Communication System Recommendation

Reflective Practice Checklist

Choosing a communication system for a child or young person is a complex process requiring the consideration of many competing factors. Take a moment to reflect on your process to ensure you are ready to make a recommendation.

Child characteristics

I have gathered all the relevant information about the child’s abilities, challenges and preferences and have considered all areas in the recommendation.

- Age
- Child preference
- Communication ability
- Cognitive skills
- Diagnosis
- Expectations and aspirations
- Linguistic level
- Motor abilities and operational competence
- Personality and temperament
- Progress and communication opportunities

I have avoided making non-evidenced assumptions about the child’s abilities insofar as is possible.

Communication aid attributes

I have selected the most appropriate system based on a feature matching process and a thorough trialling process. I have given particular consideration to the language representation and organisation chosen.

- Aesthetics
- Reliability
- Data storage and processing
- Consistency and intuitiveness of design
- Ease of editing
- Graphic representation
- Vocabulary

Access features

I have identified the optimal access method and have ensured there is an agreed plan of how the young person will access communication supports while skills are developing and/or when the recommended system is not available during their day.

- Access method
- Mounting and positioning
**Ways of working**

I have ensured that the child or young person, their family, and all relevant team members have had the opportunity to express their opinions. I have also ensured they have been given all the information needed to be active participants in the decision making process. I have addressed external factors so that the child’s needs remain central to the decision.

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**Transitions**

I have considered future change to optimally plan for the new communication system.

| Future planning | Technology change |

**Available resources**

I have identified who will be responsible for supporting the child with their new communication system and ensured that there is a comprehensive implementation plan in place. I have addressed any potential future roadblocks the child may face.

| Attitude | Cost | Intervention | Support | Team knowledge and skill | Training |