

Facilitated Communication (FC) and AAC

The relationship between AAC and Facilitated Communication (FC) is probably the most heatedly discussed issue within this field.

There have been many academic papers and journal articles throughout the world with probably an equal number of papers supporting or refuting the role of Facilitated Communication (FC) in enabling people with severe communication difficulties to communicate.

There was much formal dissent in ISAAC when there was a strand on FC at the Biennial Conference. Some delegates from the United States refused to attend in protest.

Two articles appeared in the April 1995 edition of CM attempting to encapsulate the two sides of the argument.

In some areas of Europe AAC & FC were being used interchangeably and this was brought to the attention of ISAAC who then deliberated on whether they should bring out a position statement on FC.

The ISAAC Executive Board, with Erna Alant as President, commissioned a position statement on FC to be prepared by a panel of ISAAC members. The statement was completed following a systematic review of evidence. Both the statement and the systematic review (Schlosser et al. 2014) were published by ISAAC in 2014/15. This position paper was taken to the ISAAC Board meeting in 2014 where it was passed by a significant majority but with the UK and one other Chapter abstaining from the vote.

Schlosser, R., Balandin, S., Hemsley, B., von Tetzchner, S.,
Facilitated Communication and Authorship: A Systematic Review*
in *Augmentative and alternative communication* 30(4):1-10 · November 2014
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