

## Augmentative and Alternative Communication Resources

Resources that can be used to support the preparation of teachers of students with moderate to severe disabilities

### Suggested Readings

#### Books:

Beukelman, & Mirenda, (2012). *Augmentative and alternative communication: Supporting children & adults with complex communication needs (4th Ed.)* Baltimore, MD: Brookes Publishing Co. (\*\*premier text)

Downing, June E. (2005). *Teaching communication skills to students with severe disabilities, 2/e.* Paul H. Brookes Publishing Company, Baltimore, MD.

Mirenda, P. (1999). Augmentative and alternative communication techniques in inclusive classrooms. *Disability Solutions*, 3 (4) 2-16.

Glennen, S. & DeCoste, D. (1997). *Handbook of augmentative and alternative communication.* San Diego: Singular Publishing Group, Inc.

Lloyd, L., Fuller, D., & Arvidson, H. (1997). *Augmentative and alternative communication: A handbook of principles and practices.* Needham Heights, MA: Allyn & Bacon.

von Tetzchner, S. & Martinsen, H. (2000). *Introduction to augmentative and alternative communication (2nd ed.)*. London: Whurr Publishers.

McSheehan, M., Sonnenmeier, R.M., & Jorgensen, C.M. (2009). Membership, participation, and learning in the general education classroom for students with autism spectrum disorders who use AAC. In P. Mirenda & T. Iacono (Eds.). *Autism spectrum disorder and AAC* (pp.413-442). Baltimore: Paul H. Brookes Publishing Co.

Bilken D., Attfield R. (2005) *Autism and the Myth of the Person Alone.* New York: NYU Press.

Crossley, R (1994). *Facilitated Communication Training.* New York: Teachers College Press

Mukhopadhyay, T.R. (2000). *Beyond the silence: My life, the world and autism.* London: National Autistic Society.

Kluth, P. (2010). *"You're going to love this kid!": Teaching students with autism in the inclusive classroom.* Baltimore: Brookes Publishing.

McNaughton, D (2010). *Transition Strategies for Adolescents and Young Adults Who Use AAC.* Baltimore, MD: Brooks Publishing.

Soto, G (2009). *Language, Literacy and Academic Development for Students with AAC Needs*. Baltimore, MD: Brooks Publishing.

**Articles:**

AAC Technologies for Young Children with Complex Communication Needs: State of the Science and Future Research Directions (Janice Light and Kathryn Drager, *Augmentative and Alternative Communication*, September 2007 VOL. 23 (3), pp. 204 – 216)

McSheehan, M., & Sonnenmeier, R. (2001). Developing augmentative communication to support participation in general education classrooms. *2000 TASH Conference Yearbook*.

Sonnenmeier, R.M., McSheehan, M., Jorgensen, C.M. (2005). A Case Study of Team Supports for a Student with Autism's Communication and Engagement within the General Education Curriculum: Preliminary Report of the Beyond Access Model. *Augmentative and Alternative Communication*, 21 (2), 101 – 115.

McSheehan, M., & Sonnenmeier, R. (2001). The science and art of AAC and general education curriculum supports: AAC, assessment, and cognitive labels. *2000 TASH Conference Yearbook*.

Mirenda, P. (2008). A Back Door Approach to Autism and AAC. *Augmentative and Alternative Communication*, 24 (3), 220–234.

Sonnenmeier, R., & McSheehan, M. (2000). Inclusive education practices for supporting students who use augmentative communication. *1999 TASH Conference Yearbook*.

Schlosser, R., and Wendt, O., (2008). "Effects of augmentative and alternative communication intervention on Speech production in children with autism: A systematic review." *American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology*. 17, 212-230.

Stuart, Sheela and Ritthaler, Christopher. (2008). "Case Studies of Intermediate Steps/ Between AAC Evaluations and Implementation. *Perspectives on Augmentative and Alternative Communication*. 17, 150-155.

Spears, Carol L. (2010) *Rising to New Heights of Communication and Learning for Children with Autism: The Definitive Guide to using Alternative-Augmentative Communication, Visual Strategies, and Learning Supports at Home and School*. Jessica Kingsley Publishers.

