do the opposite—putting someone else's words in their place.

AAIDD encourages using Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) tools and methods instead. AAC tools are backed by real science and are designed to help people communicate their thoughts, feelings, and choices on their own.

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