(exchange + opinion (mind + mouth) + write)

more

Communication

Communication is a basic human right, a need and a critical part of learning. For some people communicating through speech is difficult, or slow to develop. Many people now use Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC) systems. These systems supplement or support the spoken element in communication. There are different vocabularies and languages to choose from, so the individual can use the most appropriate system.

Further information

"Supporting Communication through AAC" is available to download from www.scope.org.uk/education/aac/ or from:

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Communication Aids Project
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6 Market Road
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Or
Gillian Hazell
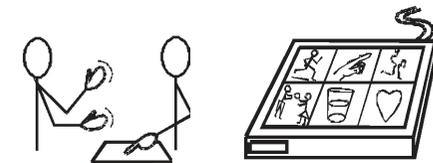email: gillian@gmhazell.fsnet.co.uk

cap
communication aids project

communicate

Supporting Communication Through Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC)

Supporting Communication through AAC

This package contains 12 modules produced both on paper (limited copies) and on a CD-ROM. It aims to help parents, teachers and professionals to support individuals who may benefit from using AAC. Each module stands alone and addresses a specific topic or a particular group of users. However each module is cross-referenced. The modules are:

Module 1: Introduction to AAC

Module 2: Frequently Asked Questions is our attempt at answering many of the questions we are asked as part of our work.

Module 3: The Nuts and Bolts of AAC is where you will find most of the information that you would expect in this package, although all the other modules cover issues that are essential to the successful introduction and use of AAC.

Module 4: Games and Activities provides lots of ideas on ways of introducing and teaching someone to use AAC. It is not easy to learn a second language, which is what AAC is, and unless it's fun and quickly successful in helping the user to control their lives and achieve what they want, they will give up or at least not give it the effort it requires.

Module 5: Accessing Equipment, Books and Charts – without the means of quick and easy access to the resources provided they will remain unused or be sources of frustration. This module gives lots of ideas that will help you to ensure that the user's access to their system is as easy as possible.

Module 6: Software This is a broad-ranging module which provides information on curriculum access and word processing as well as software to support communication and to make professional-looking resources quickly and easily.

The next three modules provide curricula to assist in developing the communication abilities of people who will benefit from using AAC, whether they are developing normally other than their ability to communicate through speech, or have additional physical and sensory difficulties:

Module 7: Children within the Foundation Stage is focused on the needs of the child in early years environments.

Module 8: Lifelong Learning is looking at supporting the communication skills of children and adults from when they leave early years settings onwards throughout the development of their skills to become efficient and effective communicators.

Module 9: Children and Adults with Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties is focused on the needs of this population.

Module 10: One School's Approach provides an insight into how the development of the communication skills of children who attend Ingfield Manor School has been addressed. Their school curriculum and the structure of the communication books used are discussed and illustrated in detail.

Module 11: One County's Approach to Supporting AAC in Mainstream Schools Somerset Local Education Authority has developed a county-wide policy to ensure that children with communication difficulties are fully integrated within county schools and are receiving the best services that the county can support. One of the LEA's speech and language therapists has written about the development and practice of this policy.

Module 12: Contacts, Web Resources and Discussion Groups provides suggestions of where to go for further help, information and discussion.

Whether you are someone who uses AAC, a parent, carer, student, therapist or teacher, we hope that you will find within this package the information or ideas that you are seeking.