

AAC Assessment Tools

AAC SIG Day

26th June 2007

Oxford

The Triple C – checklist of communication competencies

- Published by Spastic Society of Victoria, Australia
- Screening checklist designed for use in assessing the communication skills of adolescents & adults who have severe or profound disabilities.
- Devised by Bloomberg & West (1999)





The Triple C contd.

- It is divided into **5 different stages of communication:**
 - Unintentional passive (up)
 - Unintentional active (ua)
 - Intentional informal (ii)
 - Basic symbolic (sb)
 - Established symbolic (se) communication.

This assessment tool has been designed for use by people who know the individual well i.e. the most familiar and consistent communication partners.



- “For the purpose of this assessment, the individual's level of functioning is indicated by the highest stage at which the majority of skills or behaviours are observed. ... The aim of the assessment is to determine the communicative/cognitive level which best represents the individual's level of functioning.”
- The package – includes the checklist, 10 forms, manual and training video.

- The InterAACtion package is the sequel to the Triple C, and includes manual, and training video. It is designed for people who work with adults with complex communication needs.



The Manual of AAC Assessment

- Devised by McCurtin & Murray (2000)
- **Pre-assessment Form**

AAC manual – Pre-assessment Form

- Communication information
 - Comprehension
 - Expression
 - Speech
- Functional information
 - Hand function
 - Seating system
- AAC information
 - Name primary carers
 - professionals
 - primary communication partners
 - Yes/no signals
 - Previous use of low/high tech AAC system
 - How does the individual feel about the referral?
 - Individual/carer's requirement?
 - Individual's likes/dislikes?
 - Inclusion of reports

AAC manual – Communication Log/AAC Needs profile

- **Communication Log**
 - How the individual communicates
 - Looking at communication behaviours
 - Log filled in for at least 5 selected situations during the day
- **AAC Needs profile**

Interaction Checklist

- Responsivity
- Style
- Control
- Representation

Multi-sensory stimuli assessment

Basic communication skills observation sheet

Communication Modes Form

Confirmation & Negation Signals Checklist

Access to switches & symbols checklist

VOCA Summary Sheet

Judgement of Intelligibility Scale

Communication Before Speech – considers the theoretical aspects of the development of communication & assessment based around structured observation for early communicators. It is relevant for those working with children & adults with sever/profound learning disabilities

**Affective
Communication
Assessment
(ACA)**

**Early Communication
Assessment
(ECA)** – used in
Supporting
Communication Through
AAC (SCOPE)

CORE AAC Curriculum

- Originally devised in early 1990s by FE Colleges working with people who use AAC who had found there was no suitable curriculum.
- Accredited by City & Guilds, published by SCOPE.
- Module 8 of Supporting Communication Through AAC

Structure of CORE AAC Curriculum

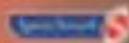
- 3 Sections
 - Effective AAC Skills – 4 Units
 - Conversation skills
 - Directing others
 - Asserting independence
 - Integration of AAC/using ICT for remote communication
 - Programme for Development of AAC Skills. 25 levels covering basic vocab & some grammar to build sentences.
 - Sentence-Building Skills – checklist of the skills needed to construct comprehensible checklist

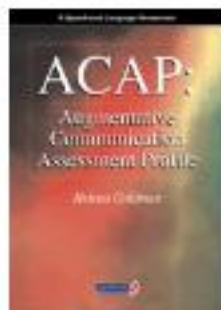
A Benchmark Language Assessment

ACAP:

Augmentative Communication Assessment Profile

Helena Goldman





ACAP is an assessment tool designed to provide reliable and objective guidance for speech & language therapists and specialist teachers who are seeking the most effective and easy to implement, low-technology communication system for their non-verbal clients with autistic spectrum disorder.

Helena Goldman

Assessment published in 2002.

Augmentative Communication Assessment Profile

- *ACAP* identifies the method that has the best prospect of becoming a truly functional and effective method of communication on an individual basis.
- The Profile has a simple yes/no question format, all of which relate to communication-linked skills and levels of development.
- The assessment takes approximately 15 minutes to complete, after which a simple key is used to pinpoint one of the following methods of augmentative communication: signing (eg, Makaton); picture-pointing communication (communication charts, boards and books); or a picture-trading communication system such as PECS.