

Survey on speech-language therapists' perceptions of their current practices in augmentative and alternative communication

Biographical Information

Q1. Are you a Speech-Language Pathologist?

Yes

No

Q2. Are you registered with the HPCSA?

Yes

No

Q3. Do you currently provide augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) services?

Yes

No

Q4. In what age range do you fall?

20-25 years

26-30 years

31-40 years

41-50 years

51-60 years

Above 60 years

Q5. What is your gender?

Male

Female

Q6. What is your home language?

English
Afrikaans
isiNdbele
isiXhosa
isiZulu
Sepedi
Sesotho
Setswana
siSwati
Tshivenda
Xsitsonga

Other, please specify

Q7. Have you completed your Master's in AAC?

Yes
No

Q8. In what year did you obtain a Master's degree?

Please specify which year you obtained your MAAC, e.g. 2010

Q9. How many years' experience do you have in implementing AAC?

Less than 1 year
Between 1 and 2 years
Between 3 and 5 years
Between 6 and 10 years
More than 10 years

Q10. Have you attended any additional courses/workshops/in-service training in AAC other than a MAAC?

Yes
No

Q11. If yes, please indicate in what form this additional training took place :

Courses and Workshops
Web-based training
In-house training

Q12. Which Province do you currently work in?

Eastern Cape
Free State
Gauteng
KwaZulu-Natal
Limpopo
Mpumalanga
Northern Cape
North West
Western Cape

Q13. What is your current work setting?

(You may select more than one option)

Private Hospital
Public Hospital
Rehabilitation Centre
Public School
Private School
Private Practice
University

Other, please specify:

Q14. In which language/s do you provide AAC therapy?

English
Afrikaans
isiNdbele
isiXhosa
isiZulu
Sepedi
Sesotho
Setswana
siSwati
Tshivenda
Xsitsonga

Other, please specify

Q15. In the past year, how many individuals have you provided AAC-related services to?

None

1-5

6-10

11-15

16-20

More than 20

Assessment in AAC

Q16. Do you conduct assessments on individuals with little or no functional speech who require AAC?

Yes

No

Q17. What is your current assessment approach for individuals who require AAC?

Norm referenced / Standardized tests.

Functional assessments.

Authentic assessments (observations in natural setting).

A combination of the above.

Q18. Indicate whether your caseload is primarily:

Children

Adults

Equal caseload of both

Q19. How frequently do you consider the following background information of the individual with little or no functional speech (LNFS), during an AAC assessment?

	Never	Sometimes	Fairly often	Most of the time	Always					
0	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100

Demographics (including economic status)

Medical history

Educational history

Gross motor skills

Fine motor skills

Cognitive skills

Sensory skills

Speech skills

Receptive language skills

Expressive language skills

Social and emotional skills: Including elements such as behaviour regulation, ability to engage appropriately with different people (strangers, peers, family etc.)

Q20. According to your primary caseload, how important are the following areas for you to include in an AAC assessment?

Not important			Sometimes important	Fairly important			Important most of the time	Always important		
0	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100

Basic communication: Communicating of basic needs

Representational skills:

Ability to match various symbol levels (most concrete to most abstract) to appropriate referent

Choice making:

Individual's ability to make meaningful choices from alternative options provided

Sorting:

Ability to categorize various representations, sort into groups/classes

Cause and effect:

Understanding that certain behaviours can have an influence on the immediate environment

Imitation:

Individual's ability to imitate tasks of increasing complexity (e.g. bodily actions - single object actions - multiple step imitations)

Daily routines:

Including direct assessment of activities which occur daily in individual with LNFS's life

Preferences of individual with LNFS:

What do they want to communicate, as well as how they would prefer to do so

Preferences of family and significant others:

What do they want individual with LNFS to communicate, as well as how they would prefer it to be communicated

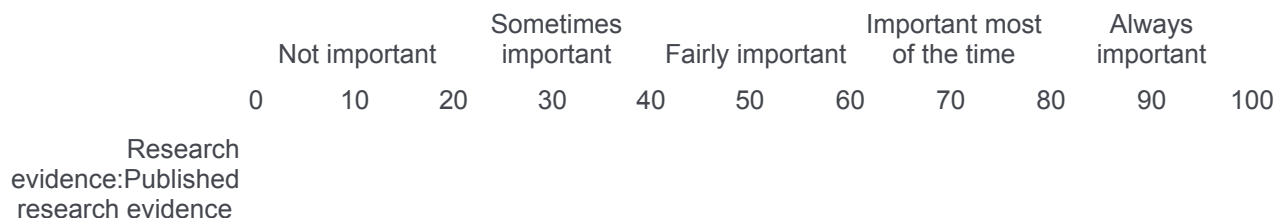
Communication environments:

Including a record of communication situations in which the person with LNFS find themselves, as well as which potential communication partners they may have

Device trials:

Trials various communication devices to assess the most appropriate options

Q23. What informs your AAC assessment approach?



