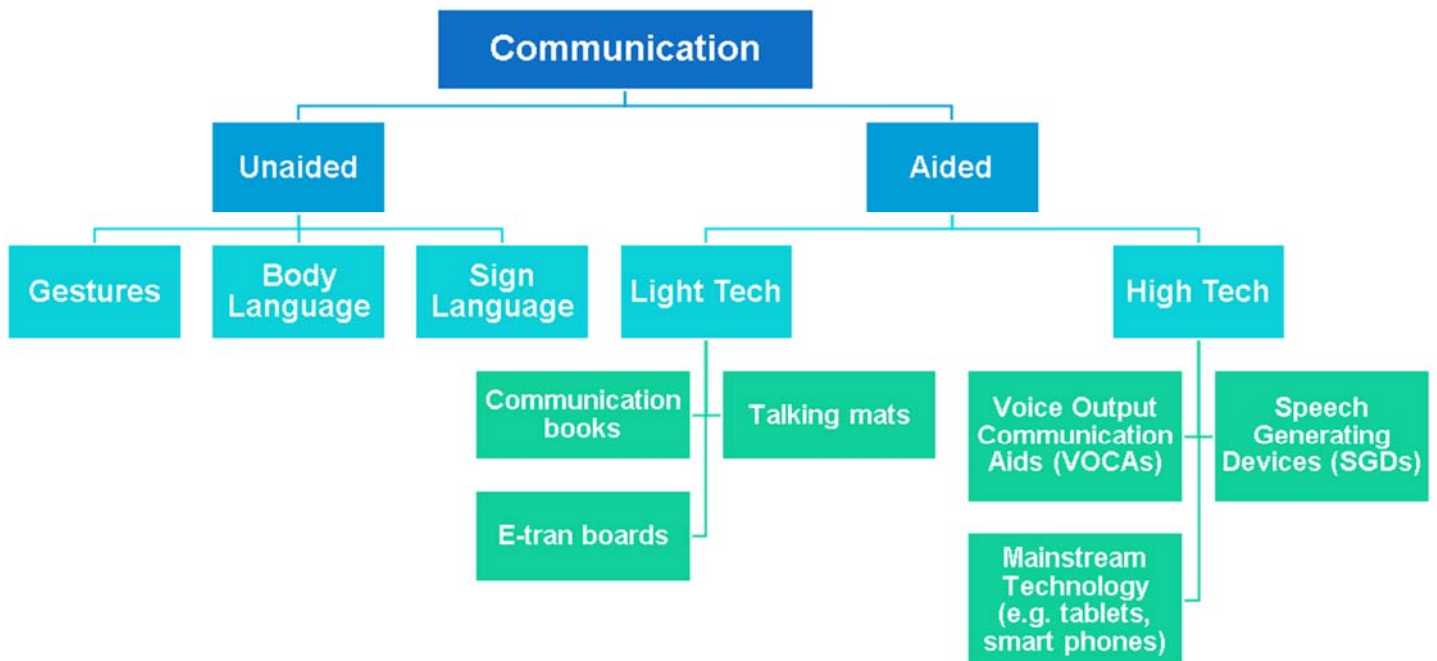


Communication

Communication is a basic human right

When a person has difficulty communicating, there are strategies to assist. Several methods other than speech can be used to support and enhance the communication of people who have difficulty producing and/or comprehending spoken and/or written language. These are referred to as **Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC)**. AAC includes visual language systems, visual cues, gestures, pointing, speech generating devices, etc. Communication is multimodal, often more than one AAC method is used at a time. Several factors such as the speaker, the situation, and the communication partner impact on the selection of the appropriate AAC method.

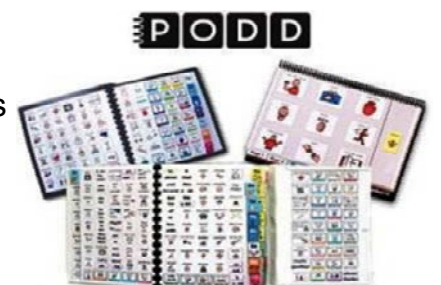


Unaided Communication

Methods of communication that are “unaided” do not require equipment. These include signs and gestures, such as Auslan and Key Word Sign.

Aided Communication Light Technology

This refers to any communication system that is “non-electronic” and is used to assist communication. Examples are communication boards, Pragmatic Organisation Dynamic Display (PODD) communication books; and visual resources such as community request cards, timetables, mealtime place mats, Talking Mats, chat books, and various other resources that support communication. These often involve the use of pictures, words, and spelling.



Pragmatic Organisation Dynamic Display Communication Books

Aided Communication High Technology

These are electronic devices, computers, or tablets designed to speak messages. High technology includes Voice Output Communication Aids (VOCAs), Speech Generating Devices (SGDs), and mainstream technology and communication apps. These options have a variety of features to meet different language and accessibility needs. It is important to match the needs of the individual to the features available when selecting a device.

Types of high tech communication devices include:

- **Single button** devices, with only one message or a sequence of messages. These devices have digitised recorded speech.
- **Static display** devices with multiple messages; these can have messages on more than one level, but require the vocabulary display to be physically changed when the level changes. These devices have digitised speech.
- **Dynamic display** where many pages of messages can be stored and where pictures and spelling can be used to generate messages. Messages may involve synthesised computer generated speech or digitised speech.
- **Text-to-speech** devices where spelling is used to generate messages that can be spoken out loud using synthesised speech.



Go Talk 20+ Communicator



Tobii Dynavox Indi



Big Step by Step Communicator



Mainstream Tablets and Smart Phones



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For more information, please contact

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Infoline: 1300 452 679 Email: help@at-aust.org Web: www.at-aust.org



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