Module 12: Contacts, Web Resources and Discussion Groups

This module is number 12 in the package “Supporting Communication through AAC” published by SCOPE.

Contacts

AbilityNet
Has 11 centres in the UK. The centres carry out assessments and training for children and adults in the field of computer technology. They run training courses and have a free advice line.
Tel: 0800 269545 (if you call from home)
or 01926 312847 (if you call from work).
Fax: 01926 407425
Email: enquiries@abilitynet.org.uk

ACE Centre (Oxford)
Carries out assessments and delivers training on communication and writing aids. Website has an extensive list of groups/charities.
92 Windmill Road, Headington, Oxford OX3 7DR
Tel: 01865 759800
Website: www.ace-centre.org.uk
Email: info@ace-centre.org.uk

ACE Centre – North (Oldham)
Carries out assessments and delivers training on communication and writing aids.
Units 11-12, Gatehead Business Park, Delph, Saddleworth OL3 5DE
Tel: 01457 829444
Website: www.ace-north.org.uk
Email: info@ace-centre.org.uk

The Aidis Trust
This trust provides specialist computer equipment to people with disabilities of all ages to aid their communication.
1 Albany Park, Cabot Lane, Poole, Dorset BH17 7BX
Tel: 01202 695244
Website: www.aidis.org
Email: info@aidis.org

Afasic
Charity for children and young adults with communication impairments.
2nd Floor, 50–52 Great Sutton Street, London EC1V 0DJ
Helpline: 08453 55 55 77 (Local call rate) open Monday–Friday 10am–2pm
Tel: 020 7490 9410
Website: www.afasic.org.uk
Email: info@afasic.org.uk
Afasic, I CAN and RCSLT have collaborated to create the Talking Point website
website: www.talkingpoint.org.uk

ASLTIP (The Association of Speech and Language Therapists in Independent Practice)
ASLTIP provides information about independent speech and language therapists.
WSS, Coleheath Bottom, Speen, Princes Risborough, Bucks HP27 0SZ
Answerphone: 0870 241 3357
Website: www.helpwithtalking.com
Email: asltip@awdry.demon.co.uk

Becta Cap (Communication Aids Project)
This project runs until April 2006. It is for pupils of rising school age and above in England. Helps pupils who have communication difficulties by providing technology to help them access the curriculum.
Cap Administrator, Becta, Milburn Hill Road, Science Park, Coventry CV4 7JJ
Tel: 024 7684 7173
Website: www.becta.org.uk/cap
Email: cap@becta.org.uk

The British Dyslexia Association
This group campaigns and provides support to break down barriers and enable dyslexic people to reach their potential.
98 London Road, Reading RG1 5AU
Helpline: 0118 966 8271
Tel: 0118 966 2677
Website: www.bda-dyslexia.org.uk
Email: info@dyslexiahelp-bda.demon.co.uk

BILD (British Institute for Learning Disabilities)
BILD provides information, publications and training and consultancy services for organisations and individuals.
Campion House, Green Street, Kidderminster, Worcs DY10 1JL
Tel: 01562 723010
Website: www.bild.org.uk
Email: enquiries@bild.org.uk

CALL Centre
(Communication Aids for Language and Learning) provides specialist expertise in technology for children who have speech, communication and/or writing difficulties, in schools across Scotland.
The CALL Centre, University of Edinburgh, Paterson's Land, Holyrood Road, Edinburgh, EH8 8AQ, Scotland
Tel: 0131 651 6235/6236
Fax: 0131 651 6234
Website: http://callcentre.education.ed.ac.uk/
Email: call.centre@ed.ac.uk

Contact-A-Family
A national network of parent-based support groups covering a wide variety of disabilities.
209–211 City Road, London EC1V 1JN
Parents Helpline Freephone 0808 808 3555 (lines open Monday–Friday 10am–4pm)
Tel: 020 7608 8700
Website: www.cafamily.org.uk
Email: info@cafamily.org.uk

