



Communication Matters – Research Matters: an AAC Evidence Base

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Project outcomes

- Increase awareness of the need for AAC
- Increase understanding of current AAC provision
- **Improved access to evidence about AAC**
- **Building research capacity**



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Improved access to evidence about AAC - research questions

1. What type of information is required in the AAC evidence base?
2. In what formats should information be available to support wider access?



Methodology

- Participatory Action Research
- Co-researcher
- Stakeholder involvement
- Reflective process



AAC Evidence Base website – Focus Groups



Medical professionals



Charities



People who use AAC



Personal assistants



Researchers



Family members



Education professionals



Speech & language
professionals



Companies



Key themes - content

- A glossary
- User experiences
- Technical specifications of AAC systems & devices
- Decision-making studies
- Service provision, funding & policy studies
- Published case stories
- Fact sheets
- Discussion forum



Peer-reviewed articles

- A bibliography of AAC articles
- Links to some articles
- Working with publishers to secure more links
- Plain English summaries



www.AACknowledge.org.uk



“Wow, it is great! Love the information and accessibility.”

“A terrific new AAC resource”

“A great resource for anyone interested in AAC”

“Lots of good things on the Evidence Base already. Hoping our own project can contribute one day.”



AACKnowledge

the AAC evidence base

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Published Evidence

- View Publications
 - list by type/year
 - list by author
 - list MeSH keywords

Turn Point symbols off

Search by Abbreviation

use tags to search topics

AAC access & equipment
 acquired adults
 advocacy aided
 communication
 ALS aphasia apraxia
 Asperger's aspirations
 assessment autism
 (ASD) brain injury
 (TBI) brain tumour
 CCN cerebral
 palsy (CP) charities
 children
 communication
 difficulties congenital

Welcome to AACKnowledge, the AAC Evidence Base



This website is about communication methods and aids that can be used by people who have little or no clear speech. These methods are called **Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC)**. If you're new to AAC, we suggest you use the **tabs** at the top to find lots of information in easy to read formats, supported by **useful links and definitions** to give you a bit more information.

ARE YOU NEW TO AAC? FIND MORE HELP HERE

Find what you're looking for

If you're familiar with AAC and understand a lot of the language, you may prefer to find evidence and information using **Published Evidence** (top left) or **topic menus** (right side). You can use the **tabs at the top** for information grouped by type rather than topic, or the **tagcloud on the left**. You can also just **search** the site for specific words and phrases.

Find help on how to use the site

[Search options](#)

About the site

To find out about how this online, accessible AAC evidence base has been developed, read about the **AAC Evidence Base research project**.

About Communication Matters research

What are people saying?

Find out on the **Communication Matters AAC Forum**

Aspirations

- this information relates to ...
 - employment
 - role models
 - advocacy
 - outcomes

Types of Support

- this information relates to ...
 - assessment
 - therapy
 - education
 - training

Access and Equipment

- this information relates to ...
 - aac systems
 - access methods
 - ace-centre-SpeechBubble

Reports and Legislation

- this information relates to ...
 - funding
 - government
 - charities
 - research reports
 - systematic reviews

R & D

Font



Text



Colours



Hide





Looking forward

- Visit the site & give us your feedback
- Developing more content
- Building links with publishers
- Review at end of first year



Building research capacity

- The role of the Independent Research Panel
- The case study template
- The Research Involvement Network



The Independent Research Panel

- Stakeholder representation
- Oversight of AAC Evidence Base project
- Advice and guidance on research strategy and activities



The case study template - aims

- To capture evidence from practice
- To build a bigger picture
- To support research into AAC

