

AAC User Profile

Name: Lucy
Age: 9 years old
Location: Kent



Meet Lucy. She is using the LAMP approach on her Vantage Lite to communicate freely.

Lucy has Emmanuel Syndrome, a rare diagnosis in the UK. She is able to sign, make some sounds and use symbols, but sometimes has some difficulty in making sense of the world around her. This can lead to some challenging behaviour and confusion for Lucy.

One thing Lucy likes to do is keep scrapbooks. When Lucy goes on holiday, she keeps a record of what she has done and where she has been. Lucy's Mum would give her a list of words to cut out and put into a sentence which she sticks next to the photo. Lucy went on a holiday to Australia and was able to cut out the words to talk about seeing a koala. So you can see, Lucy is a very bright young lady who has difficulty in expressing what she thinks, feels and knows.

Communication has always been a tricky subject for Lucy; her parents were always concerned that Lucy wasn't understood enough and this led to frustration. She has used a communication book but this was found to 'slow her communication down' as it took too long to look through the pages. Some Low Tech devices were used with Lucy too, but none were successful. Lucy continues to be supported through signing.

The assessment team who had been involved with Lucy thought LAMP would be an approach to explore.

Lucy had a LAMP assessment both at school and at home. It was soon clear that she needed a system that had a structure so that icons would stay in the same place, gave auditory feedback and could hold a whole lot of language!

Lucy's initial assessment was at her home where Lucy showed how easy communicating should be! She learnt 5 new words in 24 minutes and was able to use these across activities.

Lucy now has her own Vantage Lite and is using LAMP at home, school and all environments.

When John Halloran (LAMP founder) saw Lucy at her school, she was confused and her behaviour showed that she was unhappy with the situation, but within minutes Lucy was interacting, smiling and enjoying her LAMP session with John. Lucy was using her Vantage Lite to express what she wanted to do, answer questions and direct the activity.

Lucy started with just 5 words available to her, but prefers to have all 84 icons showing which gives her a vocabulary of 2,000+ words for her to explore and learn.

Lucy takes her Vantage Lite with her into her new school every day where she is supported to use the LAMP approach and at home where both parents are encouraging her.

Lucy now has a communication system that suits her and her needs, and one that will grow with her as her education and life moves forward.

