

WHAT IS A COMMUNICATION AID

<https://communicationmatters.org.uk/research/factsheets/what-is-a-communication-aid/>

What is a communication aid?

A communication aid helps you to communicate with people around you.

Communication aids are also called **AAC devices or AAC systems**.

AAC = Augmentative and Alternative Communication

AAC is used to mean many different ways to help someone communicate. It could be simple things like pointing, signing, writing or drawing. It could also be using a special device like a computer that 'speaks' words for you.

There are two main types of AAC system:

- **Unaided communication** does not use equipment.

People use body language, gesture, sounds or signing.

- **Aided communication** uses equipment. This could be:
 - **low-tech** – this could be a book of pictures that you can point to or an alphabet chart to spell out words

- [hi-tech](#) – this could be a complicated computer system that can speak aloud or a simple button that has one message

People need to find the right ACC system for them.

It's best to get help and advice from a professional such as a speech and language therapist.

People will need training so that they can make the best use of the AAC system that they have chosen.

Read our factsheets

1. [The right communication aid?](#)
2. [Funding for communication aids](#)

Useful links:

- [UK AAC assessment services](#)
- [Suppliers of AAC equipment](#)
- [Companies that supply AAC equipment](#)
- [SpeechBubble website](#)