

COMMUNICATION ***MATTERS***

**The Survival Guide
to
Communication Matters
CM2015 National AAC Conference**





What is Communication Matters?

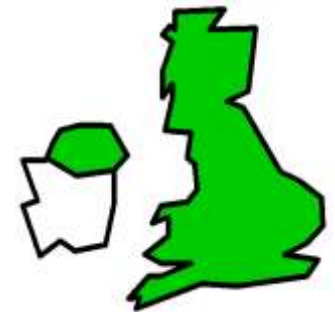
- Communication Matters (CM) is the UK Chapter of ISAAC (International Society of Augmentative and Alternative Communication)
- ISAAC is a world-wide organisation which aims to promote the best possible communication for people with complex communication needs



CM Track Record

- **Communication Matters (CM)**

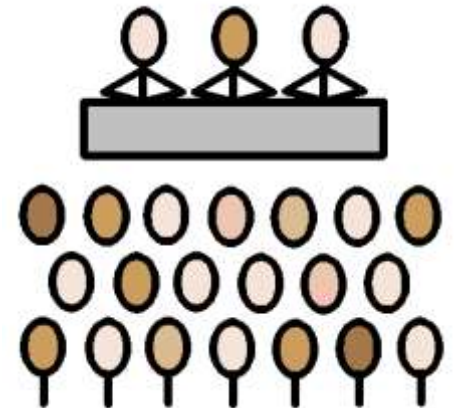
- Was established in 1986
- Is *the* national organisation for AAC
- Has a sole focus on AAC, cradle to grave
- Is the UK Chapter of ISAAC and has NGO status
- Has an associate membership
- Has strength in a trans-disciplinary approach





CM is more than a conference

- There are opportunities for:
- Gathering information
- Exchanging of information
- Awareness raising
- Education
- Campaigning
- Projects
- Research





....and here's how!

- CM Journal
- Networking
- Roadshows
- Study Days
- Website
- Discussion Forum
- Working parties





AAC Basics:

What do you see?

(how language is represented)

- Objects
- Photographs
- Pictures
- Symbols
- Text
- Gesture
- Signing
- Sign vocabularies
- Sign languages



Symbol & Graphics

Objects of Reference



Clipart



Photos





Symbol & Graphics

Edited from:

Hazell G. & Cockerill H. (2002)
 "Communication Resources"

In: Cockerill H. & Carroll-Few C.
 (Eds) "Communicating
 Without Speech: Practical
 Augmentative and Alternative
 Communication".
 Mac Keith Press

	Picture Communication Symbols	Widgit Literacy Symbols	Makaton Vocabulary	Blissymbols
Home				
To go, advance				
To want				
To tease				
Tired				
Noisy				
Because				
but				



How are symbols and graphics used?

- To make choices and decisions – big and little!
- To ask for help and information
- To express opinions, needs and wants
- To refute or refuse something
- To show personality!
- To talk about life, the universe and everything!



Communication Charts

- There are lots of different communication charts and boards
- All are personalised to meet the needs of the PwuAAC

PECS Book



Keyrings



Alphabet boards





Communication Books

Story writing page developed by Sally Conner, SLT Ingfield Manor School















86
Story Writing
87

<p>Once upon a time there was/were</p>	<p>prince princess king queen witch wizard</p>	<p>castle cat broomstick spell book magic wand</p>	<p>haunted house island wishing well treasure clipper ship</p>	<p>new old who lived in giant elf, pixie, imp sailor</p>	<p>cottage prison forest crown gold and silver</p>
<p>good bad angel fairy after Christmas</p>	<p>happy sad Indian cowboy thief, robber</p>	<p>cave bow and arrow gun sword</p>	<p>astronaut rocket moon stars outer space</p>	<p>funny magic monster clown lion</p>	<p>skeleton map, plan fly Abracadabra! dead</p>
<p>angry, fierce afraid, fright dinosaur ghost Dracula</p>	<p>mermaid catch save, rescue and they all lived happily ever after.</p>	<p>The end. Contents Page</p>	<p>←</p>		



Communication Books

Example of an 'Outings' Page from Sheffield

I	went	to
		
I	am going	to
		
I	like	going to
		
I	don't like	going to
		
What	about	you?
		

outing 			
playground 	park 	seaside 	
supermarket 			shopping centre 
bowling 	swimming 		
farm 	zoo 	museum 	
visiting 	McDonalds 		



Talking Mats

For further information
see:

www.talkingmats.com





Social Stories and Visual Timetables





AAC Basics: Voice Output Communication Aids (VOCAs)

- There are lots of opportunities to see VOCAs at the Conference to:
 - talk to suppliers
 - try devices yourself
 - look at the hardware, communication software and vocabularies
 - talk to others about their experiences
- Go to presentations about VOCAs and VOCA use



Other (VERY IMPORTANT) parts of AAC

- Seating, Positioning and Mounting
- Access and Control
 - Direct
 - Indirect
- Practical issues for example, battery, warranty, water resistance, outdoor use



Jargon Buster

What do these terms mean?

(Some we have already mentioned!)

- AAC
- ISAAC
- Aided Communication
- Unaided Communication
- PWUAAC
- CCN
- PMLD
- VOCA

Find out at:
www.communicationmatters.org.uk/page/glossary



Programme Signposts to help you find your way around

- Study the conference programme to identify which sessions to attend. Some presentations are in a particular 'stream' such as Research or Education. But all presentations indicate the age group covered and the level of experience assumed.
- Colour coding in the programme will help you find the room.
- Don't miss the Exhibition in the Parkinson Building. Many of the exhibitors will also be presenting their own sessions on Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning.
- See the Poster presentations on Monday in the Parkinson Building.



Surviving the conference

- If you have any questions before the Conference, email Emily Campbell at: admin@communicationmatters.org.uk
- At the Conference, ask anyone with a **red lanyard** for help or information about the Conference.
- **HAVE FUN – NETWORKING IS THE KEY!**

COMMUNICATION ***MATTERS***

**Have fun! And do come and
see the CM stand!**

(Ask anyone with a red lanyard for help!)