AbleNetUniversity™

AbleNet University Live Webinars

Switch Access Beyond Cause and Effect: Stepping Stones for Effective Learning - Part 2
June 2, 2020 | 12:00 PM CST | 60 minutes

Equals Math Walk-Through: Getting to Know Equals and Its New Enhancements of Distance Learning and Transition
June 3, 2020 | 11:00 AM CST | 60 minutes

Ideas for Distance Learning and Back to School
June 4, 2020 | 11:00 AM CST | 60 minutes

Switch Access Beyond Cause and Effect: Stepping Stones for Effective Learning - Part 3
June 9, 2020 | 12:00 PM CST | 60 minutes

https://www.ablenetinc.com/resources/live_webinars

ResearchGate

The Potentials of Using Mobile Technology in Teaching Individuals with Learning Disabilities: A Review of Special Education Technology Literature
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/325299575_The_Potentials_of_Using_Mobile_Technology_in_Teaching_Individuals_with_Learning_Disabilities_A_Review_of_Special_Education_Technology_Literature

Literacy, Assistive Technology, and Students with Significant Disabilities
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/288728450_Literacy_Assistive_Technology_and_Students_with_Significant_Disabilities

How Do Communication Boards Help Children?

A communication board is a board with symbols or pictures that is used to facilitate communication for children with limited expressive language ability. Children communicate using the board by pointing and gesturing or gazing at the various symbols and pictures. If your child has a disability that limits her ability to express herself, find out if a communication board can be included in her classrooms at school.

At its simplest, a communication board can simply consist of a yes/no board or a pencil and piece of paper. The main goal is allowing the child to communicate her needs.
https://www.verywellfamily.com/what-is-a-communication-board-2161739

How Assistive Technology Enables Dreams
From voice-activated software to customized laptops, tech is changing the way disabled students communicate, learn, and play.

https://www.edutopia.org/video/how-assistive-technology-enables-dreams

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EDUCATIONAL EQUITY FOR ALL
Giving kids what they need to succeed.

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https://talkingwithtech.podbean.com/

6 Different kinds of ACC

Depending on the nature of the speech and communication impairment, different approaches to augmentative and alternative communication may be recommended by a speech-language pathologist. They may be used in conjunction with speech therapy or as a last resort when therapy has not been effective.

As recommended by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, there is no one size fits all solution and for some people making use of more than one tool/strategy is the best approach.

1. Signing and hand gestures

Sign language is a form of non-verbal communication that involves using signs and gestures to represent words. Sign language is different depending on which region you come from. For example, American and British Sign Language are different languages.

Note: When an individual struggles with fine motor skills coordination, such as in dyspraxia, the planning, sequencing and coordination of hand gestures and signs may be inhibited. It can also take a long time to learn enough signs to express detailed and complex thought. Lastly, this type of communication requires a listener who is familiar with the system and able to decode the signs.

2. Charts and image cards

Printable picture cards which contain collections of related words can be helpful when an individual struggles with a language disorder that delays or prevents word recall. For example, instead of needing to generate the words needed to say "I'm hungry," the person can simply point at a picture on a card where each image displays a different feeling.

Note: Charts and images may not allow an individual to express complex or long sequences of thoughts. If an image is missing, they lack the ability to express the target word which can cause frustration and interrupt communication. It can also be cumbersome and time-consuming to search through charts for less frequent vocabulary words.

3. Pen and Paper

Writing things down is a tried and true alternative to speech. It may be an individual carries a notebook with them to draft notes, has a pre-written list of words they can point to when the word escapes them, or uses a whiteboard with markers/ chalkboard with chalk.

Note: When fine motor skills are impacted, such as in dyspraxia, writing by hand may not be the best approach. The same is true for individuals who struggle with dyslexia in which spelling can prevent fluency in written expression and/or for those people who have dysgraphia. A visual processing disorder can also make it hard to form letters and produce legible writing.

4. Mobile devices and tablets

The widespread availability of mobile devices and tablets makes them excellent solutions for people who are looking for affordable assistive technology to help with speech and language production.

Note: Many mobile devices and tablets have touch-screens with small keyboards which can be hard for people with motor skills difficulties to operate. Additionally, when an individual is struggling with a language disorder, generating the first few letters of a word, which are required to make use of the auto-complete function, can be a struggle.

5. Computer keyboards
6. Custom language and communication systems

https://www.readandspell.com/us/augmentative-alternative-communication