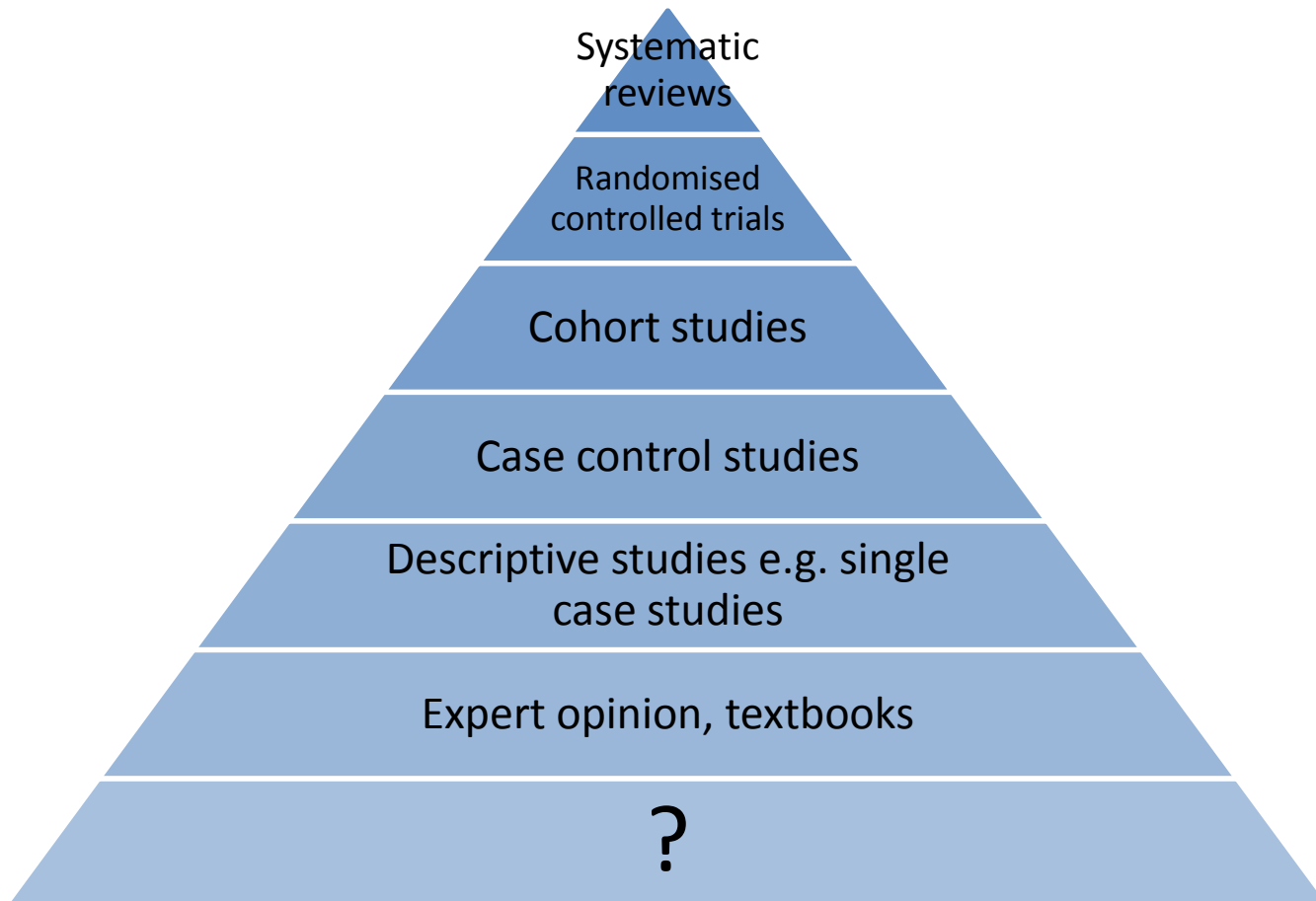


Why does this matter?





Levels of Evidence





Key features

- Starting point - Pennington et al (2007)
- Stakeholder involvement
- Wider audience
- Two levels of data



Case study service development

- Electronic and paper template created
- Database created
- First wave of participants recruited
- Finalising processes for managing the service



The Research Involvement Network



The Research Involvement Network - aims

- To support research into AAC by building a list of participants
- To provide researchers with access to a wider range of participants
- To promote the involvement of people who use AAC in all aspects of research



Research Involvement Network development

- Investigated models of similar services
- Consultation with Independent Research Panel, researchers and others
- Developed procedures, forms, marketing
- Created database



Research Involvement Network development

- Launched September 2011
- 100 members to date
- First research project helped





Change

Evidence



Knowledge

A voice





THANK YOU

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

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