Green, Joan. (2011) *The Ultimate Guide to Assistive Technology in Special Education: Resources for Education, Intervention, and Rehabilitation*. Prufrock Publishers.

Sadao, Kathleen. (2010) *Assistive Technology for Young Children: Creating Inclusive Learning Environments*. Paul H. Brookes Pub Co.

Theng, Lau Bee. (2011) *Assistive and Augmentative Communication for the Disabled: Intelligent Technologies for Communication, Learning and Teaching*. IGI Global.

Light, J (1989). Toward a Definition of Communicative Competence for Individuals using Augmentative and Alternative Communication Systems. *Augmentative and Alternative Communication*, 5 (2), 137-144.

### **Suggested DVDs and Videos**

#### **Including Samuel -**

<http://www.includingsamuel.com/home.aspx>

**You're Going to Love this Kid—A Professional Development Package for Teaching Students with Autism in the Inclusive Classroom** By Paula Kluth, Ph.D. – (has accompanying professional guide & easily broken into short clips)

**Short Films on Independent Typing and Wretches and Jabberers** - available through [http://soe.syr.edu/centers\\_institutes/institute\\_communication\\_inclusion/about\\_the\\_ici/Videos.aspx](http://soe.syr.edu/centers_institutes/institute_communication_inclusion/about_the_ici/Videos.aspx)

**The Diving Bell and the Butterfly** (original French title: *Le Scaphandre et le Papillon*) is a memoir by journalist Jean-Dominique Bauby. It describes what his life is like after suffering a massive stroke that left him with locked-in syndrome. It also details what his life was like before the stroke.

### **YouTube Videos**

#### **The Language Stealers**

- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vib2\\_\\_BDCXc&feature=share&list=PLtQQdv6iSn4W\\_hI5GSF2UIBaxdqR5swlY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vib2__BDCXc&feature=share&list=PLtQQdv6iSn4W_hI5GSF2UIBaxdqR5swlY)

#### **All 4 All**

- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cMLHtK7VDS4&list=PLtQQdv6iSn4W\\_hI5GSF2UIBaxdqR5swlY&index=3](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cMLHtK7VDS4&list=PLtQQdv6iSn4W_hI5GSF2UIBaxdqR5swlY&index=3)

#### **Discovering Communication**

- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j\\_htMRRuOS8&list=PLtQQdv6iSn4W\\_hI5GSF2UIBaxdqR5swlY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j_htMRRuOS8&list=PLtQQdv6iSn4W_hI5GSF2UIBaxdqR5swlY)

#### **Listen to Me: The Music**

- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Cw2Fp\\_TIfc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Cw2Fp_TIfc)

### **Small Talk**

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d7WgRVEPW0g>

### **Chris Klein: Building Relationships through the Tools of Communication**

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dupabkw46Qk>

### **Amanda Baggs – In My Language**

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JnylM1hI2jc>

### **Local Resources/Possible Speakers**

#### **Boston Center for Independent Living**

60 Temple Place, 5th Floor

Boston, MA 02111-1324

Phone: (617) 338-6665

Fax: (617) 338-.6661

TTY: (617) 338-6662

Toll Free: (866) 338-8085

<http://bostoncil.org>

The Boston Center for Independent Living is a frontline civil rights organization led by people with disabilities that advocates to eliminate discrimination, isolation and segregation by providing advocacy, information and referral, peer support, skills training, and PCA services in order to enhance the independence of people with disabilities.

#### **CAST**

40 Harvard Mills Square, Suite 3

Wakefield, MA 01880-3233

Phone: (781) 245-2212

Fax: (781) 245-5212

TTY: (781) 245-9320

[cast@cast.org](mailto:cast@cast.org)

[www.cast.org](http://www.cast.org)

CAST is a nonprofit research and development organization that works to expand learning opportunities for all individuals, especially those with disabilities, through Universal Design for Learning.

