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:


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

**Articles:**


**Suggested DVDs and Videos**

Including Samuel -

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

The Diving Bell and the Butterfly (original French title: Le Scaphandrier 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

All 4 All
- 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

**Listen to Me: The Music**
- 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=JnyIM1hI2jc

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
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](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](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

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.eastcrseals.com

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

Boston:
89 South Street, 1st 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

**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
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, pharmacology, 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
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
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

**Prentke Romich Company (PRC)**  
www.prentrom.com

**Don Johnston**  
www.donjohnston.com

**Saltillo**  
www.saltillo.com
Enabling Devices  
www.enablingdevices.com

RJ Cooper  
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
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

PrAACtical AAC www.praacticalaac.org

Becoming AAC www.becomingaac.com

AAC- The University of Nebraska Lincoln www.aac.unl.edu

ISAAC- www.isaac-online.org

AAC-RERC www.aac-rerc.psu.edu

Pacer Center www.pacer.org

Special Education Technology British Columbia (SET BC) 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.aacandaautism.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.aninh.org

App Resources

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
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.


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**

**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)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Book</th>
<th>Author</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Click Clack Moo- Doreen Cronin, Betsy Lewin and Randy Travis</td>
<td>Cows use a typewriter (AAC) to communicate with the farmer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trumpet of the Swan- E.B. White</td>
<td>Swan uses a slate board to communicate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How Katie Got a Voice (And a Cool New Nickname)- Patricia Mervine</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out of My Mind- Sharron Draper</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One Letter at a Time by Dick and Rick Hoyt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speaking Up and Spelling it Out- Mealine Freid-Oken and Hank Bersani</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waves of Words- ISAAC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Reason I Jump for Naoki Higashida</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Assessment Tools


Twitter Feeds

@esailers
@USSAAC
@ATClosingTheGap
@GeekSLP
@CommGreenhouse
@IVoice
@CommunicationMatters
@BronwynHemsley

#AAC
#ATChat
#Augcomm

Online Training and Webinars

AT Internet Modules- http://www.atinternetmodules.org/
ATSTAR- www.atstar.org
AAC Institute- http://www.aacinstitute.org/wclcomctoaacissp.html
SET BC Learning Center- http://www.setbc.org/icindexer/

updated November 2013