Using the AAC Evaluation Report to Guide Initial Training and Implementation with DDD Clients and Families

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Feature Match Process of AAC Evaluations

- The first step of our feature match process is to review the Communication Skills Questionnaire in the referral packet.
- This document is more than the gateway document to receive an authorization for an evaluation through DDD.
- We depend on the history provided in this document to get a snapshot of the communicator's strengths and needs to formulate a plan for the evaluation.

Feature Match Process of AAC Evaluations

- Because the referral paperwork can sometimes be outdated or incomplete, the second step of our feature match process is to contact the communicator's current support team when possible. This helps us determine
  - If any device trials have been conducted that were not documented in the referral paperwork.
  - If the support team has reason to expect a particular device recommendation.
  - If there has been any change in circumstance that would affect the evaluation.

Feature Match Process of AAC Evaluations

- Throughout the evaluation session, we use clinical observation, device trials, discussion, and family interview to complete our feature match process.

Feature Match Process of AAC Evaluations

- Important consideration: The team must demonstrate a minimum of three (3) different augmentative communication devices (hardware, not just 3 different apps) as part of the assessment, and this must be documented in the report.

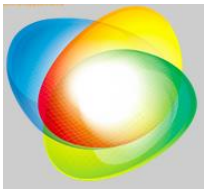
Feature Match Process of AAC Evaluations

- Family input is important. They have to feel comfortable with the recommendation because the intention is that they become highly invested in the device and take a major role in facilitating the communicator's use of the device throughout their day and in multiple environments.

Family

The AAC Evaluation Document

- The document is a synthesis of background information and data collected during the evaluation.



The AAC Evaluation Document

- It includes a narrative description of at least 3 device trials with specific features of the devices highlighted.

The AAC Evaluation Document

- It provides a list of device features required by the communicator.

Examples of Device Features Required –

- Vocabulary
- Output
- Visual Display Needs
- Mobility
- Access
- Other Features/Special Considerations

The AAC Evaluation Document

- It details our device recommendations. These include any accessories needed for alternative access and mounting of devices.

- Device with specific vocabulary software
- Keyguards
- Switches
- Stands
- Speakers
- Carry Cases
- Wheelchair Mounting
- Other mounts

The AAC Evaluation Document

- It clarifies our training recommendations.
    - Training hours
    - OT and/or PT support for mounting
    - Consults with wheelchair clinic

The AAC Evaluation Document

- It gives our suggestions for goal areas.

- Greet both peers and with minimal prompts and cues.
- Communicate regarding health.
- Demonstrate a decrease in inappropriate behaviors.
- Carry the device independently with minimal prompts and cues.
- Express social conversation starters.
- Look at the device when its use is modeled.
- Consistently activate a cell when presented with 2 choices.
- Use word prediction and editing functions to compose messages.
- Use the function keys on the device (”speak,” “clear,” “go back”)
- Answer and make telephone calls using the device.
- Program key phrases for interactive telephone communications.
- Use simple/complete sentences to express requests or direct others.

Training Hours Documentation

- Use the **Installation & Initial Device Training Checklist** as a *guide* for addressing all critical areas of the initial implementation process.
- Keep it in your files as back up documentation

Training Notes

AzTAP

Date	Installation/Training Completed:
	Follow Up Required by Parent/Team:
	Follow Up Required by Trainer:

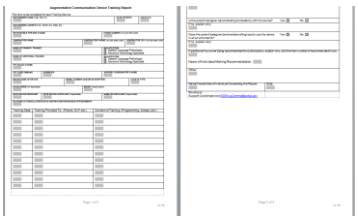
Next Appointment Scheduled For: _____

Parent Signature _____ Trainer Signature _____

Use some type of note page to leave with family to document follow up required by the team.

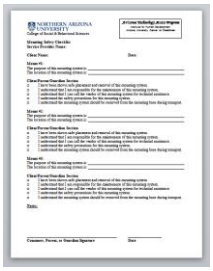
Documentation: Quarterly Reports

- Use Exhibit B – Augmentative Communication Device Training Report
- Fillable form -one report per client per quarter
- Sign with credentials
- Submit to Debbie via NAU SharePoint no later than July 5th, Oct 5th, Jan 5th, April 5th



Documentation: Mounting Safety

- Review instructions for installation & use with family.
- Have the family check off and sign the form.
- Give a copy to family and keep one in your files.



