

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY RESOURCE GUIDE: **ORAL COMMUNICATION/LANGUAGE**

What is available to support oral communication/language? (SCANNING)

Communication is used throughout every class during the day. We use a student's communication to evaluate their knowledge, as well as to make sure they are safe and as fully involved in their education as they can be. Communication and language skills lend themselves to a wide spectrum of options from low tech to high tech. They can have voice output or be static pictures. Scanning is included on this sheet as it is primarily used for students to make choices and communicate when they cannot directly access a system physically. Recognize that alternative and augmentative communication pertains to both the hardware and the language system.

What types of students might benefit?

Some students who may benefit include those who are non-verbal, those with issues affecting volume and intelligibility of speech, those with cognitive issues, and even students with behavioral needs. Decisions about communication should involve a whole team approach as considerations need to be made regarding many areas: Vision, Hearing, Language, Cognition, Physical Access, and more.

How does it help?

Tools for language and communication can support expression of wants, needs, social interaction, knowledge. Supports can also help to augment cognition, behavior plans, and instruction. Some students who are verbal benefit from supports to help them organize their thoughts, sequence what they want to communicate, and more.

Who can be a support on your team?

Speech Pathologist, BCBA, IEP team, Student, Parent.

Oral Communication/Language skills to consider:

- Gain attention of peers/adults within environment
- Express wants/needs
- Request assistance as needed
- Provide appropriate greetings
- Inform others
- Request clarification
- Participate in collaborative conversations
- Terminate conversation
- Ask and answer questions
- Retell stories
- Describe
- Define
- Sequence
- Explain
- Summarize
- Compare and contrast

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- Persuade
- Give oral presentations

Common Classroom Tools:

- Books
- Computer/tablet/word processor
- Document camera
- Interactive Whiteboard
- Manipulatives
- Non-verbal communication (gestures and body language)
- Verbal communication
- Writing materials

Common Accommodations/Modifications/Strategies:

- Accept alternative responses (i.e. shortened, single word, less grammatically correct) Accept descriptive responses
- Additional response time
- Aided language stimulation
- Engineering the environment
- Interpreter
- Model use of communication device
- Provide questions ahead of time
- Repetition of spoken answers
- Teacher modeling
- Use 'Total Communication'
- Verbal prompts
- Video modeling
- Visual supports

Assistive Technology Solutions:

- Speech amplification systems
- Communication representation (objects, pictures, symbols, tactile, letters, words)
Augmentative & Alternative Communication (AAC) solutions
 - sign language / gestures
 - communication books/boards/wallets/vests
 - Picture Exchange Communication Systems
 - voice Output Communication Aids
 - digitized / synthesized
 - multi-level
 - static / dynamic display
 - computer/tablet app-based
- Device, Software or App

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- computer
- tablet
- Alternate access/accessibility features
 - adapted pointers
 - alternative mice
 - alternative keyboards
 - switch access
 - screen readers
 - magnifiers
- Graphic organizers
- Digital recorders

Products mentioned below are **examples** of available items. Multiple softwares and hardwares are available through each of these companies, and more exist beyond this list. A listing in this guide is not an endorsement or suggestion for purchase. Consideration of the tool should be individualized to each student. **With communication devices, please make sure the speech pathologist is involved in the decision making process for best evaluation and individualized fit.**

Examples



PRC
<https://www.prentrom.com/>



Satillo
<https://saltillo.com/>



Tobii-Dynavox
<https://www.tobiidynavox.com/en-us/>



Assistive Ware
<https://www.assistiveware.com/>



Grid Communicator
<https://thinksmartbox.com/>



Jabbla
<http://www.jabbla.com/>



SpeakForYourself
<https://www.speakforyourself.org/>



Coughdrop
<https://www.mycoughdrop.com/>



LoganTech
<https://logantech.com/>



GoTalk
<https://www.attainmentcompany.com/>

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SymbolStix
<https://www.n2y.com>



Boardmaker
<https://goboardmaker.com/>



Minspeak
<https://minspeak.com/>



Recordable Switches
<https://www.ablenetinc.com/>



PECS - Picture Exchange Core
<https://pecsusa.com/>



Core Vocabulary Exchange System
<https://www.northernspeech.com/cves>



Sonivox Voice Amplifier
<http://www.griffinlab.com/>



Forbes AAC
<https://www.forbesaac.com/>



AAC Live - Remote Consulting
<https://www.aaclivenow.com/>



Realize Language
<https://realizelanguage.com/info/>



International Society for AAC
<https://www.isaac-online.org/english/home/>



ASHA - SIG 12
<https://www.asha.org/sig/12/>