

KEYCOMM NEWS



Welcome to the Spring/Summer edition of the Keycomm newsletter. Here are some bright new ideas which might be helpful in this new Covid-19 working environment.

Keycomm have been updating our website on a daily basis with lots of downloadable resources. Here are just a few:

- Resources for using symbols at home to talk about Coronavirus with children.
- AACtivities of the week for implementing AAC in the home.
- Symbolised resources to use in hospital or health settings during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Find them all on www.keycommaac.wordpress.com

For those of you interested in thinking about *Effective Communication and AAC*- check out our CODES Talking Point postcards. We have put together some key messages from the CODES Framework to highlight some key messages about effective communication.

www.codesframework.wordpress.com

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C.O.D.E.S Talking Points

Why is effective communication important?

Allows individuals with a severe communication impairment to realise their full potential within their home and community.



C.O.D.E.S Talking Points

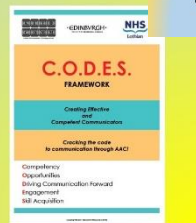
- What types of skills are required to communicate effectively?
- Having a variety of vocabulary- not just names of things
 - Being able to operate the AAC system as independently as possible
 - Using communication for a variety of purposes
 - Being able to repair communication breakdown



C.O.D.E.S. Talking Points

What does CODES stand for?

- CODES stands for:
 - Competency
 - Opportunities
 - Driving Communication Forward
 - Engagement
 - Skill Acquisition



New iPad Communication Apps



Talk with me - This app has been developed by Chest Heart and Stroke Scotland to be used with people who have had a stroke. The app uses symbols and images to help with basic communication. Vocabulary is arranged within categories such as emergencies, about me, family relationships, feelings, self-care etc. There is speech output but there does not appear to be a facility to personalise the speech output. It is free to download from the app store. This app is also available for Android devices.



myICUvoice - This app has been developed to be used within ICU mainly for patients who are ventilated. The app is organised into different zones: nurse zone and patient zone. It allows nurses to track patient's symptoms through a survey as well as provide some basic communication requests relating to basic needs and pain etc. There is a keyboard built in. The nurse is able to personalise some of the data such as Where am I? message that the patient sees as soon as he starts using the app. The app was developed by a specialist team of doctors and rehab specialists. It is free to download from the app store.



The Voice Keeper- This is a new voice banking service and iPad app now available from Almagu Ltd., an Israeli voice technology company. They claim to be the fastest voice banking service which allows a user to create their first voice with just 3 minutes of recording 30 sentences. For a better quality voice, they recommend you record an additional 70 sentences. The patient can control the rate of recording and it can be done in more than one sitting. The voice will run on the free Voice Keeper app available for the Ipad and you can create your personal voice directly from your Iphone. There is no need for a separate microphone. Once you create your voice, you simply start typing a sentence and push the speak button. The voice creation and testing is free and it takes about a half hour. If you want to keep your voice, there is a 12 USD charge per year for you to use it on their VoiceKeeper app. If you want to purchase your voice and use it on a Windows based device, there is a one-off charge of 299 USD. They have a facility for therapists to download the app for free for 1 year to demonstrate voice banking to your patients. For more details go to thevoicekeeper.com website.

For Your Information

Staff News

Welcome (sort of) to Janet Ramsay, our new Band 4 Technical instructor.

Earlier in the year, we were sad to say goodbye to Annie Welsh from the Keycomm team. We will miss her valuable input and positive attitude very much. Her post has now been filled by Janet. You will know Janet already as our clerical assistant. We are delighted that she will now be working one day a week as our new Band 4 Technical Instructor alongside Anne Moar. Janet will be working in this role on Mondays all day and will be in the Keycomm office Monday - Friday.

We are also pleased to welcome back Susan Henderson, our teacher, from maternity leave. Thanks to Stephan Millar who covered the role in her absence. The Keycomm team is now back to a full complement of staff.

What matters to You?

Now a global project to improve patient outcomes. If you are interested in Patient Engagement and Participation, check out the new website at wmtj.world.

There are links to websites and downloadable resources that can help anyone get started and links to videos showing how this movement is being carried out around the world.

AAC Modules

If you have some free time and want to update your AAC knowledge, check out the AAC modules on www.aacscotland.org.uk. There are a variety of learning modules including Series 1: Introduction to AAC and Series 2: AAC in Education. Once completed, all learners can get a certificate towards your CPD log.

There are also 2 modules on AAC assessment which were developed by Manchester Metropolitan University. www.aacscotland.org.uk

Interested in improving your own skills and competencies in AAC? Check out the **IPAACKS** self- assessment framework at www.nes.scot.nhs.uk

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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Website: www.keycommaac.wordpress.com

During the lockdown phase in Scotland and until further notice, please contact us on **07866846784**

Follow us on Social Media

Keycomm is now on Twitter
[@keycommaac](https://twitter.com/keycommaac)

Facebook at
www.facebook.com/keycommaac

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Melanie Ross

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Barbara Mathieson

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Janet Ramsay

Clerical Assistant

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Technical Instructor

Available Monday-8.30am – 4.30pm

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Susan Henderson

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Anne Moar

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Keycomm websites

www.keycommaac.wordpress.com

www.codesframework.wordpress.com

Other AAC websites

www.acipscotland.wordpress.com

www.nowhearme.co.uk

www.aacscotland.org.uk