Clinical expertise:

The views of other
professionals

**Personal clinical
expertise:**

Familiar
theory/approach that
has worked for you
before

Websites:

Including google
searches

**Available
resources:**

Resources readily
available to you as
clinician (e.g. cd's,
web resources,
paper-based
resources, etc)

Intervention in AAC

Q24. Do you provide AAC intervention?

Yes

No

Q25. For which of the following diagnoses do you frequently recommend AAC? Select all that apply.

Aphasia

Autism Spectrum Disorder

Developmental Apraxia of Speech

Developmental Disabilities

Motor Neuron Disease

Temporary users of AAC (e.g. Intensive Care Unit patients)

Traumatic Brain Injury

Other, please specify:

Q26. Rate how each of the following informs your intervention approach:

	Not Important		Sometimes important		Fairly important		Important most of the time		Always important		
	0	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100
Research evidence: Published research evidence											
Clinical expertise: The views of other professionals											
Personal clinical expertise: Familiar theory/approach that has worked for you before											
Websites: Including google searches											
Available resources: Resources readily available to you as clinician											

Q27. When implementing AAC, do you work in a team?

Yes

No

Q28. If yes, please specify who forms part of the team involved in AAC intervention:

Doctors

Family members

Person who uses AAC

Nurses

Occupational Therapists

Physiotherapists

Social Workers

Teachers

Other, please specify:

Q29. Do you refer individuals who need AAC to other professionals?

Yes

No

Q30. To which other professionals do you refer?

Q31. Rate the importance of consultation with the individual who uses AAC, within the intervention process?

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100

Not at all Important =
0

Extremely important
= 100

Q32.

Rate the importance of active involvement of family members or significant others in the AAC intervention process (i.e. determining needs, decision making and carryover of AAC skills etc).

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100

Not at all Important =
0

Extremely important
= 100

Q33.

What are some of the challenges you are faced with in AAC intervention?

	Never	Sometimes	Fairly often	Most of the time	Always					
0	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100

- **Time** constraints

- **Funding** including private, medical aid and government
- **Staying current** in developments of AAC
- **Collaboration** with other team members
- **Slow progress** by individual using AAC
- **Availability** of AAC devices
- **Low expectations** for individual who uses AAC

Q34. Are there any other challenges you are faced with in AAC intervention? If so, please specify:

Q35. Which AAC system(s) do you primarily recommend?

Unaided AAC (referring to methods of expression that do not use external items, e.g. gestures, facial expressions, etc.)

Aided AAC (referring to methods of expression that use external items, e.g. communication boards, speech generating devices, etc.)

A combination of both unaided and aided AAC.

Q36. How often do you recommend the following forms of unaided AAC?

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Most of the time	Always
Facial Expressions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Natural Gestures	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Vocalizations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Key Word Signing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Signs from Tiny Handz Programme	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
South African Sign Language	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Makaton	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q37. Do you recommend any other forms of unaided AAC? If so please specify which form and how often you recommend it:

Q38. Your recommendations regarding Aided AAC interventions are:

(You may select more than one option)

Non-electronic AAC system (e.g. communication board)

Electronic Dedicated AAC devices (e.g. GoTalk™)

Electronic Non-dedicated AAC system (e.g. Tablet with AAC device)

Q39. Which type of **non-electronic AAC system** do you usually recommend to individuals who require AAC?

Communication Boards

Communication Books

Communication Passports

Communication Schedules

Other, please specify:

Q40. Please indicate how frequently clients use **non-electronic AAC systems** within

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Most of the time	Always
the therapy session.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
outside the therapy session (i.e. real communication scenarios).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q40. List the **electronic dedicated AAC devices** you usually recommend to individuals that require AAC (e.g. GoTalk+4™, BIGmack)?

Q41. Please indicate how frequently clients use **electronic, dedicated AAC devices**

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Most of the time	Always
within the Therapy session	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
outside the therapy session (i.e. real life communication scenarios)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q42. List the **electronic non-dedicated AAC systems** you usually recommend to individual with LNFS (e.g. Windows-based tablet with Grid2 Communication software, Ipad with TaptoTalk application)?

Q43. Select which operation systems the non-dedicated electronic AAC systems that you recommend run on:

iOS (operating system of iPads, iPhones and iPods)

Android

Windows

Q44. List the AAC applications (iOS or android-based) that you recommend to individuals who require AAC?

Q45. Indicate how frequently clients use **electronic non-dedicated AAC systems**

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Most of the time	Always
within the therapy session.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
outside the therapy session (i.e. real life communication scenarios).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q46. Rate the frequency of the following factors influencing the selection of applications for an **electronic non-dedicated AAC systems**?