Founded in 1984 as the Center for Applied Special Technology, CAST has earned international recognition for its innovative contributions to educational products, classroom practices, and policies. Its staff includes specialists in education research and policy, neuropsychology, clinical/school

psychology, technology, engineering, curriculum development, K-12 professional development, and more.

**Center for Communication Enhancement**

Children's Hospital Boston at Waltham

9 Hope Ave

Waltham, MA

Phone: (781)216-2209

**Programs:**

- **Augmentative Communication Program**  
<http://www.childrenshospital.org/clinicalservices/Site2016/mainpageS2016P0.html>

The Augmentative Communication Program at Children's Hospital Boston is internationally acclaimed for its work with children and adults who are non-speaking or whose speech is severely impaired. The program provides comprehensive, state-of-the-art evaluation and treatment for children and adults with congenital or acquired disorders affecting expressive communication, comprehension and computer access. This includes children with autism.

Children's program is staffed by a team of specialists with expertise in various areas of augmentative communication. The interdisciplinary team includes speech language pathologists, occupational therapists, and computer specialists. Our program prizes technological advancement. We collaborate with linguists, software programmers, MIT engineers and ergonomic specialists to create new products and innovative communication tools for the 21st century.

- **The Autism Language Program**  
<http://www.childrenshospital.org/clinicalservices/Site1850/mainpageS1850P0.html>

The Autism Language Program (ALP) at Children's Hospital Boston is a program specifically designed to help children diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder communicate and learn more effectively. We consider all forms of communication including spoken, written, gestural (sign) and visual (use of graphic symbols).

Children who visit this program are evaluated and ultimately, their families are given a communication plan with recommendations that are tailored to the child's interests and needs, and usually include suggestions for both school and home.

The clinicians in the Autism Language Program (ALP) have a strong commitment to the education of students in the communication science and disorders field,

teaching courses at the master's level and supervising interns in the clinical setting.

**Cotting Consulting**

453 Concord Avenue  
Lexington, MA 02421  
Phone: (781) 862-7323  
Fax: (781) 861-1179  
www.cotting.org  
[cottingconsulting@cotting.org](mailto:cottingconsulting@cotting.org)

Cotting Consulting provides technology focused assessment, consultation and professional development within educational settings to improve curriculum access and functional independence for students with special need to achieve their highest potential.

**Easter Seals of Massachusetts**

[www.ma.easterseals.com](http://www.ma.easterseals.com)

Worcester:  
484 Main Street  
Worcester, MA 01608  
Phone: (800) 244-2756  
Fax: (508) 831-9768  
TTY: (800) 564-9700  
[info@eastersealsma.org](mailto:info@eastersealsma.org)

Boston:  
89 South Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Boston, MA 02111  
Phone: (617) 226-2640  
Fax: (617) 737-9875

New Bedford:  
256 Union Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
Phone: (508) 992-3128

Easter Seals delivers customized workshops at schools and other professional settings. To arrange for a workshop call (800) 244-2756 ext. 328 or e-mail [at@eastersealsma.org](mailto:at@eastersealsma.org)

**Services:**

- Assistive Technology  
Recognized nationally as a leader in assistive technology, our services are

an excellent resource for children and adults with disabilities who need high and low technology solutions for home, work or school in order to increase their independence.

- Assistive Technology Regional Center (ATRC)  
People with disabilities can see, touch and borrow assistive technology devices to make more informed decisions regarding the technology that will meet their needs.
- Assistive Technology Loan Program and Long-Term Device Loan Program:  
The Massachusetts Assistive Technology Loan Program offers low-interest loans to help people with disabilities purchase the technology they need to become more independent and productive members of the community. Low-cost assistive devices also are available through its Long-Term Device Loan Program.

**Federation for Children with Special Needs**

529 Main Street, Suite 1102

Boston, MA 02129

Phone: (617) 236-7210

(800) 331-0688

Fax: (617) 572-2094

[fcsninfo@fcsn.org](mailto:fcsninfo@fcsn.org)

<http://fcsn.org>

The Federation for Children with Special Needs provides information, support, and assistance to parents of children with disabilities, their professional partners, and their communities. We are committed to listening to and learning from families, and encouraging full participation in community life by all people, especially those with disabilities.

