NO TECH? NO PROBLEM!

Low Tech Communication Strategies

"TOOLISHNESS IS FOOLISHNESS"

http://fno.org
http://www.jerryking.com

"We make sure every
students has every
possible new tool!"

Stephanie Soule, M.S., CCC-SLP, ATP

Communication Therapist

Cotting School

What does Low Tech mean?

- Easy to make

- Easy to use

- Cheap

- (Mostly) Unplugged

General Considerations

Level of individual's physical functioning

Progressive nature of disability over time

Access method (direct selection, scanning, eye gaze)

Portability

Durability

Integration/consistency with other communication systems…Is it a secondary to a high tech device?

General Considerations

Expressive, receptive, social language skills

Cognitive skills

Ability to recognize symbols *

Literacy skills

Level of support needed to use a communication system

Using Symbols

"Not all students need symbol supports. Just because you are an AAC user does not mean symbol supports are necessary when beginning to read.

The current research in AAC suggests we <u>don't</u> have to follow
object + photo + symbol heirarchy."

-Pati King DeBaun, 2006

Using Symbols

"Things <u>do not</u> need to be taught in a hierarchy. You can pair things together. Just as children are able to say words, oftentimes they will say words before they necessarily use them for meaning. You can pair those items together, but you do not have to teach the symbol before the child can use it to communicate. They will learn to use it to communicate as they are being taught."

-Pati King DeBaun

Using Symbols

Symbols should be <u>available</u> and <u>accessible</u> for children.

In the natural environment as much as possible

If not, they will not be used.

www.bystephanielynn.com

Educatoressentials.com

Using Symbols

Fading symbols and using text as early as possible encourages

literacy skills

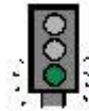"Symbols are for communication.   Text is for reading."

-Karen Erikson

(2015)

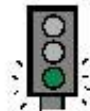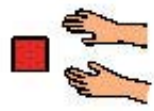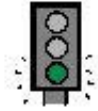At school, we sometimes line up. We line up to go to the gym, to go to the library, and to go out to recess. Sometimes my friends and I get excited whe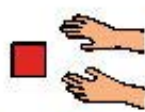n we line up, because we're going someplace fun, l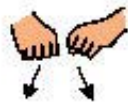ike out to recess. It is okay to get excited, but it is important to try to walk to the line. Running can cause accidents, and my friends or I could get hurt. I will try to walk to the line.
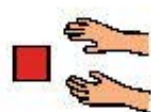
More considerations...

Efficient

Is it easy to access? How will the student access it?

Consistent

Is it consistently available?   Does the student have a consistent method to use it?   Do others respond to it in a consistent manner? Is is facilitated in the same way everytime?

Reliable

Can it be relied on? Is the student's ability to use it reliable?

No matter the system...

There must be RESPECT and VALUE

for the form of communication in order

for it to be successful.

Getting Started

Look at the daily routine and for various opportunities to communicate.   Keep a log for 1 full week.

"There's More to Life Than Cookies"

(*Light & Drager, 2007*)

Produce an age appropriate vocabulary list:

Brainstorm Core & Fringe vocabulary

Core vs. Fringe Vocabulary

85% of spoken language in English is comprised of 250-350 wor

This is GREAT news for our AAC users!

Core Vocabulary:
- applies across setting
- primarily pronouns, verbs, descriptors
- very few nouns
- consistent location of vocabulary

Fringe Vocabulary:
- specific to a task or activity
- and everything else!

DLM™ First Forty Core Words

I	like	not	want
help	it	more	different
who	she	you	he
where	up	on	in
me	make	get	look
what	need	are	is
some	put	all	this
don't	that	go	do
when	finished	can	here
open	turn	stop	over

What form will it take?

Yes/No Systems

Communication books

Picture Exchange

Conversation books

Topic Boards

Core & Fringe Language Boards

Choice Boards

Letter/Spelling Board

How will they access it?