	Not at all	Very little	Fairly important	Very much so
The accessibility of the application (i.e. how easily one can get access to the application).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The affordability of the application.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Previous clinical experience with the application.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Not at all	Very little	Fairly important	Very much so
Feature mapping , process whereby person's, who requires AAC, strengths; abilities and needs are matched to available tools.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The pragmatic functions offered by the application.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Iconicity of symbols used in application.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Applications ability to support language development .	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Application allows for digital recordings .	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Application has synthetic voice .	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Application is available in other languages .	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ease of programming the application.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ease of operating the application.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ease of training significant others in the use of the application.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Application is based on published research .	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q47. Which Windows-based software do you use/recommend for individuals who require AAC?

Q48. Regarding all the electronic aided AAC systems you use, how frequently do you use the following display formats?

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Most of the time	Always
Static/fixed displays (refers to format where symbols stay in a fixed format)?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dynamic displays (typically generate electronically produced visual symbols that, when pressed, change the set of selections that is displayed)?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Hybrid/mixed displays (display has both static and dynamic elements to it)?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Visual scene displays (visual scene displays present and entire picture or scene: for example, a school classroom, park, or person)?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Grid displays:(refers to the grouping of symbols according to categories such as people, places, feelings etc)?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q49. How do you primarily determine vocabulary for a specific AAC device?

Ecological/environmental inventories/routines (this is a list of identified communication demands and opportunities within the individual with LNFS's environment).

List of words that individual with LNFS attempts to communicate.

Word lists of typically developing peers.

Context specific conversations.

Family preferences.

Core vocabulary lists

Preferences of individuals who use AAC

Other, please specify:

Q50. What is the primary focus of initial vocabulary selection for a person who requires AAC?

Core Vocabulary (i.e. words used frequently and in a variety of situations, e.g. I, have, want, etc).

Fringe Vocabulary (i.e. words which are more situation specific, e.g. funny, park, evaporation, etc).

Both

Q51. How do you organise your vocabulary? Primarily:

Activity based

Semantic categories

Parts of speech organisation (e.g. nouns, verbs, pronouns, etc)

Category based (e.g. food page, clothing page, etc)

Alphabetical organization

Other, please specify:

Q52. When creating a display, how often do you make sure to include:

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Most of the Time	Always
Subject (I, Me, You)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Actions (Verbs, Events)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Descriptors (Adjectives)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Nouns (People, Objects)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Emotional responses (Feelings)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pronouns (He, she, we, prepositions, etc)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Aided Symbols

Q53. How frequently do you recommend the following aided symbols?

	Frequency of recommendation				
	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Most of the time	Always
Objects	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tangible Symbols	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Colour Photographs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Black and White Photographs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Picture Communication Symbols (PCS)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Widget	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Blissymbols	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Minspeak	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Makaton	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
SymbolStix	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q54. How often are the following aspects targeted by providing aided AAC symbols?

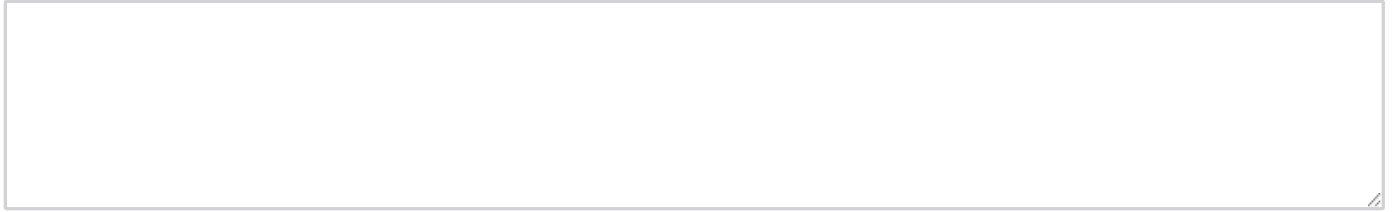
	Never	Rarely	Sometime	Most of the time	All of the time
Support for expressive language .	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Never	Rarely	Sometime	Most of the time	All of the time
Support for receptive language .	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Organizational and transitional schedules.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To improve interpersonal communication .	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To aid literacy learning .	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q55. How often do the following factors influence your recommendations of aided AAC symbols?

	Never	Sometimes	Fairly often	Most of the Time	Always
Access to social media (i.e. Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp, etc.).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Published research evidence on aided symbol.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Previous clinical experience .	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The person who uses AAC skills .	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Peer recommendations.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Family views.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Availability of resource.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Learnability - easy to learn.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q56. Are there any other factors that influence your recommendation of Aided AAC symbols? If so please specify as well as how often these factors influence your recommendation:



Q60. Kindly provide your email address. This will only be used to email your Takelot voucher should you be one of the first 25 to complete the survey. Thank you

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