

## AAC User Profile

Name: James

Age: 9 years old

Location: Scotland



Mum has this to say about James, "James is a lively, happy 9 year old. He is a constant joy to us and a delight to anyone who meets him. However James has posed a challenge to everyone to find the 'hook' that would inspire him and help him interact with the world. Initially the only toy he would play with was a ball, which made it difficult to find activities with which to progress his development. All the time we knew that there was so much more to James, if only we could find a way to unleash it."

"As James has grown up his 'repertoire' of interests has increased a little, along with his understanding, but his ability to communicate with us has remained very restricted. We have tried Makaton, but he has never shown any ability to sign himself. We have tried simple single switches, which he can operate well, but the opportunity for mass communication with these is limited. We have also been trying PECS and PCS symbols but James seems unable to learn the symbols (although can remember the location of them). Within the last year James started trying to point at things he wanted, but seems unable to point in the right direction so it remains a guessing game for us. His only other way of communicating is with a grunt for 'yes' and a shake of the head for 'no'."



"A few months ago the LAMP system of communication was introduced to us. As soon as we heard about it we felt confident that it would be suitable for James. The premise of learning through motor planning rather than symbol recognition / topic understanding is ideal for him. Within the first half an hour of access to the Vantage device James had learnt to say 'go' to activate a toy, within a week he had a vocabulary of three words. We have worked on this several times a day at home and now (after only 8 weeks) James has 12 words on his loan device. He now recognises when he is about to say the wrong word and self corrects. He also knows if he has selected the wrong word and only looks up to us for a reaction when he knows he has asked for what he really wants. James is working with us during his official Vantage sessions for up to half an hour, the longest we have ever experienced James concentrating on one task. In the last two months we have seen James flourish. He is now able to ask us for things (even for a 'cuddle') which he could never do before. When we take the Vantage away at the end of a session

or when the battery needs charging James relentlessly asks for it back. He is also enjoying short periods when he has access to the device so that he can 'play' and it is so lovely to see him 'chatting away' like a toddler would do."

"We've got a really long way to go, but that is exciting in itself because now we have a goal!"