

Eye gaze communication: combining low tech and high tech –

Experiences of setting up eye gaze
communication in a special school

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and

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Children

- Five children age between 3 and 9 in a primary school special school identified as being potential eye gaze communicators;
- Child 1 (3:6): developing verbal communication;
- Child 2 (4:6): beginning eye gaze communication (e.g. gazing at choice and developing a confirmation gaze);

More about the children

- Children 3, 4, and 5
- All appear to have the ability to use aided communication to some extent;
- Range somewhere between 1 and 3 key word level.

Background

- School have plenty of switches;
- Three PC Eye Go devices;
- Limited or no use of eye gaze communication methods.

Work

- Get going with message switch use – particularly to give children a method to get interactions;
- No-tech eye gaze:
 - Gaze to a choice, confirmatory eye gaze;
 - “E-tran” frames (various transparent bits of plastic with photos or picture symbols)
- High tech eye gaze

High tech eye gaze

- These gadgets work like a mouse – so you can move a cursor around the screen;
- Eye gaze games....
- Communication boards...

High tech AAC – what would be good

- No special software to run it – easy to share, no risk of app/programme no longer being available;
- Make your stuff once: make it for computer use, print it off and use it in a frame (*comments on PowerPoint, CiP*);
- Tailored for this set of children (lower level beginning eye gaze communicators);
- Easy to use.

Technical bit

- PowerPoint – doesn't really work;
- Browser based – does work!!
- Demo of the work in progress...

Comments??

- My contact details:
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- If interested, I can send link to the test site...
email me.