Communications Forum
An umbrella charity bringing together organisations concerned with communication problems.
Camelford House, 87–89 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7TP
Tel: 020 7582 9200
Website: www.communicationsforum.org.uk
Email: cf@communicationsforum.org.uk

Communication Matters
UK chapter of ISAAC, the International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication.
c/o The Ace Centre, 92 Windmill Road, Oxford OX3 7DR
Tel: 0845 4568211
Website: www.communicationmatters.org.uk
Email: admin@communicationmatters.org.uk

Dyspraxia Foundation
8 West Alley, Hitchin, Herts SG5 1EG
Helpline: 01462 454 986
Tel: 01462 455016
Website: www.dyspraxiafoundation.org.uk
Email: dyspraxia@dyspraxiafoundation.org.uk

I Can
The national educational charity for special schools, nurseries and centres within local schools; provides training and information for parents, teachers and therapists.
4 Dyer's Buildings, Holborn, London EC1N 2QP
Tel: 0870 225 4071
Website: www.ican.org.uk
I CAN, RCSLT and Afasic have collaborated to create the Talking Point website website: www.talkingpoint.org.uk

Mencap
Charity for people with learning disabilities.
123 Golden Lane, London EC1Y 0RT
Tel: 020 7454 0454
Website: www.mencap.org.uk
Email: information@mencap.org.uk

National Autistic Society
Website includes information about autism and Asperger syndrome, and about the support and services available.
393 City Road, London EC1V 1NG
Tel: 020 7833 2299
Website: www.nas.org.uk
Email: nas@nas.org.uk

1Voice Communicating Together
The charity run by parents for AAC users (electronic communication aids) and their families; provides information and support.
PO Box 559, Halifax HX1 2XT
Tel: 0845 330 7862
Website: www.1voice.info
Email: info@1voice.info

National Portage Association
A home-visiting educational service for pre-school children with additional support needs and their families.
PO Box 3075, Yeovil, Somerset BA21 3FB
Tel: 01935 471641 (Office hours Monday and Thursday 9am–1pm)
Website: www.portage.org.uk
Email: info@portage.org.uk

RNIB (Royal National Institute for the Blind)
RNIB offers information, support and advice to people with sight problems.
105, Judd Street, London WC1H 9NE
Helpline: 0845 766 9999
Tel: 020 7388 1266
Website: www.rnib.org.uk
Email: helpline@rnib.org.uk

RNID (Royal National Institute for Deaf people)
RNID aims to achieve a radically better quality of life for deaf and hard of hearing people.
19–23 Featherstone Street, London, EC1Y 8SL
Tel: 020 7296 8000
Textphone: 020 7296 80001
Website: www.rnid.org.uk
Email: information@rnid.org.uk

Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists
The Royal College is the professional body for Speech and Language Therapists in the UK. The college produces factsheets on particular disorders. The website has an extensive list of other groups.
2 White Hart Yard, London SE1 1NX
Information Line: 020 7378 3012 (Monday–Friday 9am–1pm)
General tel: 020 7378 1200
Website: www.rcslt.org.uk
Email: postmaster@rcslt.org.uk
RCSLT, Afasic and I CAN have collaborated to create the Talking Point website
website: www.talkingpoint.org.uk

Sense
An organisation for people who are deafblind or have associated disabilities.
11–13 Clifton Terrace, Finsbury Park, London N4 3SR
Tel: 020 7272 7774
Textphone: 020 7272 9648
Website: www.sense.org.uk
Email: enquiries@sense.org.uk

Scope
Scope is a disability organisation in England and also Wales; its focus is people with cerebral palsy. Website has list of groups/organisations and lots of information.
Scope, 6 Market Road, London N7 9PW
Free CP Helpline: 0808 800 3333
Tel: 020 7619 7100.
Website: www.scope.org.uk
Email: cphelpline@scope.org.uk

Scope Early Years Unit
The aim of the Early Years unit is to influence and enhance all service delivery to children with cerebral palsy under five and their families. Information, help and support are available for families of young children and early years professionals.
Scope Early Years Unit, 42 St Owen Street, Hereford HR1 2PR
Tel/Fax: 01432 370860
Website: www.scope.org.uk/earlyyears/
Email: earlyyears@scope.org.uk