Writing

Direct Selection

Partner-Assisted Scanning

Eye Gaze

Morse Code or Braille

Where does it have to go?
(hint: Everywhere)

Bathtub/Bathroom

Pool

Sandbox

Bedtime

Horseback riding

Mealtimes

niederfamily.blogspot.com/

Around Unfamiliar partners

Yes/No

YES   NO

http://dlmpd.com/emergent-writing/

Writing/Spelling

Paper/pen

Dry erase board

Magna Doodle

Boogie Board

Letter boards

Direct Selection

Direct Selection

Direct Selection

http://vivienfieldnz.blog.co.nz

Teacherspayteachers.com

Direct Selection

Direct Selection

Direct Selection

Eye Gaze
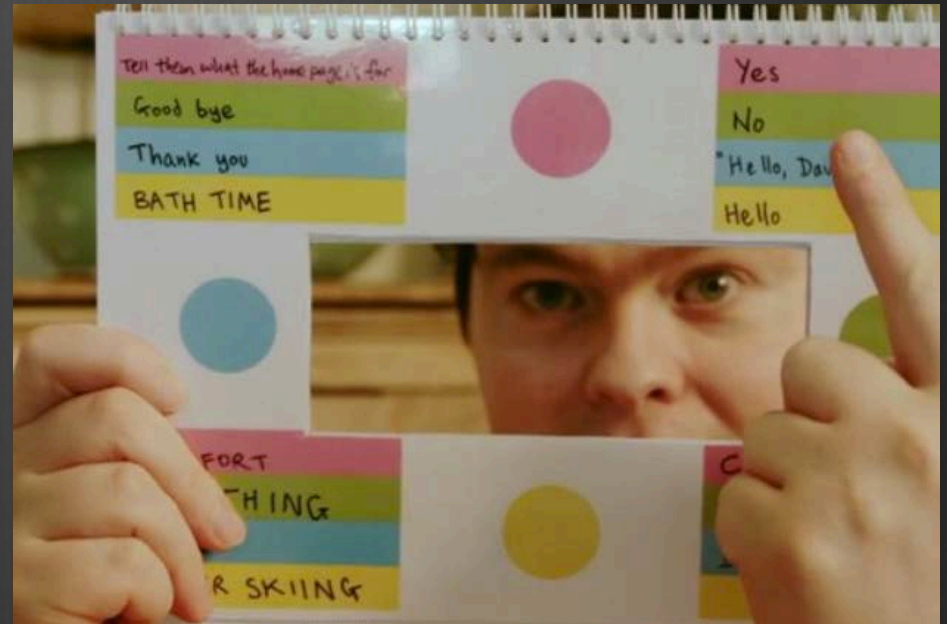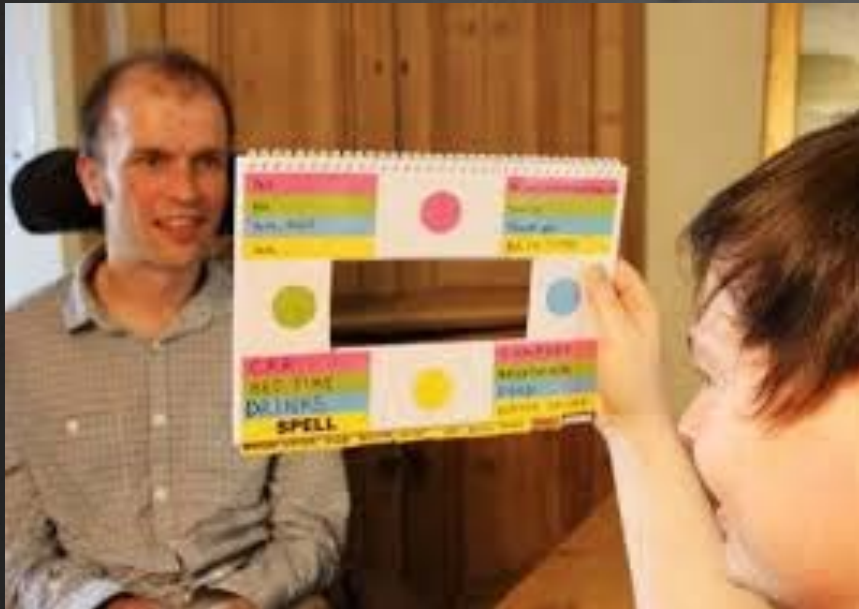
Speakbook.org

