Supporting Transitions, for AAC Users May 2016

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CALL Scotland: Communication, Access Literacy & Learning
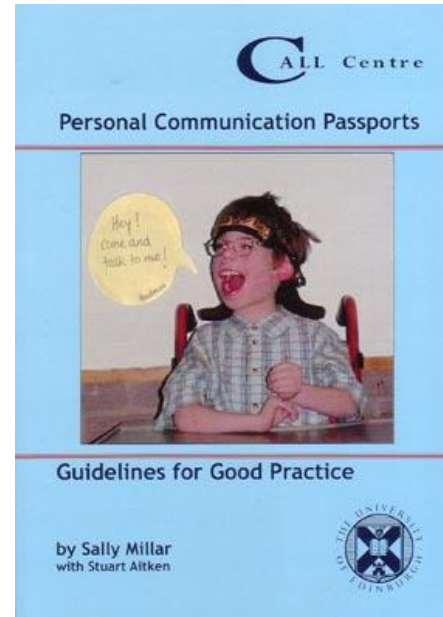
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www.aacscotland.org.uk
www.communicationpassports.org.uk/sweden/

Catch Up

- Buy Passports book at special Swedish Conference Price (£14 >£10). Email to order: call.scotland@ed.ac.uk

- Download resources from yesterday and today

www.communicationpassports.org.uk/sweden/

- Scottish terminology

Communication <u>Support</u> Needs

One day Alice came to a fork in the road and saw a Cheshire cat in a tree. "Which road do I take?" she asked.

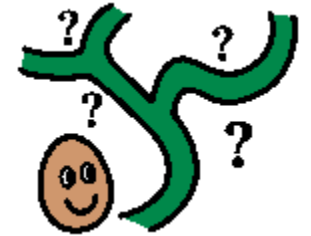His response was a question: "Where do you want to go?"

"I don't know," Alice answered.

"Then," said the cat, "it doesn't matter."

- Lewis Carroll, Alice in Wonderland

"If you wanted to get to there, you'd be better not starting from here."

"If you want to make this change now, you'd have been better to have started three years ago...."

- **Do we have a map? End Goal?**
- **Have our assessments explored all the routes?**
- **Do we have a realistic time table?**
- **Are we pacing transitions right? (starting early enough?)**

What Transitions?

- Transitions within child's own AAC / language / method(s)

- Transitions in literacy

- Transitions in educational curriculum

- Transitions in support

- Transitions in settings & services

    Education

    Health Services

    Social Care / Residence

Transitions within child's own AAC / language / method(s)

For individuals who use AAC to communicate there are two basic types of transitions

1. *Growth* in language, literacy skills, expectations **and from one technology need to another.**

2. *Change*, changing to something different. E.g. Changes in symbol representation systems, our support people, school or adult settings, and with access methods.

Good to be clear which kind of transition is involved.

Transitions within child's own AAC / language

For example –

Low tech to high tech AAC is usually a *growth* transition.

But there may be hidden *changes* in there too, e.g.

- Changing symbol representation system?
- Changing layout and navigation pathways
- Changing the role of the communication partner and the type of support needed.

E.g. PODD

When we start with one system do we have a clear picture of what the future transition pathway involves?

Transitions within Technology or Access Method

Most people can be comfortable with transition (hopefully upgrade) to newer device or software, or to a better switch

But a change to a new access method may be a bigger step – e.g. eye gaze as an input system. ('Revolutionary / fashionable innovations can be very pressurising.)

Morna took 2 years and trial of 2 different eye gaze systems and software to decide that she **didn't** want to use it, preferring her single switch!

Highlights the importance of access to a loan bank of equipment for long-term trial, not just a swift one-off assessment session.

What could help?

CALL Scotland has been working on making information materials more 'map-like' - to try to help staff think more about the 'big picture'….

http://www.callscotland.org.uk/downloads/posters-and-leaflets/
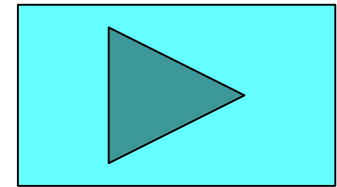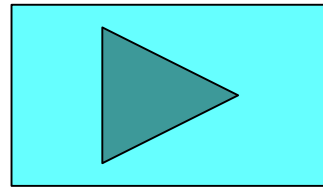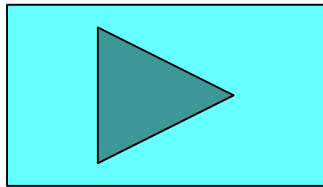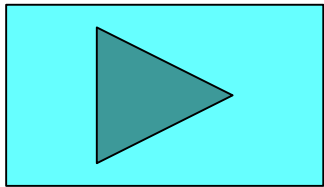
Education Transitions

- Home to pre-school

- Pre-school to school

- Class/year to year

- Primary to Secondary

- Teacher / staff to teacher / staff

- **Leaving school**

- College, employment, day care services

- New Activities, friends

More…..

