



**Communication Matters** is a UK-wide charity which supports all people with communication difficulties who need Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) technology and strategies to help them communicate more easily. Our aims are to:

- Increase public awareness, understanding and knowledge of the needs of people with complex communication needs
- Provide a forum for the exchange of information and ideas about AAC
- Promote and support research into AAC
- Empower people with complex communication needs in society



[www.communicationmatters.org.uk](http://www.communicationmatters.org.uk)

admin@communicationmatters.org.uk

Helpline: 0845 456 8211

## COMMUNICATION MATTERS

Catchpell House  
Carpet Lane  
Edinburgh  
EH6 6SP



Communication Matters is the working name of ISAAC (UK)

Registered charity no. 327500

Company registered in England & Wales no. 01965474

Registered address:

Lawford House, Leacroft, Staines, Middx TW18 4NN



# Research *into* Augmentative *and* Alternative Communication



## Communication Needs



*“Just because I can’t talk doesn’t mean I’ve got nothing to say...”*

Some children and adults find communication difficult. This might be because they cannot speak clearly or they find it hard to understand what is being said to them. There can be many reasons why this might be the case, for example cerebral palsy, autism spectrum disorder, stroke or head injury.

Support for communication, such as signing, picture charts and electronic “speaking” aids can help people to express themselves, to communicate with those around them and to be understood. These communication systems are known as Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC).

## AAC Evidence Base Project



Communication Matters is leading a groundbreaking research project that will provide fundamental information about the need for AAC and the provision of AAC that can be used to improve services across the UK. The online AAC Evidence Base will make current knowledge about research and best practice available to everyone. Communication Matters will set up a Research Involvement Network that will promote the involvement of people who use AAC in research.

The project is funded by the National Lottery through Big Lottery Fund and will run for three years (2010-2013). Communication Matters is working with three research partners: the University of Sheffield, Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and Manchester Metropolitan University.

## How can I get involved in AAC research?



The Research Involvement Network aims to enable people who use AAC, and their families and carers, to become involved in and influence research.

You can help to ensure that future AAC research will be relevant to the people who can benefit from it most, by sharing your knowledge and experience of AAC.

There are also opportunities for professionals, such as speech & language therapists, carers and teachers to become involved in AAC research.

To find out more please contact the Research Manager:

[katieholmes@communicationmatters.org.uk](mailto:katieholmes@communicationmatters.org.uk)