
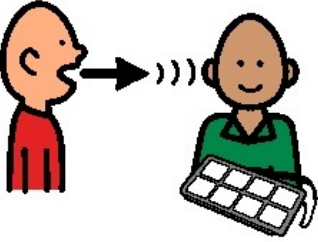



What is this about?

	<p>This guide helps you work with people who need special communication tools, called AAC.</p>
 <p>AAC User</p>	<p>People who use these tools are often called AAC users.</p>
	<p>It might seem hard to talk to or include AAC users if you're not used to it.</p>
	<p>But it doesn't have to be hard.</p>



There are many ways to include AAC users in conversations and activities.



This guide wants to make it easier for you.



AAC users have different needs.



Always ask them what they need.

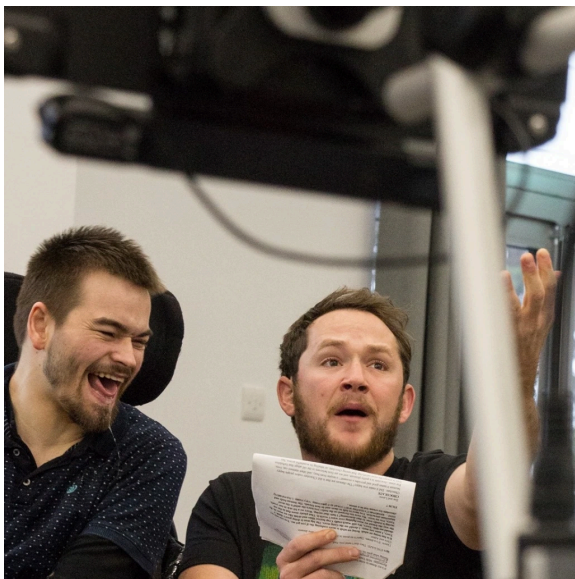


Don't think this guide tells you everything.

Who wrote this guide?



This guide is written by Dave Young



Dave writes poems and tells stories

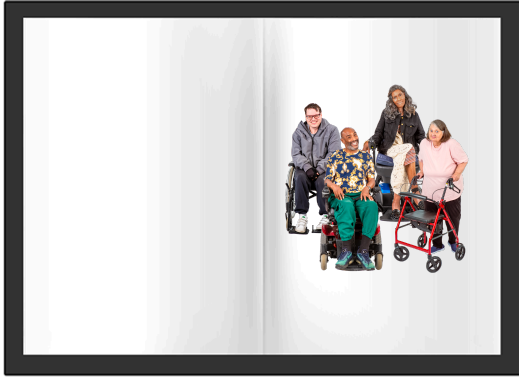


....and makes music



He makes theatre open to everyone

He uses art to help people share their stories



He wants to make the world more welcoming





He uses AAC to communicate



AAC User



	<p>He runs two businesses and manages his care</p>
	<p>Many AAC users are busy so might not answer messages quickly!</p>

Communication Aids



AAC users use things called "communication aids".



These help them talk to others.



There are two types: high-tech and low-tech.

High Tech Communication Aids



A high-tech communication aid is electronic, like a tablet or laptop.



Users control these with touchscreens, eye gaze, scanning, and more.

Controlling high-tech communication aids



You can control high-tech communication aids in many ways.



Some use a keyboard, mouse, or touchscreen.



There are other ways like eye gaze, scanning, and special buttons.






These technologies make it easier to use a computer.



It's not as complicated as it sounds.