Transitions in Settings / Services

Background

- Several follow-up studies show that AAC device use is abandoned following transition

- Follow Up study (Murphy et al.) showed that low tech AAC system still used years on, but symbol vocabulary never updated.

http://www.talkingmats.com/projects/publications/

Factors associated with a high quality of life

- High self-esteem
- Strong levels of self-determination
- Strong social networks and relationships

Study

Long term outcomes for individuals who use AAC (Lund & Light, 2001)

AAC Peer Groups
AAC Role Models and Mentors

- Communication Friends groups

- Early Role model
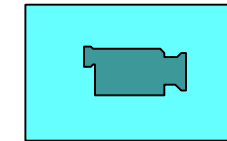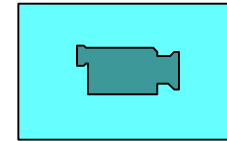
- 1Voice (UK) provides peer group activities and trains / uses AAC role models

- **UK has a stand-up comedi**an

Lee Ridley, Lost voice Guy

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=COAg-DZS0s8
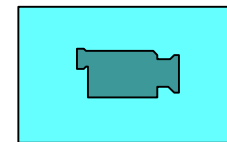
Education Transition

- Start AAC Log as soon as child enters school and add as you go along

- Designate AAC Transition Coordinator (SLT or CSN teacher?) at START of transition period (2 years before)

- Plan & execute curricular adaptations and programme of activities

- Start building up documentation for Transition Pack

CALL Scotland Online Learning Modules

Supporting Learners with Complex Communication Support Needs, in School

http://www.aacscotland.org.uk
/Online-Learning-Modules/rg/

AAC Scotland

Augmentative and Alternative Communication

AAC Videos | Right to Speak | Resources | AAC Links | Courses and Events | **Online Learning Modules**

You are here: Home > Online Learning Modules

Online Learning Modules

AAC in Education

Introduction to AAC

Online Learning Modules

Series 1: Introduction to AAC

Five short modules at an introductory level, that are highly accessible to people without any previous specialised knowledge of communication disability, or of communication aids (IPAACKS level 0-1).

Show me more of Series 1: An Introduction to AAC

Series 2: AAC in Education

Supporting Learners with Complex Communication Support Needs, in School

Seven modules of variable length addressing many aspects of how to introduce and support AAC in educational settings (IPAACKS level 1/2 and beyond). These modules are designed as general interest & professional development for people who work in schools with learners who need/ use any form of augmentative communication support.

Show me more of Series 2: AAC in Education
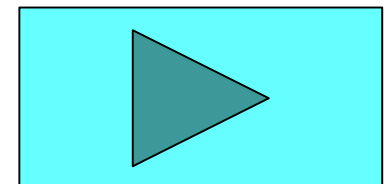
CALL Scotland Online Learning Modules
Supporting Learners with Complex Communication Support Needs, in School
Section 7

AAC Transition Pack (Ring Binder!)

- Transition Coordinator Contact

- Communication Profile (current, summary of USE)

- Personal Communication Passport (updated) plus any supplementary special Passporty type docs (Eating and Drinking; Family / holiday photo album; TV etc.)

- Memory Stick with video clips (online link?) + annotated Index

- AAC Log, including photos if poss.

- ICT Profile

- Technology Crib sheets / instructions & Technical Contacts list

PLUS Personal Care Plan, risk assessment, Education Report, PT positioning reports etc. etc.

FAQ - Where do Passports fit with other documentation?

A continuum with some overlaps, but also some clear differences.

