# KEYCOMM NEWS

Welcome to the latest Keycomm newsletter!

## The Transition Project: Next steps

The Keycomm transition project which has been running since 2013 is coming to an end in May 2016. In light of the knowledge and experience gained from this project, the transition pathway for school leavers has been re-evaluated and adapted. We are currently moving from an AAC specific strand on the pathway to having a single pathway which is open to any young person with significant communication needs who will benefit from SLT support when leaving school and moving into adult services.

The Keycomm Transition project has provided an opportunity for joint working between paediatric and adult SLTs and it is felt that this was a really valuable and positive aspect of the project. Therefore, in the adapted pathway, there is a strong focus on strengthening links between paediatric and adult SLTs including the provision of joint training and knowledge sharing opportunities. Julie Gray (paediatric SLT) and Claire Smyth (adult SLT) are acting as points of contact to help co-ordinate the 2016 transition. Feedback on this year's transition process is welcomed in order to help identify new ideas or further changes needed for the future.

*For further information contact Claire Smyth on Claire.Smyth@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk  or Julie Gray on Julie.1.gray@braidburn.edin.sch.uk*

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### AAC Scottish Government Legislation Update

The Scottish Government is introducing legislation for provision of voice output communication aids for all individuals living within Scotland. This legislation is now going through and the government has now formed an AAC working group of professionals, agencies, and AAC Users. This group will be developing **directions** to Health Boards which will consist of important information on the best way to provide the communication systems in a timely fashion and the importance of support for the individual and their supporters.  The timescale for implementation of the legislation is still to be decided. Watch this space!

# CODES Framework and Activity Toolkit

What is a successful AAC Communicator and how do we know the individual is an effective communicator?
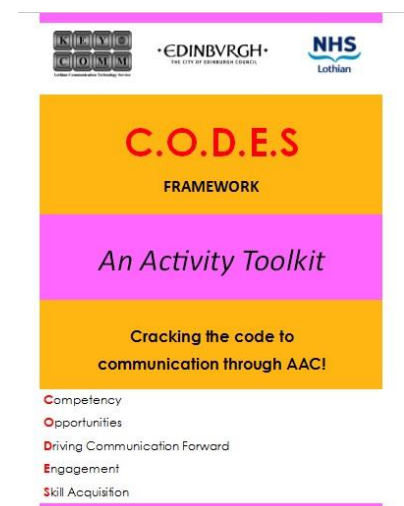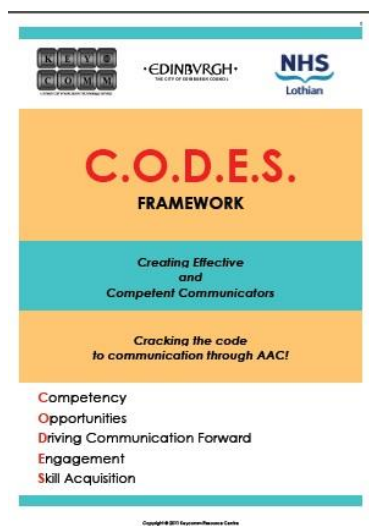
If you are introducing an AAC system to an individual, you may want to use the **CODES** Framework to address the above question. The **CODES** Framework is a skill based framework and has been developed to monitor progress as you introduce an AAC system to an individual. It is based on Janice Light's communication competencies and consists of a quick look table of baseline skills, target planning sheets as well as questionnaires to measure an individual's motivation and resilience and to measure the policies and attitudes of a centre/school.  This is everything you will need to begin to measure effectiveness of the AAC system over time.

### +++Stop Press+++

There is now an Activity Toolkit which is a companion guide to the **CODES** Framework. The Activity Toolkit gives you ideas of different activities you can do to develop specific skills and competencies for an individual user. It also presents whole school/centre activities you might want to try out in your establishment.

The **CODES** Framework was developed originally to be used with children of all ages but is equally useful for individuals within the Post-16 age group.

The next **CODES** Framework course at Keycomm is on 2 June 2016 1:30-3:30 pm. You will learn about how to use the framework and each participant will be given a copy of the CODES framework and Activity Toolkit. For more information contact Deborah Jans at deborah.jans@ea.edin.sch.uk.

# For Your Information

**Clicker Communicator App for ipad**-Clicker Communicator is a new app that has been designed for children where you are expecting them to develop their language into novel sentences. It comes with 3 vocabulary levels which provides progression for expressive language development as well as consistency in layout and colour coding. Clicker Communicator is available through the App store priced £119.99

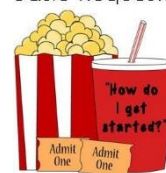# Follow us on Twitter

Keycomm is now on Twitter @keycommaac

**Communication Matters Road Show**- 10 May 2016 at Golden Jubilee Conference Centre, Glasgow. Sign up via the CM website: www.communicationmatters.org.uk

9 am to 4 pm, Lunch and refreshments provided.

Basic Requests

# Book Give Away

We have one copy of the book, **Therapy Outcome Measures for Rehabilitation Professionals**, Third Edition by Pamela Enderby and Alexandra John.  This includes the new TOMS for AAC.  If you are interested in acquiring this book, please contact Deborah Jans at deborah.jans@ea.edin.sch.uk. First come, First Win!

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### New AAC Resources Online, Check them out!

ACE Centre has a range of new free books in their **"Getting Started with AAC"** series. They are available to download through Ibooks and you will need an Ipad to view them.

Titles: **Getting Started with AAC: Designing and Using Alphabet Charts**, **Getting Started with AAC: Using low tech symbol based systems with children**, **Getting Started with AAC: Access to low tech symbol based resources when pointing is difficult**

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**New Resource:**

The Communication Trust has developed a new resource, *The Involving Children and Young People with SLCN Toolkit* for education settings. You can download the resource and the research report at:

www.thecommunicationtrust.uk.org/involve

**AAC Pack for ICU hospital departments:** Following on from the Right to Speak Project, NES has developed an AAC pack to be distributed to all ICU departments in Scotland.  Look out for these packs over the next few weeks.

# 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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| *28/04/2016* | *10.30 – 12.30pm* | *Boardmaker 6* |
| *11/05/2016* | *1.30 – 3.30pm* | *Boardmaker 6* |
| *26/05/2016* | *10.30 – 12.30 pm* | *Boardmaker 6* |
| *02/06/2016* | *1.30 – 3.30 pm* | *Introduction to the CODES Framework* |

# 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
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**Melanie Ross**
Occupational Therapist - SPLAT Toy Library
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**Barbara Mathieson**
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**Claire Smyth (Transition Project) until 20 May**
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**Robert Hammersley**
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**Annie Welsh**
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**Margaret Linton (Transition Project) until 20 May**
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