Eye Gaze

http://www.med.unc.edu/ahs/clds
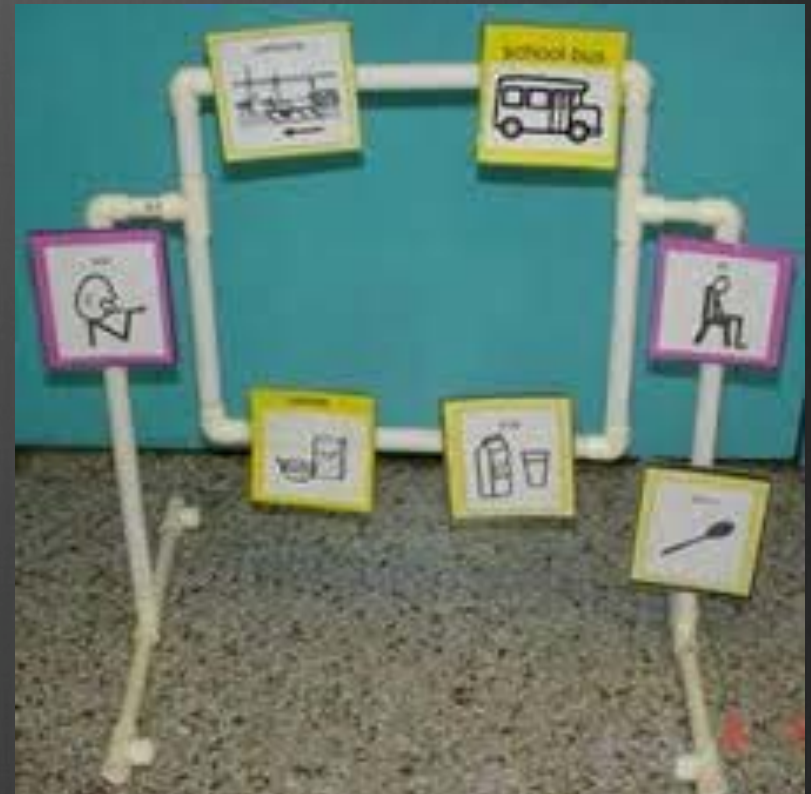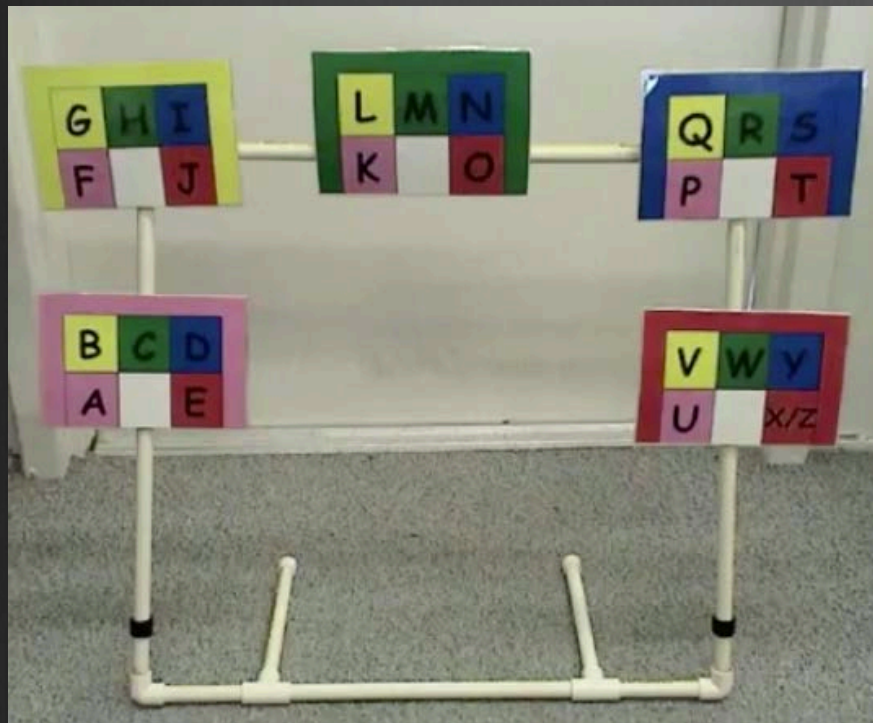
Eye gaze

