

You have been invited to a communication support assessment

On:

At:

Other people who have been invited are:

| Name | Role |
|------|------|
|------|------|

If you want to invite anyone else or have questions please contact:

For more information visit the I-ASC website: iasc.mmu.ac.uk

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Identifying Appropriate Symbol Communication aids for children who are non speaking: enhancing clinical decision making NIHR HS&DR Project 14/70/153



Your AAC assessment

Welcome to the world of augmentative and alternative communication. You might often hear people refer to this as AAC.



AAC includes the range of strategies and resources that might be used to help someone with a communication impairment, so they can tell others what they want and need, and what they are thinking. This might involve signing, using facial expression, using a communication book or board, using switches or having a high tech electronic communication aid with symbols or text. A famous person who uses AAC is Lee Ridley (Lost Voice Guy, winner of Britain's Got Talent).

You have been invited to a communication support assessment because it is thought you may benefit from having some additional help with your communication.

It is normal to have a lot of questions about your assessment, who will be there and what will happen? This is a brief guide of what to expect, and answers to questions other people have asked.

Who should contribute to my assessment, and why?

Each child or young person being assessed for communication support is central to the decision making process. The final decision on what is suitable has to be right for you and your family/carer(s). The invitees to the meeting may also include a range of professionals and these are listed on the back of this leaflet.

What happens before the assessment?

Now we have sent you this appointment letter we will start to collect information that will be useful in decision making from everyone who is invited to be at the meeting. Before you attend you and your parents/carers might be asked to fill in some forms, and provide other information. This gives you and your family/carers time to think beforehand what you might want to say to everyone when you attend.

What things will be discussed?

Everyone is unique so it is important to get the right decision. You and your family will be fully included in the decision making process. The assessment team will want to know all about you, what you think and what you want for the future. The team will want to hear from your teacher about how you learn, and your parent(s)/carer(s) about what you do at

home. They will also look at how you will access a communication aid and what might be the best type for you. They will probably show you several different ones and discuss these with you.

What will happen in the assessment?

Besides taking into account your views, and those of your family/carers, the other people in the team will think about the same things you are being asked to consider. That means you can agree on what might work best for you, and if there is a difference of opinion everyone will have the opportunity to discuss it together.

Everything that is discussed will be noted down, you and your family will get copies of what is discussed and agreed. It is important everyone has the same understanding about what might work best for you and why.

What happens after the assessment?

You will receive a copy of the actions agreed at the assessment, this will include who is to do what, and when. Depending on the decisions made with everyone at the meeting you might be seen again by the specialized assessment team, or by your local speech and language therapist.