

AAC User Profile

Name: David
Age: 17 years old
Location: Dorset



David was born with Athetoid Cerebral Palsy and attends a specialist school and college. He has been using a high tech communication aid since he was 8 years old and has been interested in AAC and technology ever since!

When David first started out with AAC, he used a head switch to access his AAC device running a page based system, this took lots of navigation and required a lot of effort combined with switching.

He now uses an ECO2 with ECOpoint, making his selections with a foot switch once he has fixed his gaze on the icon that is required. He also has a smaller communication aid that he has had mounted on his walker, which is essential as much of his spare time is spent in the performing arts!

David is also a keen sportsman, regularly playing football, boccia, hockey and baseball. He is a sports leader and uses his ECO2 linked to an interactive white board to teach PE lessons.



David has 144 icons on the screen that he uses with ECOpoint Eye Gaze. When David first tried this access method, his response was "I like it, it makes me faster, when can I have one?" Now David uses his ECO2 and ECOpoint to access the curriculum, study for his GCSE's, order food and communicate whilst at restaurants, argue with his brother, you name it, David can communicate it!

Since progressing to the Unity Minspeak language system, his language development has changed. David will now use his ECO2 to speak in complete sentences with correct syntax, has increased the number of words he uses meaningfully and will comment socially using the language of his peers therefore becoming a confident and competent communicator. David has recently been working on idioms with his SLT, his latest being "Mum has got a lot on her plate!" David is also an advocate to other students who use AAC and shows them how you could communicate if you use your AAC method to its full potential.

He controls his PlayStation with a bespoke switch system, drives his electric wheelchair with head switches and uses the ECOpoint Eye Gaze system to communicate, access the computer to check on how Chelsea football team are doing and send and receive text messages. When he is at home he also plays MP3's on his ECO2 from morning till night, often with it blasting out very loudly!

David has recently been selected to travel to Brazil to work with the Olympic opening ceremony team as part of the Remix Drama Group.

Meet David for yourself... <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4hDISzoOgUc>