

High tech

These are electronic systems, which can offer the added bonus of speech output.



Ryan uses a BIGmack® to share news between home and school.

Sean uses iPad® apps to share news and to communicate his needs and wants.



Be the best you can be!

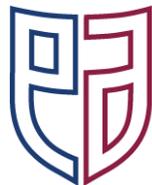


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Comhairle Siorrachd Àir an Ear



Total Communication at



What is Total Communication?

Total Communication (sometimes referred to as Alternative and Augmentative Communication, or AAC for short) is the combination of a range of personalised methods of communication which best help an individual to form connections and make interactions with others. A combination of methods are used, which reinforce each other and strengthen meaning for the individual. These methods can enhance and/or replicate spoken speech and can help reduce the impact of physical disabilities, motor coordination and speech difficulties.

Without a 'voice', we are unable to...



Image © Copyright AAC Scotland.

What does Total Communication look like?

Finding the right combination

Most AAC users use a range of methods, to ensure a strengthened and enhanced approach to communication. Perseverance, trial and error, encouragement and support are all required to make AAC a success.

No tech

This can include gesture, body language, facial expression – something that most of us take for granted. It can also include Makaton signs.

The major advantage of the no tech approach is that you don't need to use anything you don't have already – just your body.



Morgan uses her hands to make Makaton signs to speak to staff and her peers.

Low tech

This approach usually includes using paper- or chart-based systems, such as a vocabulary board, a pointing system or other non-electronic piece of equipment.



Jack uses photos and symbols to compliment his speech in order to have his voice heard.

Clear and consistent symbols are used across the school, and pupils and staff have ready access to these at all times.

