



KEYCOMM NEWS

Implementing AAC: Why? and When? We Communicate.

Implementing AAC can be both rewarding and challenging within any environment. The best approach is to make sure that each event or task is an opportunity to communicate. One strategy is to make a weekly diary of activities for each AAC User and then identify the various words and phrases that can be spoken during the activity. For example, at the start of the day the AAC User might greet 3 people by saying "hello". The AAC User can also use greetings when attending an activity club or when people are visiting them in their house. Making requests can also usually be put into any activity throughout the daily routine. This is a good way to get AAC Users to start building sentences using a starter phrase. Another great idea is setting up an activity where the AAC User has to give you an opinion about what is happening. For example, watching a TV programme or DVD and then saying one positive thing and one negative thing about it. You might want to set up one off events to focus on certain communication functions. For example, setting up interviews to get data on a specific question. This is a great activity for an opportunity to ask questions. You can even provide a prize for the AAC User who asks the most questions throughout the day. Another strategy is to initiate a Words of the Week programme. Each week identify 3 key words that individuals should try to use as much as they can. You can even prepare a Powerpoint slide for each word of the week to get people interested. If you work with children and want more ideas, get a copy of our CODES Framework- Activity Toolkit. This is available free for all individuals who work in Lothian. Contact Keycomm for your free copy.

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Merry Christmas 2017 from Keycomm



Photo diary/calendar apps for the iPad

We have been looking into the various calendar and diary apps that support using photos with and without speech output. Here are some we have found so far:

My Own Interactions- The app is free to download and allows you to take a picture and insert it into any day of the week. It also has recorded voice output which you can attach to each picture. It is easy to use and allows users to talk about upcoming events or past events.



Diary DIY- This app is also free to download and prompts users and carers to write a diary using photos and text. You can save each page of your diary as a photo on your iPad or share them with others. It is also a good resource if you are focussing on adjectives or connective words such as first, next, then, last.



Photo Calendar- This app allows users to insert a photo from your photo album into any day of the week. There is no voice output but it is simple to use and free to download.

The Pragmatics Profile for AAC- New Free Resource

This is a revised version from the original Pragmatics Profile of Everyday Communication in Children. This profile can be used with children who have used AAC in the past or who are currently using an AAC system. The profile provides practitioners with a means of collecting information on how children communicate within their everyday life. It focusses on communication functions within the child's daily routines. It continues to be based on an interview format. The profile is free to download and use and comes in two forms: print and fill in or electronic data entry.

The profile contains a list of prompt questions categorised by communicative functions. They also provide a clinical summary sheet for the interviewer to provide a summary of the responses. For each type of communicative function there is a key question to ask and then possible responses. These responses are meant to be a guide rather than an exhaustive list.

The Pragmatics Profile for AAC is free to download from the Ace Centre website: www.acecentre.org.uk You will have to register to purchase the profile but there is no charge. You will then get an email on how to download it. It takes a few minutes. We would be interested in your reviews of the profile.

For Your Information

Cerebral Palsy Scotland website

An online help and advice service for families living with children with Cerebral Palsy. The website gives families information about cerebral palsy and advice put together by specialist therapists and families. Parents can also search for local groups in their area.

cerebralpalsyScotland.org.uk

You might be interested in an article "Provision of Powered communication aids in the United Kingdom" This was a large project which some of us in Scotland took part in and may be of interest.

<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/07434618.2017.1347960>

The article can be accessed free with your Athens username and password from the Taylor and Francis website.

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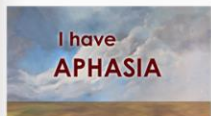
Keycomm is now on Twitter
@keycommaac



To find out what is happening in Scotland follow **@acipscotland**

"I have Aphasia" app is a free app that explains Aphasia to any communication partner. It is 90 seconds long. It was developed in Tayside and animated and designed by people with Aphasia.

Download it now from the Apple store.



New AAC Video Resource from Communication Matters



#Roar4CM- featuring the well- known song from Katy Perry- Eye of the Tiger.

Just search on You tube for #Roar4 CM

AAC Scotland website full of resources and online learning modules. Check out www.aacscotland.org.uk

IOS 11 for iPad

There are a few apps which will not work if you upgrade the iPad to IOS 11. Most of these are older apps. The one that may have the most impact is **Speakit!**. If you upgrade the iPad you will get a message saying the app is not compatible with IOS 11. Beware the Upgrade!!!

Feliz Navidad!



Courses at Keycomm

Don't miss out on the courses we are running at Keycomm! Booking forms are available to download from our website www.keycomm.weebly.com. Just email your completed booking form to Janet at Janet.1.ramsay@ea.edin.sch.uk to book your place.

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|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 25 January 2018 | 10.30 – 12.30 pm | Boardmaker 6 for PC |
| 7 February 2018 | 3.30-5:00 pm | Intro to Codes Framework 2.0 |
| 1 February 2018 | 1.30-3.30 pm | Practical Symbol Resources |
| 5 February 2018 | 10.30-12.30 pm | "Reasons to Communicate" |
| 22 February 2018 | 10.30 – 12.30 pm | Boardmaker 6 for PC |
| 22 March 2018 | 10.30 – 12.30 pm | Boardmaker 6 for PC |

Contacting the Keycomm Team

Office Hours: 9am-5pm, Monday-Thursday, 9:30 am-2:30 pm, Fridays (pick up and collection only)

Address: Keycomm Resource Centre, 1c Pennywell Road, Edinburgh, EH4 4PH

Tel: 0131 311 7130

Website: www.keycomm.weebly.com

Deborah Jans

Keycomm Coordinator, Speech and Language Therapist

Available Mon-Thursday

deborah.jans@ea.edin.sch.uk or deborah.jans@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk

Melanie Ross

Occupational Therapist - SPLAT Toy Library

Available Mon & Tues 9.30am-2.30pm

melanie.ross@kaimes.edin.sch.uk

Barbara Mathieson

Speech Therapy Assistant

Available Wed, Thurs & Fri 9.30am-2.30pm

barbara.mathieson@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk

Janet Ramsay

Clerical Assistant

Available Mon - Thurs 9.00am-3.00pm,

janet.1.ramsay@ea.edin.sch.uk

Susan Henderson

Communication Tech. Dev. Officer

Available Monday, Wednesday and Thursday

Susan.henderson@ea.edin.sch.uk

Annie Welsh

Speech & Language Therapy Support

Tues pm and Thurs am

anne.welsh@oaklands.edin.sch.uk

Anne Moar

Technical Instructor (Speech & Language Therapy)

Wednesday all day

Anne.moar@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk

Nicola Ford

Parent as Active Partners AAC Project

Nicola.ford@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk

Tuesday & Thursday

Jayne McDowall

Technical Instructor (Speech & Language Therapy)

Monday all day

Jayne.mcdowall@ea.edin.sch.uk