Trainer Supports

Product Information Sheet
Logan Tech: ProxPad

Logan Tech Contact:

Support & Training:

ProxPad Features:

- Copy of the AAC Evaluation
- Scheduled AzTAP Demonstrations
- Device Information Sheets

Device Information Sheets

- All device information sheets include a photo of the device, company contact information, support and training resource links, and a chart highlighting important features of the device.
- As more pages are completed, they will become available both on the SharePoint and the AzTAP website. You can request a specific device information sheet by emailing nikkol.anderson@nau.edu.

Family Supports

- Device Information Sheets
- Handbook Example

Frequently Recommended Devices

- Light-Tech devices with no voice output are rarely recommended but you should be familiar with them.
- Mid-Tech devices continue to be recommended, especially for communicators who require tactile or object support. These are the bulk of what we will be showing you this morning.
- High-Tech devices will be shown by company representatives this afternoon.

Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS)

PECS begins by teaching an individual to give a picture of a desired item to a "communicative partner", who immediately honors the exchange as a request. The system goes on to teach discrimination of pictures and how to put them together in sentences. In the more advanced phases, individuals are taught to answer questions and to comment.

http://www.pecsusa.com/

PECS apps on iPad

Pragmatic Organization Dynamic Display (PODD) Communication Books: Direct Access

Gayle Porter

http://www.mayer-johnson.com/podd as a Boardmaker Add On.
http://www.novita.org.au/Content.aspx?p=683
http://lburkhart.com/

Auditory Communicator by Enabling Devices

This communicator is available as a 16-level unit with 300 seconds of total recording time with 18 seconds per level. In addition to a built in switch, there is a jack for an external switch.

www.enablingdevices.com

Eye Talk by Enabling Devices

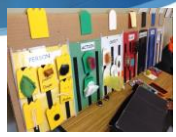
The Eye Talks are made of shatter resistant plastic and come with two self-contained height adjustable triangle stands and an adhesive 12" strip that you can cut to size for attaching your messages. You can purchase your Eye Talk board alone, with a clip clamp, or with a tabletop base.

www.enablingdevices.com

Tactile Systems

- "Tactile symbol communication systems are designed for a nonverbal child who does not have enough vision to use a visual symbol system."
- "Through a gradual process of linking the item to its symbol, the symbol gains meaning for the child. Symbols are also labeled with the print or braille word. This allows for exposure to print/braille. At some point, the written word may replace the need for the tactile or visual symbol."
- Wright, S., & Stratton, J. M. (2007). On the way to literacy: Early experiences for children with visual impairments. Louisville, KY: American Printing House for the Blind.

Tactile Connections by American Printing House for the Blind (APH)



- http://www.pathstoliteracy.org/blog/augmentative-and-alternative-communication-aac-systems-students-cvi-multiple-disabilities has several great videos demonstrating use of this kit.
- This kit helps teams create a tactile card system that is individualized for visually impaired and blind learners who have additional disabilities and/or lack a formal means of communication or literacy. The tactile symbols are created when part of an object is mounted on a hand-sized card representing core vocabulary categories (e.g. people, places, actions, objects, etc.).

Standardized Tactile Augmentative Communication Symbols Kit (STACS) by APH

STACS helps teams teach a beginning standardized vocabulary then progress to adding individualized symbols as needed.

The STACS instruction manual and included online videos show how to implement symbols effectively as a part of their learner's communication system. These also improve partner understanding of the use of tactile symbols and provide a jumping off point from which to develop personal communication systems.

http://shop.aph.org/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/Home_10001_11051

Tactile Symbol Communicator by Enabling Devices

Stores 6 messages on 6 levels for a total of 36 6-second messages. Holds six removable tactile symbols corresponding to a recorded message. Includes a vibration feature that can be turned on and off. Tactile symbols are a graphic language system using concrete or abstract representations that are permanent and can be tactually discriminated by an individual who is totally blind or dual sensory impaired.

Size: 14"L x 10½"W x 2"H. Requires 4 AA Batteries. Weight: 3½ lbs.

http://enablingdevices.com/catalog

TactileTalk on iPad

Objects are organized on a transparent sheet with borders and other symbols made with a special tactile paint. These sheets function as overlays for an iPad screen, corresponding to preprogrammed pages in the GoTalk NOW App using the TactileTalk Communication Book. Students feel the object for reference and tap the screen for corresponding voice output. For example, tap by the bells to play "I'd like to listen to music". An accompanying TactileTalk Guidebook helps you integrate tangible symbols into the day, and provides examples for use.