Useful Websites

http://aacintervention.com/
Julie Maro and Caroline Musselwhite have an excellent website, full of ideas and suggestions to make communication fun. It has links to lots of other websites with useful activities.

http://aac.unl.edu
"Augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) strategies assist people with severe communication disabilities to participate more fully in their social roles including interpersonal interaction, learning, education, community activities, employment, volunteerism, care management, and so on. This AAC website is designed to provide access to a wide range of information and resources related to the AAC effort. It is maintained by the Barkley AAC Center and the Munroe-Meyer Institute for Genetics and Rehabilitation at the University of Nebraska."

www.abilitynet.co.uk
AbilityNet is a charitable organisation supported by IBM. It offers "a one-stop shop for need assessment, technical expertise, advice and support". It also supplies adapted computer equipment for people with a wide range of disabilities.

www.ace-centre.org.uk
"The Oxford ACE Centre provides a focus for the use of technology with the communication and educational needs of young people with physical and communication difficulties. We offer a wide variety of services including in-depth individual assessments, information, and specialist training for parents and professionals."

www.ace-north.org.uk
"The ACE Centre - North offers a wide range of services to support communication and learning through the use of Assistive Technology (AT) and Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC) systems and resources for children and adults with physical and communication difficulties".

www.afasic.org.uk
"Afasic is the UK charity representing children and young adults with communication impairments, working for their inclusion in society and supporting their parents and carers. Some children do not develop speech and language as expected. They may have difficulties with any or all aspects of speech and language - from moving the muscles which control speech, to the ability to understand or use language at all. Such difficulties can have devastating effect on their educational progress and social relationships."

www.artie.com
"A cartoon studio, with over 15,000 FREE animated GIFs, all original, including a dancing cartoon alphabet, over 1,100 dancing names, patriotic cartoons, 1,200 funny e-greeting cards and more! Get into our art gallery, ClickMedia, funny Flash cartoons, and the mysterious Abnormal Toons!"

www.awesomeclipartforkids.com
Provides links to other websites which have lots of clipart and pictures that are free to download.

www.becta.org.uk/cap
The Communication Aids Project (CAP) provides funding for ICT equipment for pupils who have significant communication difficulties.

www.bobath.org.uk/
"The Bobath Centre is a non-profit making organisation that specialises in the treatment of cerebral palsy and acquired neurological conditions in children & adults, the training of postgraduate therapists and doctors in the Bobath approach, and carries out research into these conditions and the ways of mitigating their effects."

www.cafamily.org.uk/
"Contact a Family knows because each year thousands of families turn to us for reliable support and advice. Their experiences inform everything we do. We have also amassed information on over 1,000 rare syndromes and rare disorders and can often put families in touch with each other."

http://callcentre.education.ed.ac.uk
"The CALL Centre (Communication Aids for Language and Learning) provides specialist expertise in technology for children who have speech, communication and/or writing difficulties, in schools across Scotland.
In the website you will find information, guidance and resources on how Information and Communication Technology (ICT) can make a major impact on the education of children and people with disabilities or special educational and communication needs."

www.clipart.co.uk
Here you'll find thousands of clip art images most are totally FREE to do with as you please.

http://clipart.disneysites.com
A website with lots of free clipart of Disney characters.

www.communicationsforum.co.uk
"This site is designed to promote awareness and knowledge of communication impairment, and to be the UK's national information resource for people with communication impairment, their carers and service providers."

www.communciationmatters.org.uk
"Communication Matters is a UK national voluntary organisation of members concerned with the Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) needs of people with complex communication needs.
Communication Matters is also known as ISAAC (UK) - the UK Chapter of the International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (ISAAC)"

www.freefoto.com/index.jsp
FreeFoto.com is the largest collection of free photographs for private non-commercial use on the Internet. The comprehensive, yet easy to navigate site features 50 main sections with over 1600 sub headings. The photographs are free to private non-commercial users and for sale to other users.