**Lurie Center for Autism**

MassGeneral Hospital for Children

1 Maguire Road

Lexington, MA 02421

Phone: (781) 860-1700

Fax: (781) 860-1766

<http://www.massgeneral.org/children/services/treatmentprograms.aspx?id=1614>

The Lurie Center for Autism at Massachusetts General Hospital and the MassGeneral Hospital *for* Children is a multidisciplinary program designed to evaluate and treat children, adolescents and adults with a wide variety of handicapping conditions. The Center provides expertise in neurology, developmental pediatrics medicine, gastroenterology, psychiatry, psychopharmacology, occupational therapy, physical therapy and speech language pathology.

**Metrowest Center for Independent Living**

280 Irving Street  
Framingham MA 01702-7306  
Phone/TTY: (508) 875-7853  
Fax: (508) 875-8359  
<http://www.mwcil.org>

MWCIL empowers people with disabilities with the practical skills and self-confidence to take control over their lives and become active members of the communities in which they live. MWCIL also works to promote access and change within society and responds with programs and services to the needs of people of all ages with a wide range of disabilities.

**Partners for Youth with Disabilities**

95 Berkeley Street, Suite 109  
Boston, MA 02116  
Phone: (617) 556-4075  
TTY : (617) 314-2989  
Fax: (617) 556-4074  
<http://www.pyd.org>

Partners for Youth with Disabilities, Inc. (PYD) is committed to empowering young people with disabilities to reach their full potential. We do this by providing high quality one-to-one and group mentoring programs where caring adults act as positive role models and provide support, understanding and guidance for youth as they strive to reach their personal, educational and career goals.

**Technology for Autism Now**

<http://www.tech4autismnow.org>  
[info@tech4autismnow.org](mailto:info@tech4autismnow.org)  
Phone: (617) 435-2307

TAN is an organization devoted to developing alternative and augmentative communication (ACC) tools that help autistic children lead fuller, more functional lives at home, in school, and in their communities.

**UMass Medical School EK Shriver Center**

200 Trapelo Road  
Waltham, Massachusetts 02452  
<http://www.umassmed.edu/shriver/index.aspx>  
[shriver.center@umassmed.edu](mailto:shriver.center@umassmed.edu)  
Phone: 781-642-0001



“Our mission is to advance local, national, and international efforts to improve the quality of life for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families. To that end, we carry out research to understand environmental and biological processes that influence behavioral development. In parallel and in collaboration, we carry out IDD-relevant programs of technology and information dissemination, education and training, technical assistance, and clinical service.”

### **Vendors**

***NOTE: MAC does not endorse any of the vendors or websites listed below and acknowledges this is not an exhaustive list. The vendors are included as possible sources of information and potential resources to provide demonstrations of many different types of AAC devices for teacher training programs.***

#### ***Ablenet***

<http://www.ablenetinc.com/Assistive-Technology/Communication>

#### ***Apple***

<http://www.apple.com/accessibility/>

<http://www.apple.com/education/special-education/>

#### ***DynaVox***

<http://www.dynavoxtech.com> Offers a variety of customizable training options, including Implementation Workshops, Professional Development Training, Hands-On Labs and Personalized Online Sessions.

#### ***Mayer-Johnson*** (creators of Boardmaker)

<http://www.mayer-johnson.com/>

#### ***Spectronics***

<http://www.spectronicsinoz.com/>

#### ***TOBII***

<http://www.tobii.com>

#### **Prenke Romich Company (PRC)**

[www.prentrom.com](http://www.prentrom.com)

#### **Don Johnston**

[www.donjohnston.com](http://www.donjohnston.com)

#### **Saltillo**

[www.saltillo.com](http://www.saltillo.com)

## **Enabling Devices**

[www.enablingdevices.com](http://www.enablingdevices.com)

## **RJ Cooper**

[www.rjcooper.com](http://www.rjcooper.com)

## **Useful websites**

The Center for AAC and Autism

<http://www.aacandautism.com/>

“The Center for AAC & Autism was established in 2009 by Prentke Romich to be a resource for clinicians, therapists, and parents who are working to improve the language and communication skills of kids with autism. Our goal is to create a community where we can come together to share our successes and failures, encourage research, and learn from the children we serve in order to determine the best way to incorporate AAC to improve language and communication skills.”