Controlling low-tech communication aids

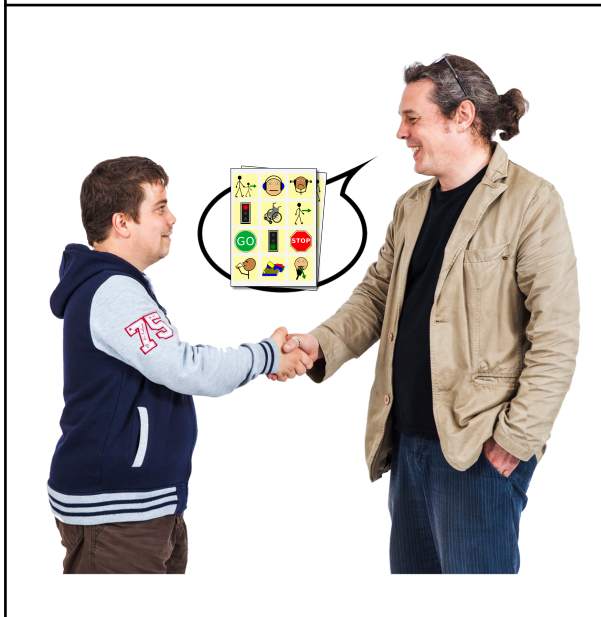
 <p>The image shows three individuals: a man in a black hoodie with 'adidas' on it using a blue communication device, a woman in a pink sweater using hand gestures, and a man in a dark jacket using hand gestures. Below them is a grid of 12 communication symbols including a person with a cane, a person with a hearing aid, a person with a speech bubble, a traffic light, a wheelchair, a person with a cane, a green 'GO' sign, a black smartphone, a red 'STOP' sign, a person with a speech bubble, a person with a speech bubble, and a person with a speech bubble.</p>	<p>Low-tech aids are things like signs, symbols, or gestures.</p>
 <p>The image shows two young girls looking at a communication device together. One girl is holding the device. In the bottom left corner, there is an inset image of a boy with a clock on his wrist and a red checkmark, indicating a successful communication.</p>	<p>People use these for quick messages.</p>
 <p>The image shows a woman in a pink sweater pointing down with her hand, and a man in a black hoodie giving a thumbs up. To the right is a large green checkmark icon.</p> <p>Yes</p>	<p>You might see a nod or a specific gesture. For "yes" or "no," people might nod, smile, or use a symbol.</p>



If you're working with someone who uses these aids, just ask them about it.


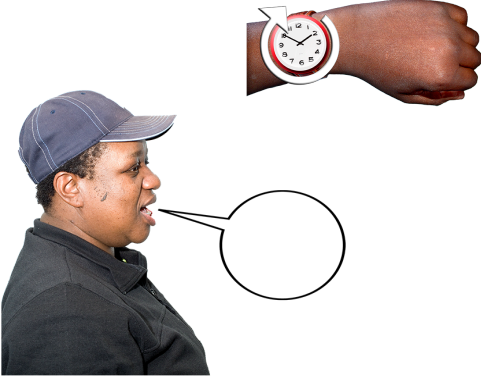


It's good to know what aids people use.



If you want to know you can ask them

Engaging communication aid users

	<p>Include communication aid users in activities and talks.</p>
	<p>It can take them longer to get ready to speak.</p>





Here are ways to help them join in:



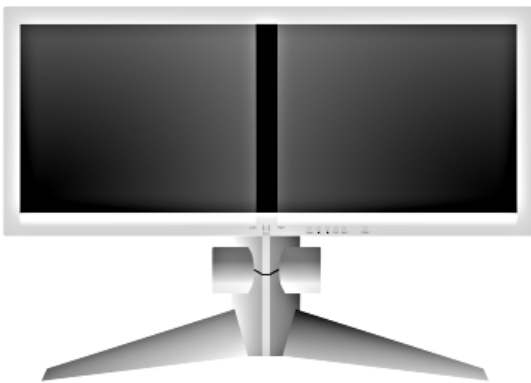
- Give them questions or topics before the activity.



- Give them time to answer questions

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Always ask them last before changing the subject.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Know how they say "yes" and "no"

Working remotely with communication aid users

	<p>On video calls they might need two screens</p>
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One is to talk and one is for the call.



Calls can be slow



Learn how they say "yes" and "no" online



Don't be surprised if you see their assistant appear on screen to help them

Emailing Communication Aid Users



Most communication aid users can email using their devices.



Their emails might look different because of how they type.



This doesn't mean they're not smart.



Some find reading hard.



Use simple documents.



Voice messages can be easier than long texts.

Other access needs



People with AAC might use wheelchairs or other aids.



They need places with wheelchair access



They might need Changing Places toilets



They might need lots of power outlets to charge devices and wheelchairs



Ask them what they need before you choose a venue



AAC users often need an assistant who knows a lot about their needs.




This assistant gets paid between £13 and £16, depending on what they know and can do.



Talk to the AAC user about the costs and who is paying for them

 <p>Needs</p>	<p>If you are arranging travel or hotels talk to them about what they need</p>
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Universal Accessibility

 <p>Universal Design</p>	<p>Universal design means making things that work for everyone.</p>
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It's used by people who make buildings, services, and products.




The goal is to include as many people as possible



When making something, the idea is to make it work for everyone

	<p>You will need to know peoples needs to do this</p>
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Warm ups and body work

	<p>Think about the words you use when doing warm-ups</p>
---	--



Ask people to think about body parts instead of stretches



Ask people to move in the ways that work for them



Understand the limits everyone has

Warm ups and voice



Many AAC users can make sounds or say a few words.



They might express emotions with sounds like roars or words like "mum."



