

COMMUNICATION OPTIONS FOR NON-VERBAL OR LOW-VERBAL PERSONS WITH AUTISM

DO YOU HAVE, OR WORK WITH, A CHILD OR ADULT WHO...

- ...you suspect is much smarter or knows more than they can express?
-is non-verbal and you want to know what they are thinking, what they are laughing about, why they are so frustrated/melting down?
- ...is low-verbal and has some words, or even a lot of words, but is still incapable of expressing their feelings and/or deeper thoughts?

Do you wish you could reach this individual?

Know what they are thinking?

Have a meaningful conversation with them?

Then THIS SESSION is for you!

SESSION GOALS:

1. Gain a better understanding of how autism affects a person's ability to communicate.
2. Discover communication options for individuals who have not been successful with traditional PECs and/or are ready for the next step.
3. Explore alternative low-tech and high-tech communication options for individuals who are non-verbal or have limited verbal ability.
4. Learn some simple techniques for modifying the environment such that the individual with autism can achieve communication successes.
5. Explore the links below to learn more about the autistic individuals mentioned and the communication methods they use. (See the links that follow).

AUTHORS & BOOKS:

INDEPENDENT TYPING:

- Carly Fleischmann: Carly's Voice (Independent Typing)
- Naoki Higashida: The Reason I Jump (Independent Typing)

RPM/IPM/POINTING:

- Ido Kedar: Ido in Autismland (RPM → Independent Typing)
- Tito Mukhopadhyay: How Can I Talk If My Lips Don't Move (RPM → Independent Typing)
- Elizabeth Bonker: I Am In Here (RPM → Independent Typing)
- Kate Winslet, Margret Ericsson, and Keli Thorsteinsson: The Golden Hat: Talking Back to Autism (RPM)
- Portia and Dov Iverson: Strange Son (RPM & IPM)
- Soma Mukhopadhyay: Developing Communication for Autism Using Rapid Prompting Method: Guide for Effective Language;
- Soma Mukhopadhyay: Curriculum Guide for Autism Using Rapid Prompting Method: With Lesson Plan Suggestions

FACILITATED TYPING:

- Douglas Biklen, Richard Attfield, Larry Bissonnette, Lucy Blackman, Alberto Frugone, Tito Mukhopadhyay, Sue Rubin, and Jamie Burke: Autism and the Myth of the Person Alone (FC & Independent Typing)
- Ralph & DJ Savarese: Reasonable People (FC)
- Rosemary Crossley: Facilitated Communication Training (FC), Speechless—Facilitating Communication for People Without Voices (FC), Annie's Coming Out (FC)

OTHER:

- Temple Grandin: The Way I See It, Thinking In Pictures (Autism, verbal)
- Daniel Tammet: Born on a Blue Day (Asperger's syndrome, verbal)

ONLINE PROFILES/BLOGS/VIDEOS/NEWSCLIPS:

- Carly Fleischmann's Homepage: <http://carlysvoice.com/home/>
- Ido Kedar's Blog: <http://idoinautismland.blogspot.com/>
- Elizabeth Bonker @ TED: <http://blog.tedmed.com/?tag=elizabeth-bonker>
- Naoki Higashida on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o1YPtBAcJ7w>
- Larry Bissonnette's Blog: <http://wretchesandjabberers.org/larry/index.php>
- Tracy Thresher's Blog: <http://wretchesandjabberers.org/tracy/index.php>
- Profiles of Kids with Autism (keep scrolling through the pages to find the profiles): <http://www.goldenhatfoundation.org/about-us/blog/>
- Facebook

MOVIES:

- Wretches and Jabberers (FC)—Larry Bissonnette, Tracy Thresher, Chandima "Chammi" Rajapatirana, Naoki Higashida, Antti Lappalainen, and Henna Laulainen
- Autism is a World (FC)—Sue Rubin

WEBSITES:

- TACA: Helping Nonverbal Kids to Communicate (lots of good links)
<http://www.tacanow.org/family-resources/helping-nonverbal-kids-to-communicate/>
- Rapid Prompting Method (RPM):
<http://www.halo-soma.org/>
- Informative Pointing Method (IPM) (Free online manual with free membership):
<http://www.strangeson.com/>
- Facilitated Typing/Communication (FC):
http://soe.syr.edu/centers_institutes/institute_communication_inclusion/
- Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS):
<http://www.pecsusa.com/>
- Super Duper Handy Handouts (Tons of education handouts on all sorts of topics):
<http://www.superduperinc.com/Handouts/Handout.aspx>

LOW-TECH and HIGH-TECH OPTIONS:

- Homemade (Choice Board, Yes/No Board, Letter & Number Boards, Letter Sleeve, Word Board)
- Labeller
- Letter and word boards: <http://lowtechsolutions.org/>
- Talking buttons, Talking PECs, GoTalk
- iPad Apps (see below), Computer, Laptop, Neo2
- Text-to-speech (iPad, laptop, Lightwriter, handheld dictionaries and translators, alphabet/number toys)
- Dynavox, Lightwriter, GoTalk, etc. → iPad (ebay, Craigslist)
- AAC Company & Device List:
http://www.iidc.indiana.edu/index.php?pageId=532%20Link:%20http://www.autism-products.com/Autism_Communication_Devices_s/45.htm
- AAC Resources & Links Page 1: <http://www.autismspeaks.org/family-services/resource-library/assistive-technology>
- AAC Resources & Links Page 2: <http://www.autismspeaks.org/family-services/resource-library/visual-tools>
- Communication Devices: http://www.autism-products.com/Autism_Communication_Devices_s/45.htm
- Variety of AAC Products: <http://www.augresources.com/vindex.html?cat69.htm>
- PECs: Boardmaker, photographs

iPad Apps:

- Ever changing / Google categories / browse iTunes
- MY FAVORITES (as of late 2013):
 - **Basic Communication: Gabby Tabs** (\$0-\$10)
 - **Choices: Speech Buttons** (\$5)
 - **Text-to-Speech: Assistive Express** (\$25), **iMean** (\$5), **Verbally** (\$0), **Word Wizard Talking Movable Alphabet** (\$3), **Fat Cat Chat Repair**
 - **Education: Frog Hop HD** (\$)
 - **Games: Jangle, 3D Magic Words, Ultimate Word Search, Bubble Explode, Smack It XL, Toca Boca** apps
- Apps for Children and Adults With Special Needs:
 - <http://a4cwsn.com/>
 - <http://www.janefarrall.com/appstextlist.html>
 - <http://appsforaac.net/aac-category/text-speech>
- **Pictures Boards/Grids/PECS:**
 - <http://itouchforspecialneeds.pbworks.com/w/page/27170098/AAC%20-%20Picture%20Communication>
 - <http://www.appymall.com/appstore/AppsforAAC>
 - <http://appsforaac.net/aac-category/symbol-grid-system>
 - <http://appsforaac.net/aac-category/pecs>
- **Video & Photo Stories / Video Modeling:** Pictello, My Pictures Talk, StoryKit, iMovie, Super Duper StoryMaker; <http://appsforaac.net/aac-category/photo-story>

Other Useful Links:

Autism Classroom:

<http://www.autismclassroom.com/>

<http://www.autismclassroomnews.com/>

Communication Passport:

<http://www.communicationpassports.org.uk/Creating-Passports/Templates/>