- Symbol Communication Aid / Book
- Communication Profile / Dictionary
- AAC Log
- Personal Photo Album
- PCP / Essential Lifestyles Plan
- Care Plan
- Medical records
- SLT notes
- Personal Learning Plan
- About Me / Life Story / Reminiscences Book
- Passport

AAC Log

- **Techniques / Technology Introduced**
- **Outcomes**
- **What we learned from this**
- **Implications for the future**

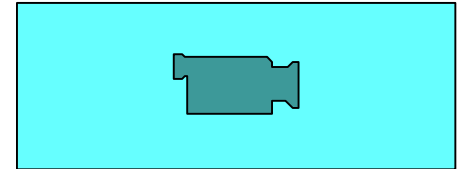# Case Example - Ryan

- Primary - Special

To

- Secondary - Mainstream

Complex physical, learning and communication support needs.
(ETRAN, partner assisted scanning)

+

New Eye gaze system….

**Who trained who? School got better at understanding him, but
did his communication actually improve?**

Use of Photos and Video

Vitally useful especially for users with profound and complex multiple communication support needs.

It is hard to describe an individual's communication, and it may be

- fleeting
- open to misinterpretation

but SHOWING / SEEING it (with interpretation) it really helpful. Communication may be:

Morven - Observations

Morven is blind and has profound and complex multiple support needs. Her only communication is pre-intentional facial / behavioural, so new staff need to learn to interpret this

Make a PhotoStory of her - series of video clips, e,g, using an iPad App **Book Creator** for easy reviewing
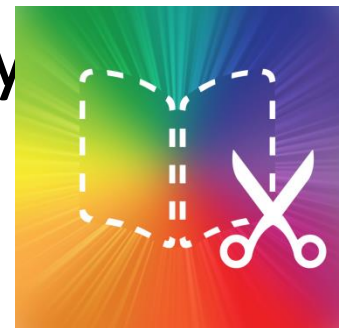
Billy – Communication Stills

- Billy is blind, but he has hearing (you'll see him turn to sound)

- He has no speech & no formal communication system, but his reactions and feelings are clear.

We had miles of video of Billy - too much to be 'usable'.

Editing would take too long. Saving out some key frames as 'Stills' is a good way to capture significant communication behaviour.
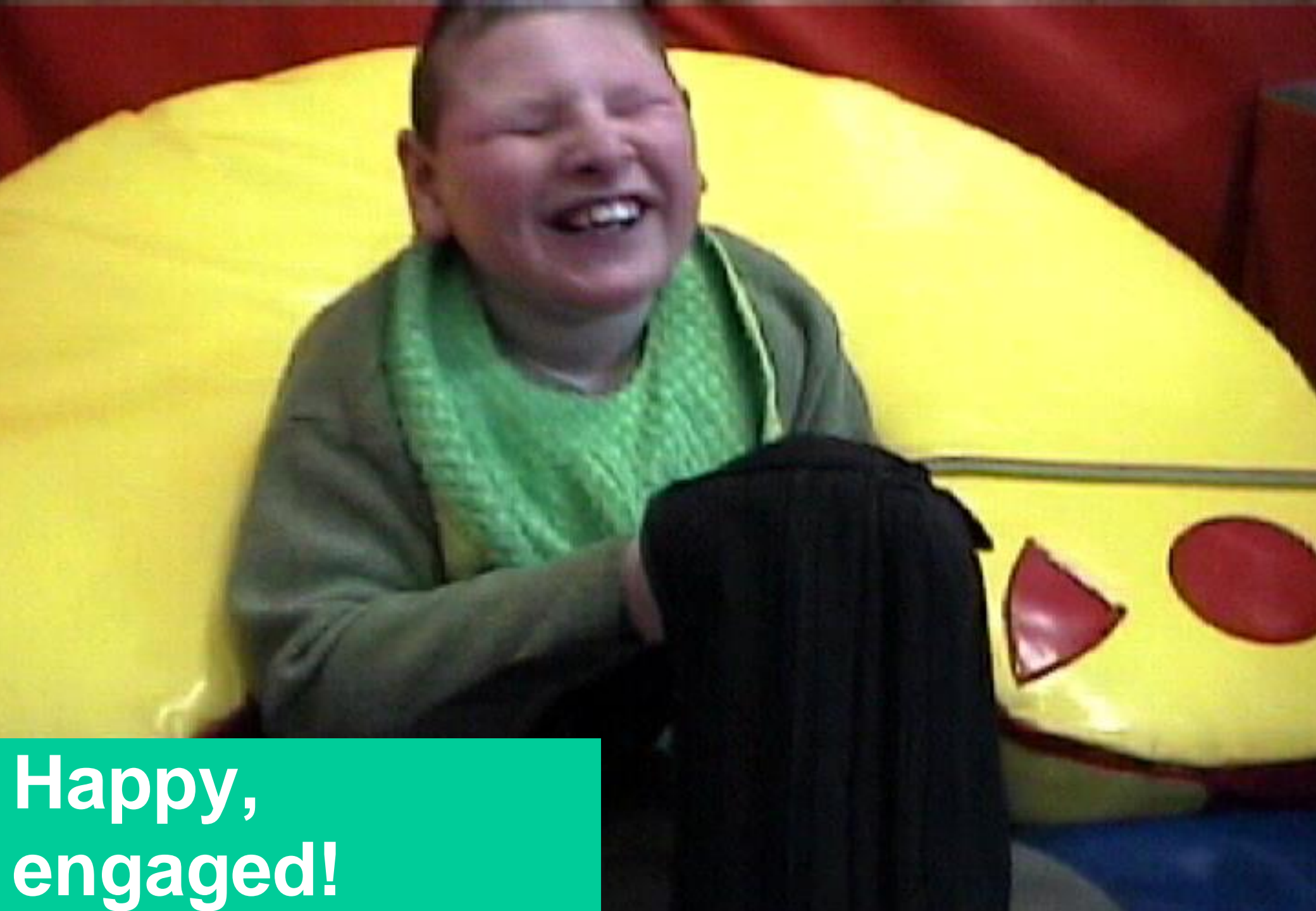
I'm Bored