Eye gaze

Eye gaze

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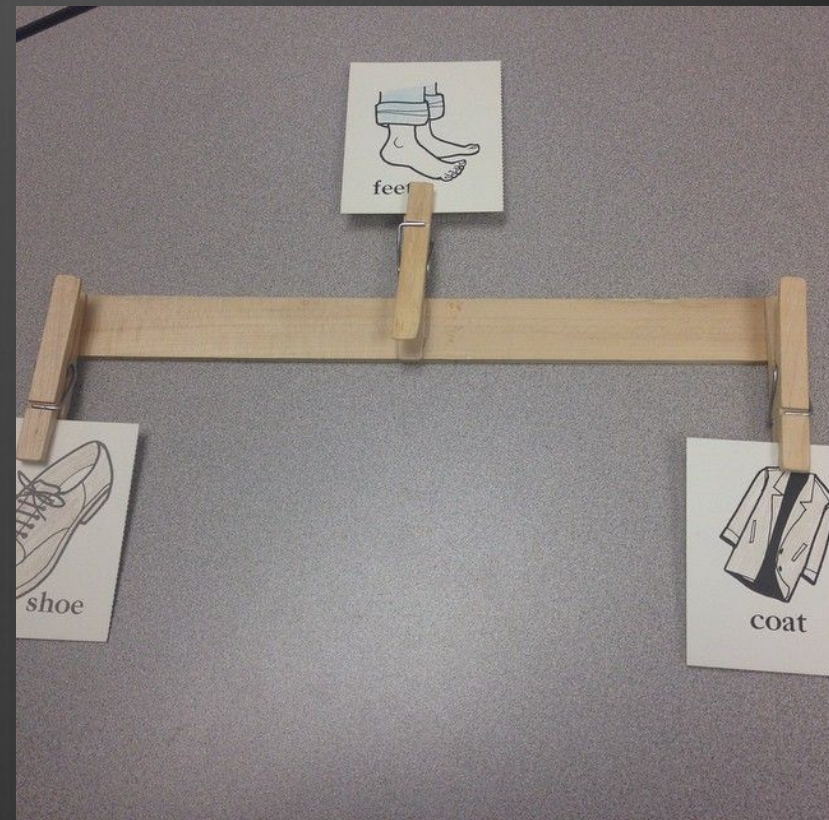
Eye gaze

Partner Assisted Scanning

Established clear, reliable Yes/No Response

1st Yes indicates the row,
2nd Yes indicates the letter or item in that row.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pLb6-Oi3uR0

Partner Assisted Scanning

Directions

When you can't figure out what I need, you can ask me questions <u>in order</u> so I can tell you how to help me. Please read the choices in order. When I say yes, turn to the page and read me those choices in order.

Start with the BLUE page on the other side. →

1. something hurts/ positioning
2. You don't understand
3. communication device
4. please check my equipment
5. something with the laptop
6. I don't understand
7. Food and Drink
8. Something Else
9. DISNEY

Melissa Mulvey, M.S, CCC-SLP, APT

Voice Output

Big Mac By AbleNet

Chipper By Adaptivation

Go Talk Button By Attainment

Enabling Devices

Multi-Message QuickTalker5 by Ablenet

Voice Output

Go Talk

Logan Proxtalker

…and the list goes on and on...

Picture Symbols Sources

Boardmaker and Boardmaker Online from Mayer-Johnson

Matrix Maker from Inclusive Technologies

Search "free picture communication symbols" = wealth of resourc

A word on
Aided Language Stimulation

Teaching approach that models use of the AAC system by using
the system in the same way as the desired outcome.

AKA: What makes this all work!

Really hard to learn French if you've never been around anyone speaking French.

Create a script that you are comfortable with

Model the language with the visuals

High tech, Low Tech, or No Tech…they all require A.L.S

This is just a start...

Be where the communication is.

Be creative.

Try it out!

Have fun!