AAC Language Lab

<http://www.aaclanguagelab.com/> -

Several useful resources under “teaching resources”

AAC Connecting Young Kids

<http://aac.unl.edu/yaack/b2.html>

“Does AAC impede natural speech?—and other fears”

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association

<http://www.asha.org/public/speech/disorders/AAC/>

Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) article

Georgia Project for Assistive Technology

<http://www.gpat.org/>

The mission of GPAT is to improve student achievement, productivity, independence and inclusion by enhancing educator knowledge of assistive technology and increasing student access to appropriate assistive technology devices and services.

The Hanen Centre

<http://www.hanen.org>

“Our mission is to provide parents, caregivers, early childhood educators and speech-language pathologists with the knowledge and training they need to help young children develop the best possible language, social and literacy skills. This includes children with or at risk of language delays and those with developmental challenges such as Autism Spectrum Disorder, including Asperger Syndrome.”

Institute on Communication and Inclusion

[www.ici.syr.edu](http://www.ici.syr.edu)

The Institute on Communication and Inclusion (ICI) conducts research and promotes support for people with disabilities to communicate in schools and society through research, training and public education. Focused on school and community inclusion, narratives of disability and ability, and disability rights, its initiatives stress the important relationship of communication to inclusion.

Pyramid Educational Consultants

<http://www.pecsusa.com/pecs.php>

“Pyramid Educational Consultants, Inc. is dedicated to enriching the lives of learners with autism and related developmental disabilities by providing a wide array of quality training and consultation options. Services are available in home, school and/or community settings. We present a unique blend of broad spectrum applied behavior analysis (ABA), with a focus on the development of functional communication skills.”

PRC

<http://www.prentrom.com>

Prentke Romich Company (PRC) is a member of a consortium of companies that are pioneers in the field of assistive technology and augmentative communication.

Technology for Autism Now

<http://www.tech4autismnow.org>

Wisconsin Assistive Technology Initiative

<http://www.wati.org>

The goal is to improve the outcomes and results for children with disabilities birth to 21 through the use of assistive technology to access services, curriculum, and school and community activities.

Communication Matter [www.communicationmatters.org.uk](http://www.communicationmatters.org.uk)

PrAACtical AAC [www.praacticalaac.org](http://www.praacticalaac.org)

Becoming AAC [www.becomingaac.com](http://www.becomingaac.com)

AAC- The University of Nebraska Lincoln [www.aac.unl.edu](http://www.aac.unl.edu)

ISAAC- [www.issac-online.org](http://www.issac-online.org)

AAC-RERC [www.aac-rerc.psu.edu](http://www.aac-rerc.psu.edu)

Pacer Center [www.pacer.org](http://www.pacer.org)

Special Education Technology British Columbia (SET BC) [www.setbc.org](http://www.setbc.org)

Loud hands Project - <http://loudhandsproject.org>

**Language Acquisition through Motor Planning (LAMP)** - a therapeutic approach based on neurological and motor learning principles. The goal is to give individuals who are nonverbal or have limited verbal abilities a method of independently and spontaneously expressing themselves in any setting.

<http://www.aacandautism.com/lamp>

**The Institute on Disability** is pursuing the expansion and further development of Assistive Technology (AT) services and training in the state of New Hampshire. Assistive Technology is integral to the daily lives of many New Hampshire residents. Awareness of and the ability to try assistive technology devices are important aspects to making a decision whether a particular technology is “the right fit.”

The IOD is actively involved in partnerships on campus, throughout the state, and on a national level to promote access to assistive technology services.