Use these in voice warm-ups





Support people to use their voices creatively

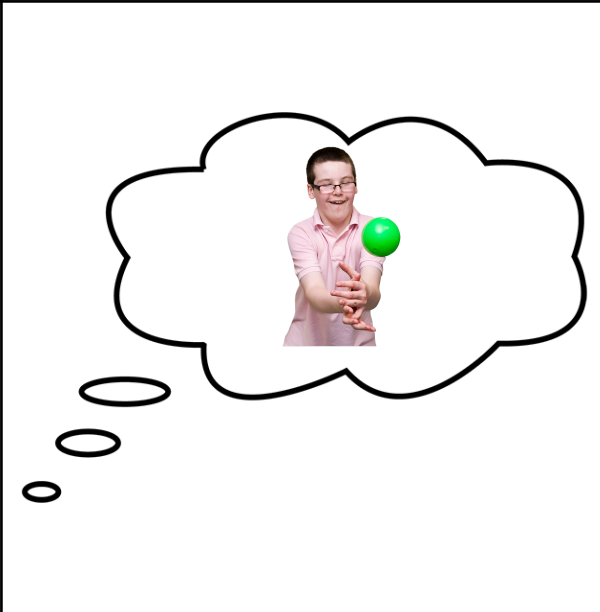
Moving around the space



Trust people to control their wheelchairs safely

 A photograph showing a man in a purple shirt pushing a woman in a wheelchair. The woman is wearing a maroon top and floral shorts. The man is standing behind her, with his hands on her shoulders, pushing the wheelchair forward.	<p>Some people need to be pushed in wheelchairs</p>
 A photograph of a boy in a red t-shirt pointing towards a whiteboard. In the background, a smaller inset image shows a woman in a pink shirt pointing at the same whiteboard. The boy is in the foreground, looking towards the camera with a slight smile.	<p>Make sure they are deciding which way to go</p>

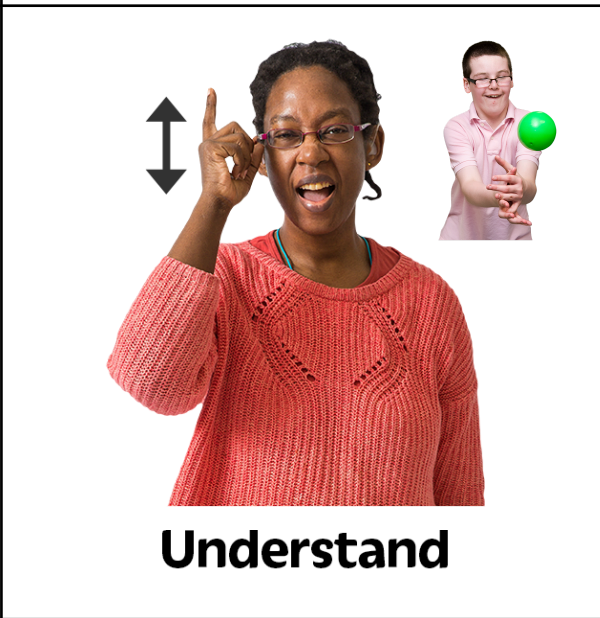
Adapting Games for People with Limited Movement



Think about what you want the game to achieve



Talk to the AAC user about how to adapt the game



Make sure they understand how to play




Zip Zap Boing



Zip Zap Boing is a fun game



People point at each other and say zip, zap, or boing

	<p>People can use their hands instead of words</p>
	<p>People can also use their communication aids</p>
	<p>The important thing is that everyone is joining in</p>

Acting



Lots of actors use AAC to perform different roles



They can play any role. Think about why they're in the play.



You can copy the AAC users voice using a computer



You can make lots of different sounds using an AAC device - which can be a lot of fun



They can use their communication aid on stage



Another actor can speak for them

Music



Lots of people who use aac make music.