Alert, listening

Definitely interested

Happy, engaged!

Morna – Communication Stills

Other sequences that work well as 'Stills' are key extracts from conversations and interactions (which can be long and 'muddy' on video)

The first day I tried the DynaVox.
Hey, I know a good joke, want to hear it, Dad?

Dad – Um, yes please…
OK here we go

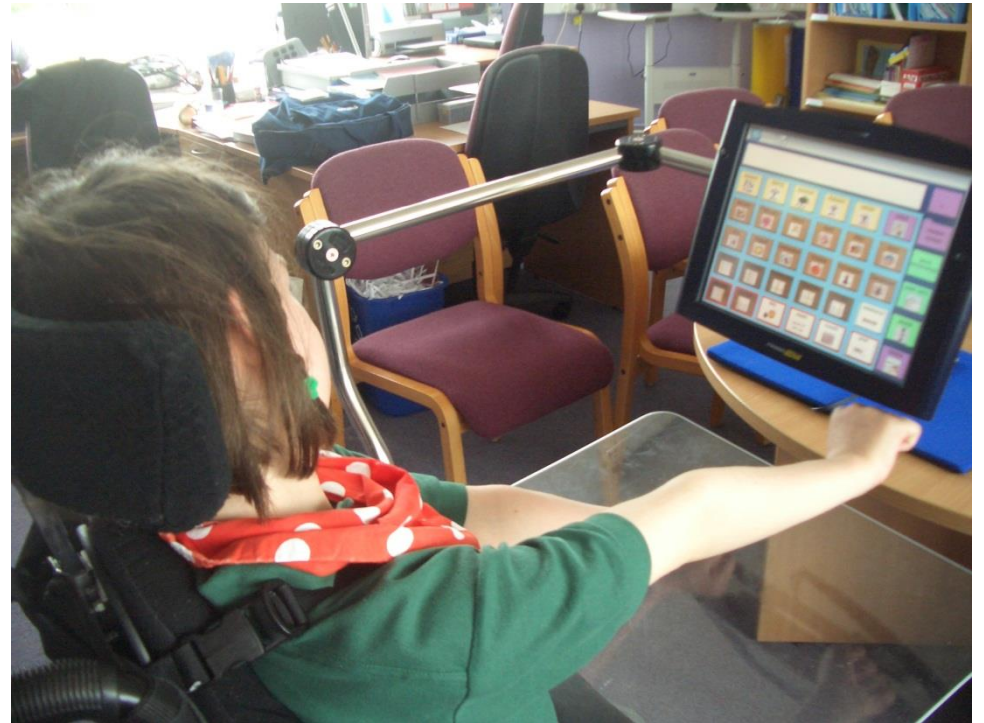# What do you get if you cross an elephant with a fish?
I don't know, what *do* you get?

Swimming Trunks!

Telling jokes is cool!

Now my DynaVox is mounted on my chair, there is no stopping me!

Communication Passport

Is it –
- Up to date?
- Transition-ready
- Contact card

Georgie's Communication Transition Coordinator

Sally Millar
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Mob. 07400616 815
Email: sally.millar@icloud.com

Passports and Technology

You need

- Desktop, laptop, tablet (phone)

- Internet access

- Compatible printer and budget for recurring expenses

- Selected software / app (ideally dual / multiplatform

For Confidentiality

- Password protection,

- encrypted memory stick or removable hard drive (Cloud?)