[www.aninnh.org](http://www.aninnh.org)

### **App Resources**

**Autism Apps-** <https://itunes.apple.com/au/app/autism-apps/id441600681?mt=8&ign-mpt=uo%3D4>

Autism Apps is simply a comprehensive list of apps that are being used with and by people diagnosed with autism.

### **Autism Speaks**

<http://www.autismspeaks.org/autism-apps>

Autism Speaks has compiled a list of apps to assist students with autism

### **Apps for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders-**

[http://www.autismspeaks.org/sites/default/files/pedagogy\\_wheel.pdf](http://www.autismspeaks.org/sites/default/files/pedagogy_wheel.pdf)

When looking for apps for students on the autism spectrum (ASD), it is important to look at all educational apps and not just those that are tagged as autism apps.

They have many of the same learning needs that other students have. This list was developed to provide apps based on common learning characteristics and traits that are typical for students with ASD. It is important to remember that all students learn differently and selecting apps should be based on the unique learning needs of the student.

**Apps for Autism-** <http://www.spectronicsinoz.com/blog/apps-and-mobile-learning/apps-for-autism/>

**Bridging Apps-** <http://bridgingapps.org/>

Sponsored by Easter Seals. BridgingApps is a volunteer community of parents, therapists, doctors, and teachers who share information on how we are using the iPad®,

iPhone®, iPod Touch® and Android® devices with people who have special needs. We have found these mobile devices to provide accessibility for people who may have been previously disengaged from the world because of challenging language, motor, or other developmental delays. Given the rising number of apps on the market and the diverse skills of children and adults with special needs, parents have found each other to be one of the best resources for choosing apps to enhance everyday life for our children of all ages.

### **Mayer-Johnson Apps**

<http://www.mayer-johnson.com/apps/>

<http://www.spectronicsinoz.com/article/iphoneipad-apps-for-aac> - (describes and rates aac apps for the iphone and ipad)

### **Apps: An Emerging Tool for SLPs**

- <http://www.asha.org/publications/leader/2011/111011/apps--an-emerging-tool-for-slps.htm>

### **Moms with Apps**

- <http://blog.momswithapps.com/apps-for-special-needs/>

Mark Coppin free app list (email Mark Coppin <mark.coppin@annecenter.org>). He sends out periodic emails with free apps related to aac and special education

### **Books for Kids, Teens and Adults (Biliotherapy)**

Click Clack Moo- Doreen Cronin, Betsy Lewin and Randy Travis  
Cows use a typewriter (AAC) to communicate with the farmer

Trumpet of the Swan- E.B. White  
Swan uses a slate board to communicate

How Katie Got a Voice (And a Cool New Nickname)- Patricia Mervine

Out of My Mind- Sharron Draper

One Letter at a Time by Dick and Rick Hoyt

Speaking Up and Spelling it Out- Mealine Freid-Oken and Hank Bersani

Waves of Words- ISAAC

The Reason I Jump for Naoki Higashida

## **Assessment Tools**

Blackstone, S and Hunt Berg, M (2003). *Social Networks: A Communication Inventory for Individuals with Complex Communication Needs and their Communication Partners*. Monterey, CA: Augmentative Communication, Inc.

Kovack, T (2010). *Augmentative & Alternative Communication Profile*. East Moline, IL: LinguiSystems.

Bruno, J. *Test of Aided-Communication Symbol Performance*. Huntington Beach, CA: Major Johnson.

Kleinman, L (2003). *Functional Communication Profile*, East Moline, IL: LinguiSystems.

## **Twitter Feeds**

@esailers  
@USSAAC  
@ATCclosingTheGap  
@GeekSLP  
@CommGreenhouse  
@1Voice  
@CommunicationMatters  
@BronwynHemsley

#AAC  
#ATChat  
#Augcomm

## **Online Training and Webinars**

AT Internet Modules- <http://www.atinternetmodules.org/>  
ATSTAR- [www.atstar.org](http://www.atstar.org)  
AAC Institute- <http://www.aacinstitute.org/welcometoaacissp.html>  
SET BC Learning Center- <http://www.setbc.org/lcindexer/>

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