AAC

What is AAC? Click on the links below for information.
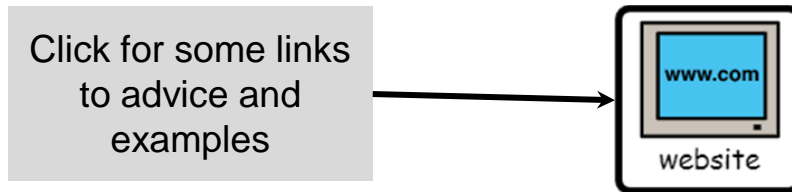
Objects of Reference

Objects of reference and signifiers are objects which have particular meanings assigned to them.

Objects of reference can be used as part of a multisensory communication system.

They can be highly effective for some people as they;

- Provide information through touch
- Can be easier to interpret than symbols, pictures or speech
- Are a concrete object linked to the symbolic words in language
- Remain in place, giving time to process information

Click for some links to advice and examples

www.com

website

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Objects of Reference links
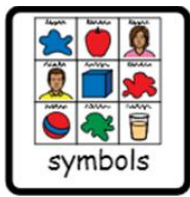
- ITS - information, examples, resources

  https://integratedtreatmentservices.co.uk/our-approaches/speech-therapy-approaches/objectsofreference/

- AACsig - information poster

  http://www.aacsig.org.uk/sites/default/files/presentations/Poster%20OoR%20ISACC2014.pdf

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Symbol resources

Visual supports are used for a variety of purposes and therefore there are many varieties, including:

- Timetables
- Choice boards
- Communication boards
- Helping a child communicate how they are feeling
- Supporting social communication e.g. social stories
- Offering a range of coping strategies

Click for links to useful resources

information

resources

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Symbols resources links and downloads

symbols forall

Communication Friendly @SchoolsNlc
@SchoolsNlc

aacScotland

PECS™
THE PICTURE EXCHANGE
COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

Smartbox

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Communication Friendly @SchoolsNlc
@SchoolsNlc

<u>North Lanarkshire Communication Friendly Environments</u>

North Lanarkshire Communication Friendly Environments have set up a webpage with free to download visual supports to help you adapt your environment to ensure it is communication friendly. They have made available timetables, schedules and routines, health and wellbeing resources and information, autism specific resources and social stories and a wide range of other visual supports.

https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/glowblogs/communicationfriendlyenvironments/

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Symbols for All

Symbols for All – a range of subject-specific communication boards, songs and rhymes visual resources, meal time communication boards, toy/activity communication boards, positive behaviour supports, hand washing and toilet sequences etc. They also have symbolised resources to be used alongside Bookbug books.
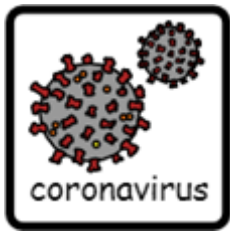
https://www.symbolsforall.org.uk/home/

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AAC Scotland

AAC Scotland downloads – communication boards to support communication when out in the community such as getting on a bus/train and when shopping. They also have template for a 'help postcard' which can be used by a child to help explain their communication needs to new people and what other people can do to support them in conversations.

https://www.aacscotland.org.uk/downloads/

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Coronavirus-specific resources

The links below contain a round up of various available resources to support children and young people to understand COVID-19. They include a visual explanation of social distancing, visual supports to explain what to do when you cough or sneeze and hand washing instructions amongst other things.

https://www.callscotland.org.uk/blog/symbol-resources-for-covid19/

https://goboardmaker.com/pages/coronavirus-resources

https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/glowblogs/communicationfriendlyenvironments/covid-19-information/

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Signing

In Lanarkshire, the most commonly used signing systems are Makaton and British Sign Language (BSL). At Greenburn School, Makaton signing is used by staff to support the communication of all children. At home, you can find out more about Makaton signing from the following sources;

- **Singing Hands** – have a Youtube channel and Facebook page with videos of signs and songs with Makaton signing.

  https://singinghands.co.uk/

- **Makaton Charity** – you can create a free account to explore Makaton vocabulary, songs and stories as well as activities and games. They too have a Facebook page.

  www.makaton.org

Apps

Apps to support communication

CALL Scotland have produced a document with a range of apps which can be used to support the communication of children with complex communication support needs. The apps are organised by categories, ranging from simplistic to advanced.

Remember, it is advisable to seek out some specialist assessment from experts if you want to trial any equipment. There are many tools which can be used to support communication and devices with advanced software are not always the best to suit your child's needs.

https://www.callscotland.org.uk/common-assets/cm-files/posters/ipad-apps-for-complex-communication-support-needs.pdf

Click for some tried and tested apps

app

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Tried and tested apps

Some tried and tested apps;

Sounding Board - available free to download for Apple. Allows you to create up to 20 communication boards using pre-loaded images or your own images from your camera library.

Story Creator – available free to download for Apple. Allows you to create story books containing photos, videos, text, and audio to share a story with others, to create a talking point or to create a social story.

Children's Countdown Timer – Visual Timer for Kids - available free to download from Google play- allows adults to use a timer system to support children with transitions.

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Websites for general information
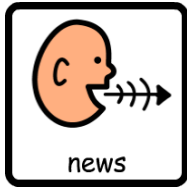
Scottish Autism – www.scottishautism.org

National Autsitic Society Scotland - https://www.autism.org.uk/services/scotland.aspx

Scottish Autism Right Click Programme - Training resource for parents of children, teens and adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders. The child programme includes information/support on eating, sleeping and toileting. Topics discussed include on the teen programme include developing skills for independent living, supporting siblings and talking about relationships- https://www.scottishautism.org/services-support/support-families/right-click-online-support/right-click-programmes

The Hanen website has a range of articles and tips for parents and carers on a number of topics to support children's speech, language and communication skills - www.hanen.org/Home.aspx

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News

Click the Makaton symbol for links to Makaton YouTube channels.

Click the image below for information and useful links to raise awareness of AAC.

AAC AWARENESS MONTH

OCTOBER 2021 | #AACaware21

GET OUT, SPEAK UP AND BREAK THROUGH THE SCREEN IN A RECOVERING WORLD

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Makaton - YouTube channels

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AAC Awareness month

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resources