Software tools?

- PowerPoint
- Bildstod.se
- MS Publisher
- …or any DTP application that deals with graphics well

And symbol library
Or complete symbol software

- ARASAAC etc. free symbols
- PCS / BoardMaker
- Symbolstix / Matrix Maker
- Widgit / Communicate in Print
- The Grid, Clicker etc.

iPad Apps?

- Book Creator (no switch)
- Pictello (switch operated)
- Simpler PhotoStory Apps

Eg Story Creator

- *CALL4Passports, MiProfile*
- *Tools2Talk*

Online Passports?
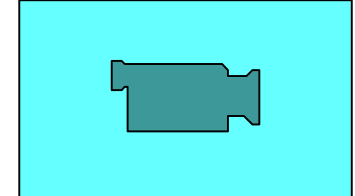
- RIX Wikis (Greenwich, London)

The Greenwich Person Centred Planning pilot project led by The Rix Centre Charity to explore the use of password- protected personal Easy Build Wiki websites as a tool for Person Centred Planning in schools (learners, parents and staff from Charlton Park Academy) – aiming that each learner in the school develop their own personal website for Person Centred Planning.

https://www.rixwiki.org/

http://rixtraining.org/resources/

Other Multi-Media Profiling Projects

- https://www.choiceforum.org/docs/multime.pdf

- http://www.acting-up.org.uk/

BUT

- Funding for projects runs out…

- Cost money to use their service

- iBooks is better – transfer docs as .epub files

Further Education

No clear understanding of the difference between:

'complex support additional needs'

and

'severe and profound additional support needs'

Planning too short, lack of funding

Underestimation of need, Lack of support services

Training for new staff

- Awareness of communication

- Introduction to AAC

http://www.aacscotland.org.uk/Online-Learning-Modules/

Joint Interactive Session

- AAC user

\+

- AAC Transition Coordinator

Transitions in Health Care

Murphy & Mackay, 2015

http://www.talkingmats.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/20151027-CEN-report.pdf

Interviewed 9 participants (age 13-30)

using Talking Mats and parent interviews.

- Paediatric Hospital – overall good, but *"cold cut-off"*. 'Gap' at 16-18 years

- GP – mixed, but mainly good. Listened well to parents

- Adult Hospital – occasional good practice but mainly dramatically worse (frightening, and cuts in support). Services not joined up, staff untrained to deal with these patients (physical, eating, cognitive). *"Back to square 1"*

cen   TalkingMats   NHS SCOTLAND

Will anyone listen to us?

What matters to young people with complex and exceptional health needs and their families during health transitions

Final Report October 2015

Joan Murphy and Margo Mackay Talking Mats Ltd.

Murphy & Mackay, 2015 contd

Passports very valuable – **but only if doctors and other staff read them…..** (also good, Anticipatory Health Plans, electronic Key Information Support**)**

Suggestions from parents on improvements needed:

- Courses for parents on transition
- More specialist nurses e.g. transition nurses, acute liaison learning disability nurses
- Start preparing early – at least 2 years
- Transition wards for young people
- Training for doctors and nurses about complex needs
- More respite, not less
- Emotional support for parents
- Longer appointment times
- A hotline to GPs

Resources - Health Transitions

Making Communication Even Better

An online learning resource for health, education, social work and voluntary sector staff who want to know and understand how to improve their own communication and make their service more accessible for people with communication support needs
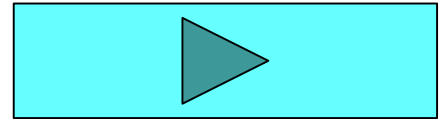
http://www.nes.scot.nhs.uk/media/2036508/mceb_workbook_interactive.pdf
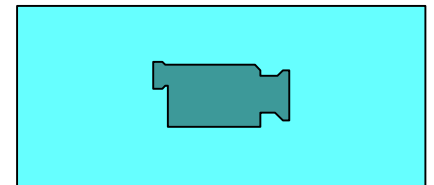
Single Focus Passports

- Not everybody needs a Passport all the time
- Someone may need a Passport for a specific purpose / context (although not in others) For example – going into hospital

National Autistic Society:
http://www.autism.org.uk/about/health/hospital-passport.aspx

Widgit A& E Emergency Health Passport
http://www.widgit.com/resources/health/e/