www.granadalearning.com/special_needs/
"The SEMERC Information Service Online has a massive core of information which has been gathered together in an easily accessed Library of Resources. The alphabetical Library Indexes bring together information about available Resources, Suppliers, Conditions and Organisations. The many ways in which special needs can be met are covered by Focus articles on particular topics with hundreds of information pages all linked to the Library Indexes.
We will keep you up to date with developments in special needs through our News Pages. The Events Diary gives you details of conferences, exhibitions, courses and meetings about special needs. From time to time we will be looking more closely at one topic in a series of Focus articles".

www.inclusive.co.uk
Contains information on lots of software and equipment for children with disabilities.

www.isaac-online.org
The website for the International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication. It contains lots of information about AAC world-wide.

www.lburkhart.com
A website crammed with ideas for making toys and technology accessible to children with disabilities. Also lots of ideas for using AAC simply.

www.meru.org.uk
"MERU concentrates on designing and manufacturing a variety of bespoke equipment and devices to meet the individual needs of disabled children. We do this when there is no commercially available alternative."

www.psychology.stir.ac.uk/AAC
"In 1989 the Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Research Unit was established at the University of Stirling. It is an interdisciplinary team involving speech and language therapists, psychologists, sociologists and linguists. Although our work was originally concerned with the communication of people with cerebral palsy, we are now involved with people with different disabilities, both congenital and acquired."

www.rcslt.org
"The Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (RCSLT) is the professional body of and for speech and language therapists (SLTs) in the United Kingdom and Ireland."

www.rnib.org.uk
The website of the Royal National Institute for the Blind.

www.scope.org.uk
Scope focus is people with cerebral palsy.

www.talkingpoint.org.uk
Talking Point contains information about speech, language and communication difficulties in children. Talking Point was developed by I CAN, RCSLT and Afasic.

www.1voice.info
1 Voice takes a family and social perspective on communication and recognises the great need for adult role models to inspire children and families alike. 1 Voice promotes families supporting each other to overcome the isolation that being unable to speak can bring.

www.pediatricservices.com/prof/prof-30.htm (yaack)
"Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Connecting Young Kids (YAACK) is a website that covers issues related to AAC and young children. Its purpose is to provide information and guidance to families, teachers, speech/language pathologists and anyone else who is involved with a child with special communication needs."

Discussion Groups

ACOLUG
Augmentative Communication On-Line Users Group (ACOLUG) is a LISTSERV (e-mail discussion forum) created for the exchange of ideas, information and experiences on augmentative communication by people from all over the world. By using e-mail, people who use augmentative communication and their friends and families can discuss issues related to augmentative communication, such as equipment, funding, learning techniques and support.

CAP: access to CAP chat from the CAP website.
http://cap.becta.org.uk/

PACT: A discussion forum related to DynaVox Ltd equipment.
PACT-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

National Grid for Learning Forums

cmn.net	For professionals involved in the delivery of education to learners with medical conditions
easyspeak	For exchanging ideas about the education of young people with language and communication difficulties
EBD-forum	A forum for discussing issues relating to the education of pupils with emotional and behavioural difficulties
high-ability	A forum for discussing issues relating to the education of able children
index-inclusion	For users of Index for Inclusion materials
pd-net	For professionals involved in the education of children with physical and neurological disabilities and complex medical needs
pru-talk	A mailing list for members of staff within a maintained Pupil Referral Unit (PRU). It is a closed list for the exchange of views, information and advice
senco-forum	For discussing issues relating to the work of SENCOs
SENIT	For those with a particular interest in finding out about IT solutions to support pupils
SLD-forum	For professionals involved in the education of learners with severe, profound and multiple learning difficulties
speech-recognition	For those who wish to share practical advice about the use and potential for speech recognition in educational settings
ToD	For teachers of the deaf and associated professionals involved in teaching deaf learners in schools
VI-Forum	For those with an interest in teaching students with visual impairments

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