



Liberator

IDEAS FOR YOUR LOW TECH AAC

Making the most of your resources

Provide personal information

Try this...

Record some personal information on your communication aid in response to a question or to provide some information about yourself.

Hi, my name is
and I'm years old.



Participate in games

Try this...

Use a Single Message to instruct go in a game or a Sequencer to record instructions for a game and a randomiser for dice throws, or social comments during a game.

It's your turn

My Go!



Enable the environment

Try this...

Place a low-tech communication aid on the door frame, making sure it is at a suitable height. The communication aid can then be recorded with information about the room to give auditory clues on what will be happening or what to expect. Remember to use all methods of communication for a total communication approach

This is the art room



Activate with an alternative switch

Try this...

Use your preferred switch to activate the communication aid. Just plug your switch into the correct port and use it to activate the communication aid. Discuss with your O.T. the best position for the individual you support.



Reading comments

Try this...

During shared reading activities use a low tech communication aid to say core words which may be appropriate to use when reading a book.



Operating an external device

Try this...

Use your communication aid to control any switch adapted appliance.

Use the cable that came with the communication aid to plug into your switch adapted appliance and use the communicator to operate it. The appliance will work for as long as the communicator is activated.

Top Tip!
Record a few seconds of blank noise onto the Communication aid for longer activations or introduce a latch timer for cause and effect



Take part in the register

Try this...

Record a message onto the communication aid with an answer for when the register is called. Use a randomiser or All turn it Spinner with names on to choose the next student.

HERE!!!



Control a mains controlled device

Try this...

Using the PowerLink® 4, the Low-tech communication aid can be used to control a mains operated device. The communication aid and the mains item are both plugged into the PowerLink®.

The PowerLink® provides a range of control options with up to an hour of safe, timed control.



Sensory Communication Aid

Try this...

Where symbols are not appropriate create tactile cues. Think of links with your objects of reference.

Use sandpaper to denote its time for the sandpit.

Use Bubble wrap for the sensory room.

Use swimming costume material for the swimming pool.



Social

Try this...

Say “Good morning/Hello” and provide other social greetings.

Make use of every opportunity for a learner to provide announcements.

Dinner time

Good morning



Stop/Finished

Try this...

Use your communication aid to teach someone to say when they have finished.

Use this at:

- Lunchtime
- Times of personal care
- During lessons
- Whilst watching a DVD
- When a piece of work has been completed
- When wanting to move onto a new activity

Finished !!



To ask for more

Try this...

The communication aid can be activated to ask for more of something, you can then provide a little of what has been requested, then repeat this process again and again to re-enforce the activity.

Wait.....

See if the learner will activate the switch with no prompt!

More!



Circle Time

Try this...

Use the communication aid to:

- tell the weather
- tell the day of the week
- signal beginning or the end of the group activity
- times of the day



To order at a restaurant

Try this...

It take seconds to record a message onto a communication aid and the result is that an order can be placed personally.

This gives the learner the opportunity for social interaction and independence. You can record as a single message or sequential

Please can I have a
Tropicana Pizza,
orange juice, no ice thank
you.



To cheer on a team

Try this...

Use the communication aid to record comments used to support the team, cheer on the school in an event, call the referee names, support siblings in sports activities and so on.

Can be used at home whilst watching the match, sports day, in school and any sporting environment.



Come on
you reds!!

GOAL!!!



News

Try this...

Allow time for the learner to activate the message themselves without prompting. After a set time (dependant on the learner) provide a simple prompt... "Did you do anything special at school today?".

If nothing is forthcoming, get the communication aid out and ask again directly.

Today we had some
visitors in school from the
zoo.



I didn't like it!

I held a snake



Send the individual on an errand

Try this...

Record some simple messages for your learner to move around school to gather information, complete a questionnaire and so on.

Send to find out information so the learner comes back with a message!

“Dad, come out of the shed, your dinner’s been ready for hours!”

Repeated activities are the best... E.g. Going to collect the register each morning

I'm going out now. Please can you get my tablets ready?



Music!

Try this...

- Record the chorus of a favourite song by holding the communication aid up to a speaker.
- Introduce song selections
- Record songs for assembly's, concerts etc.
 - Play instrument sounds.
- Add sound effects to an interactive display board or song



Take part in a concert

Try this...

Record the chorus of a favourite song by holding the communication aid up to a speaker.

Introduce song selections

Record songs for assembly's, concerts etc.

Play instrument sounds.

Add sound effects to an interactive display board or song

I wrote to the zoo to send me a pet. They sent me a....



Literacy

Try this...

Find a word, place the symbols up on a display board and record one of the words onto the communication aid. Ask the user to then locate the word.

Put the words into a particular order and ask the user to activate the communication aid to indicate which order the words should be in.

Add the words to the symbols.

When s/he thinks that it is right then s/he can listen and see.

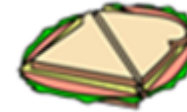
sandwich



kiwi fruit



pie



cheeseburger



Find Cheeseburger!



Numeracy

Try this...

