



BREAKING RESEARCH ALERT



For too long, assisted typing methods have been dismissed based on decades-old research, while nonspeaking autistic people continue to be denied robust communication alternatives. In their new commentary published today in **Autism Research (2026)**, **Jaswal, Prizant, and colleagues argue that:**

- At least 1/3 of autistic people have limited or no speech
- Most are never given alternatives that enable full expression
- Some nonspeakers **HAVE** learned to type independently using assisted methods—and their experiences deserve study
- Contemporary research on motor, sensory, and attentional challenges in nonspeakers actually **ALIGN**s with the

The authors aren't asking us to abandon scientific rigor - they're asking us to apply it **WITH** curiosity, respect, and collaboration with nonspeaking autistic people themselves.

Key questions they want researchers to explore:

- What helped successful independent typers achieve independence?
- What support did assistants provide during training?
- Who benefits most from these methods, and why?

This isn't about false hope. It's about rigorous research that could expand communication access and improve quality of life for more nonspeaking autistic people.

We're grateful for researchers like Dr. Jaswal and Dr. Prizant who listen to our community and advocate for the studies that could change lives.

