

Communication Boards



How do we support children with communication differences by using Communication Boards?

2 Aims & objectives

The aim is not to replace high tech AAC but rather to provide an alternative when communication may break down. We have designed though parent and professional input a number of context specific boards to support participation and play from the school classroom, to the yard, playing fields and public spaces and hope to expand this going forward.



5 Top Tips

Mistakes are normal and expected - learning AAC takes time for everyone involved! Encourage commenting or protesting as well as requesting with the symbols - eg for the 'Like' symbol - we can use the phrase 'I like them' or 'I don't like that'! Support all curiosity and acknowledge all attempts!



1 What are Communication Boards?

Communication takes many forms and all forms are valid - whether that is through the spoken voice, gesture or facial expressions, lámh, ISL, assistive technology or written. For those presenting with speech and language communication needs, communicating with others may be difficult. A communication board can act as a bridge when there is a breakdown in communicating whether that is because of difficulties being understood, or understanding. We have designed context specific boards that have core symbols reflecting the environment that they are in, that can act as a tool to aid communication. They are not a replacement for robust high tech AAC that have comprehensive vocabulary and language.

3 Target Group

All and any individual that may need support with understanding or being understood. This includes those who struggle to use their voice in different environments, or have English as an additional language.

4 Modelling

Modelling involves demonstrating how to communicate using AAC. We do so without expectation of imitation or response. The focus is on speaking naturally, showing the symbol, and incorporating it into interactions. For example, show the 'Eat' symbol and say "I'm hungry, let's eat!". This will help individuals learn the language of AAC.

6 Audit & Impact

We will be monitoring feedback from end users throughout this implementation phase - collaboration is key! Please get in touch with any feedback you may have.

Augmentative and Alternative Communication AAC
AAC is a term used for various methods of communication that augment or replace speech. This can include communication devices, systems, strategies and tools that replace or support spoken language.