



Competing Considerations

Child characteristics	
Age	Child's chronological age.
Assumed abilities	Where assumptions have been made about the child's level of functioning.
Child preference	The child's views regarding options of communication system or ways of communicating.
Cognitive skills	Information about the child's general cognitive skills including attention, memory, focus, learning style, and insight.
Communication ability	The view of the child's level of communication ability, both aided and unaided.
Diagnosis	Any medical or speech and language diagnosis for the child or young person.
Expectations and aspirations	The child's future journey with AAC. It includes predicted needs, goals for AAC, hopes, and expectations.
Linguistic level	The child or young person's existing level of language, literacy and graphic symbol knowledge.
Motor abilities and operational competence	The child or young person's physical skills, mobility, and speech intelligibility.
Personality and temperament	The child or young person's personality, temperament. It also includes motivation and frustration.
Progress and communication opportunities	Progress made with the child's communication to date, including the communication opportunities that have influenced rate of progress.
Access features	
Access method	The selection methods used to access the AAC system(s) to communicate.
Positioning and mounting	The positioning of the communication system for use. It includes mounting, the interface with other equipment as well as issues related to making the communication aid available.
Communication aid attributes	
Hardware aesthetics	Perceptions of visual appearance and voice qualities of the communication aid.
Hardware reliability	How frequently or easily the aided AAC system stops working.
Hardware data storage and processing	The ability of the communication aid to manage data and data processing.
Software consistency and intuitiveness of design	The consistency of page layouts, including the navigational functions to select a desired output.
Software ease of editing	How intuitive and easy is it to add, and change vocabulary and customise other features such as changing the volume, editing symbols, adding pages, etc.
Software graphic representation	Type of graphic symbol used.
Software vocabulary	Includes the size and organisation of vocabulary on the communication system.