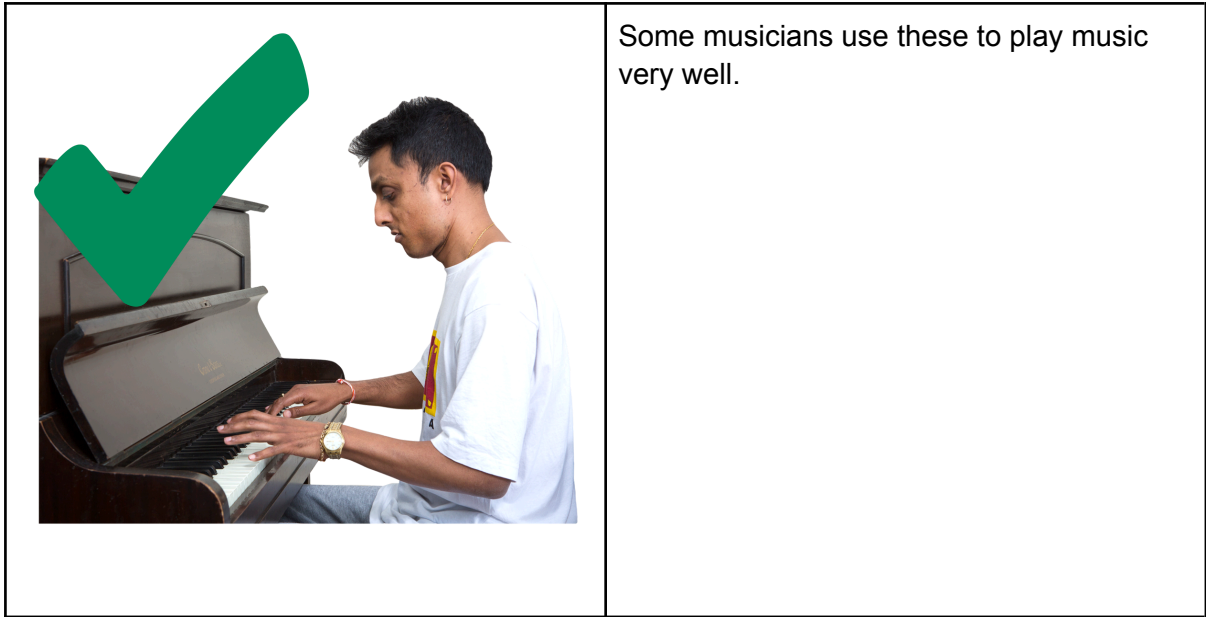


AAC users can play musical instruments using special apps like "Clarion" or "Eyeharp."

AAC User

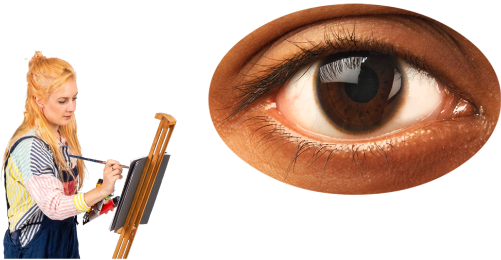



These apps let people play music with their eyes.



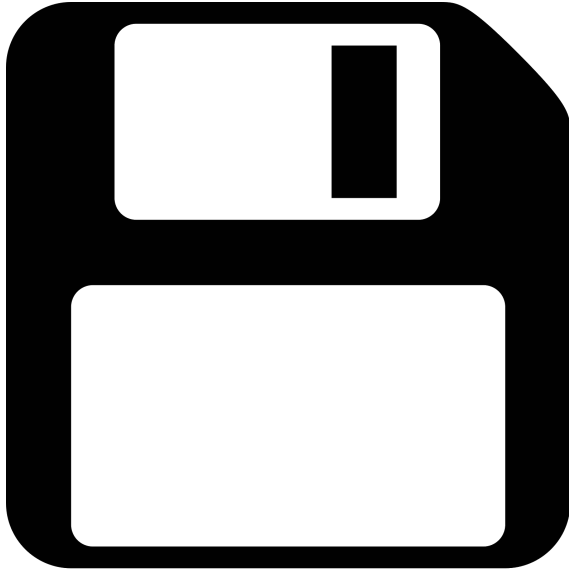
Visual Art:



 A woman with blonde hair is painting on an easel. To her right is a large, detailed image of a human eye.	<p>They can control the brush by looking, and making shapes</p>
 The Adobe Photoshop logo, consisting of the letters 'Ps' in a blue font on a black square background with a blue border.	<p>With practice, you can use Paint or Photoshop this way</p>

Creative Writing:

 A hand holding a black pen is positioned above a laptop. In the background, a young boy with glasses is sitting at a desk, looking towards the camera. <p>AAC User</p>	<p>If you can talk using an AAC device, you and write too</p>
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Most AAC software lets you save sentences.



You can use programmes like Microsoft Word or Google Docs



Start writing in the way that feels best for you.

Performing on Camera and Film:



Film sets are busy. But they should be easy for wheelchair users to move around



They may need adapted toilets



Make sure people are happy with the way they are shown!



Show how AAC users really communicate

AAC User



Make sure they are part of the story



AAC users can use software like iMovie to edit films



Even if a professional film, make sure everyone is included in the edit.