http://www.attainmentcompany.com/tactiletalk-toolkit

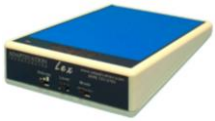
Tangible Object Cards

Combine objects and simple-to-use technology for visual schedules, choice making, and object-picture transitioning. Large format useful for communicators with vision and physical access needs. Can be ordered as a bundle with 3 Lex communication aids or one ProxPad and either 20 or 50 object cards. Each Tangible Object Card comes with a blank symbol card for customization. SymbolStix in full color or high-contrast Black & White are available.

www.adaptivation.com

Adaptivations LEX

- The Lex is a recordable, single-message communication aid with three levels. The Lex is pressure sensitive and activates without a click. Requires four AAA batteries. Dimensions: 8.5" x 5.5" x 1.75"; Weight: 15 oz.



www.adaptivation.com

LoganTech Prox Pad

The Logan® ProxPAD™ is a single location communication aid. It uses radio frequency identification and gives a voice output. The touch mode requires your hand or sound tag to make contact with the blue surface of the ProxPAD while the proximity mode allows you to swipe the sound card above the surface. The ProxPAD can be mounted under a table or wheelchair tray for proximity mode.

www.logantech.com

Enabling Devices Super Sized Communicator with Levels

Can be used for direct selection or simple scanning. Device has four 6-second messages on 12 levels and an adjustable scan rate. Includes a shelf for objects, photograph holders and light up activation indicator.

www.enablingdevices.com

AMDI Partner Plus

A single-message augmentative communication device interlocks with other Partner/Plus devices to create a multi-message communicator. The Partner/Plus system has an elevated platform and slot for objects or picture cards and contains mounting holes on the bottom for hanging on walls.

Record and playback 1 message
Standard message length of 30 seconds
Picture square size is 3.5 inches
Dimensions: L 5 1/2" x D 6 3/4" x H 2"
Weight: 1 lb.

www.amdi.net

Ablenet Big Mac and Step by Step

The Big Mac is a single message voice output communication device that enables you to record one message up to 2-minutes long. For message playback, activate the large 5-in/12.7-cm switch top or use an alternative switch for access.

The Step by Step with levels allows you to record a series of messages and then activate the 2.5-in/6.35-cm switch top to play each message back one at a time. Includes 4-minutes of record time, three recording levels, and supports the use of an external switch for alternative methods of access.

Enabling Devices Talkables

Compact message communicators allow for simple communication using two, three, or four choices. Come with built-in icon holders and clear covers.

AMDI Tech Series

Provide speech playback at a high audio quality. These devices are user-friendly, durable and rugged. Made with shatterproof high impact ABS injection molded cases, they are designed to be accidental drop resistant. The water resistant membrane panel operates with a light-touch. Scanning and levels options available. These devices are light-weight, portable and all units can be easily wheelchair or table mounted.

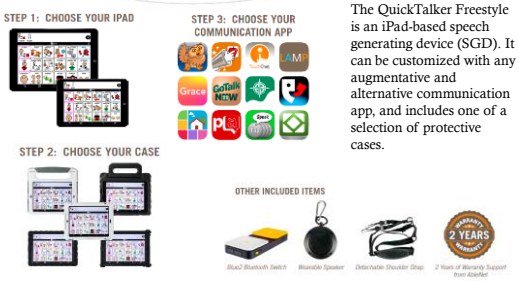
LoganTech ProxTalker

The Logan®ProxTalker® is a recorded speech communication device. It uses radio frequency identification technology. This technology allows you to place any photo, symbol, or object on a large or small sound tag card. To trigger voice output place your sound tag card on any one of the 5 buttons and push. Available in standard or light touch. Choose male or female voice output and carrier color.

- Sound tag can store up to 8 seconds of recording.
- 1GB memory, (30,000 sound tags/1,000 minutes)
- Powered by 4 x C Duracell batteries

www.logantech.com

Ablenet QuickTalker FreeStyle Package



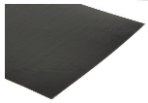
The QuickTalker Freestyle is an iPad-based speech generating device (SGD). It can be customized with any augmentative and alternative communication app, and includes one of a selection of protective cases.

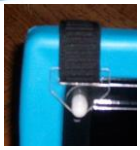
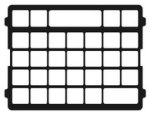
iPad Apps

- LAMP, Compass, and TouchChat will be covered this afternoon by the company representatives.
- Bilingual Options
- Text to Speech

iPad Cases

Keyguards



iPad Accessories

- Speaker for amplification
- Stand for positioning
- Switch interface for alternative access.

The ultimate TRAINING tool. :)

Questions?