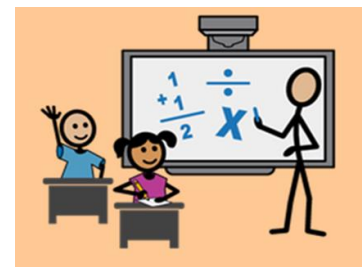
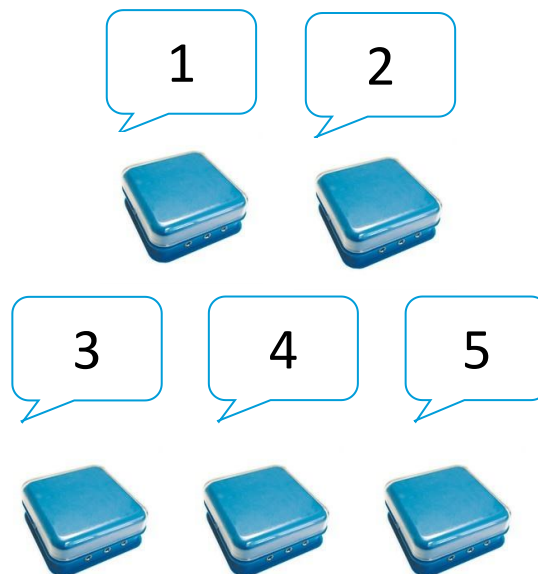
The learner has to put the communication aids in the correct order. When s/he thinks that it is right then s/he can listen and see!

Play mathematical games.

Using numbered cards ask the pupil to predict whether the next card will be bigger or smaller than the previous card.

Record 'minus' and 'plus' as well as the number and do simple math.

Write a simple sum and ask the learner to choose the correct answer from one of the communication aids.



Jokes

Try this...

Play a practical joke!

Record these sounds:

Ring Ring

Phone Sounds

Rude Noises

Scary Sounds

Strange Knockings

Running Water

School Bell

Knock, Knock.
Who's there?



Destroy Something!

Try this...

Build a tower of bricks.

Use the communication aid as a switch to control a toy that moves forward. When the communication aid is activated it says "GO" or expand to a phrase "I'm going to knock down your tower"

The toy moves forward a little.
After a few activations the tower is destroyed!

I'm going to knock down your Tower.



Holiday Activities

Try this...

Go carol singing at Christmas or deliver social greetings

Go trick or treating at Halloween.

Use a talking tin to amplify the sound.



Trick or Treat!

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!



Medical Needs

Use a low-tech communication aid for a quick single message for medical needs.
Such as:

I am in pain.

I need my medicine.

It hurts.

I'm uncomfortable.

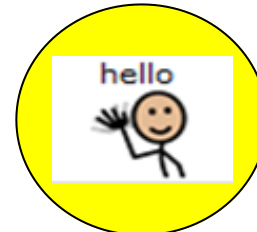
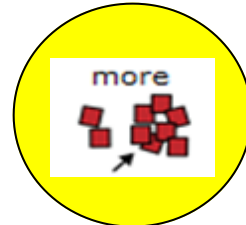
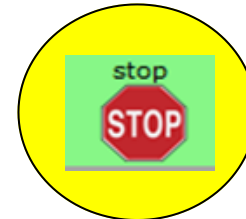
I need to be suctioned.



Symbolise your communication aid

Every communication aid should have a symbol to indicate its function.

Having a symbol gives a big clue as to what is expected and what will happen when the communication aid is activated.



Don't say 'Press It'

Try this...

Don't refer to the device by its name, prompt the learner to activate the item the device is programmed to say instead of the device name i.e. make it go instead of hit your switch.

Top Tip!
Use the communication aid to provide auditory output for each activation.
Speak the keyword last

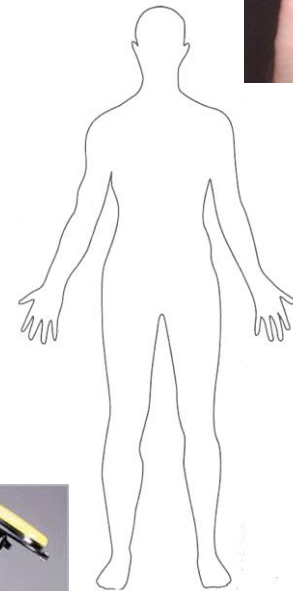


Positioning

Think about the position of the communication aid.

The communication aid does not have to be activated by hand. Look at activation by head, foot, elbow or any part of the body that has control. Use a mounting system like below to place the communication aid in a suitable place.

Use Stick and Suck pads to put the switch in a stuck position. Stick and Suck is available from Liberator and can be re-used for sticking almost anything, anywhere!!



What are steps and what are levels?

Steps – think a sequence of messages.

E.g. a recipe. Step 1 – Weigh ingredients.

Step 2 – Mix ingredients. Step 3 – Cook!

Levels – think location of messages.

E.g. Level 1 – Greeting. Level 2 –
Announcement. Level 3 – Weather Report.

*Remember Steps = Sequence, Levels =
Locations*



Other equipment you may find useful



The PowerLink® 4 will enable you to plug in any mains operated device. Use the communication aid to operate.



The 'ALL TURN IT' spinner. Plug in the communication aid to operate the spinner to make a random selection



A variety of different switches which can be plugged into the Communication aid for preferred access.



Universal switch mounting arm. Use this to place the communication aid in a suitable position.



Plug in the communication aid and operate a switch adapted toy.

All of these products are available from Liberator.
For more information go to www.liberator.co.uk
or call us on 01733 370 470.

