



AUGMENTATIVE AND ALTERNATIVE COMMUNICATION (AAC)

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OBJECTIVES

- To share my story
- How & what I use to communicate
- AAC Clinics
significance to me
and others

IMAGINE

- You are trapped in your body
- Your speech is gibberish
- Impossible for you to walk or to eat or drink without choking
- Simple, everyday things are impossible without specialized devices, help from friends and family, and a lot of frustration and energy



MY STORY

- This is my reality
- Undiagnosed progressive neurological disorder
- I use a wheelchair and scooter and have a feeding tube
- I live alone with my 16 year old
- I left my career of 20 years 2 years ago
- Seeking diagnosis for 8 years from world's leading specialists
- Still have no definitive answers



AAC TEAM

- The AAC Team have the ability, dedication and perseverance to address the unique and specialized needs of people with communication disorders.
- Team observes and interacts with those they serve to truly understand our complex communication needs
- They seek, equip, support and train people with communication disorders with communication aides necessary for us to have a voice



AAC COCKTAIL

- The AAC Team has tried many devices to meet my complex communication needs but haven't been successful with just one device
- We've arrived on a cocktail of devices that include an iPhone, iPad and Unity Software
- Together they allow me to have a voice and converse to some extent
- With hours of support and training from the communication team I will someday soon regain my ability to converse quickly without delay and become more comfortable integrating back into our community



IPHONE

- I use text and email exclusively for non-face to face communication
- I also use text to communicate with my 16 year old daughter in and out of our house
- Rely on text for emergencies and chatting with friends and family
- When noise levels are high I use text to communicate and the note pad for relaying information
- The iPhone is less noticeable and easily portable



MINI IPAD WITH PREDICTABLE APP

- Predictable is a text-based app
- I use it daily to communicate
- I pre-store questions and messages prior to my interactions whenever possible
- I use Predictable to converse but I must spell everything I want to say
- Conversations are neither quick nor fluent, lots of silence, attention is lost, delays in answering questions typically result in additional questions being asked, and new subjects arise before responses are given
- Portable but difficult to hear



UNITY LANGUAGE OR MINSPEAK

- Unity is language based using picture sequences to create words, phrases and sentences as quickly and effortlessly as possible
- Allows for speed and fluency required to fully participate in meaningful conversations
- Weaknesses of program is its operating system is not easily portable and it takes months of practice and hours of teaching and support to become a fluent Minspeak user
- I hope to learn Minspeak someday soon to regain my ability to converse quickly and effectively and to integrate back into our community



AUGMENTATIVE AND ALTERNATIVE COMMUNICATION CLINIC

The Augmentative and Alternative Communication Clinic at Hotel Dieu Shaver Health and Rehabilitation Centre is vital to me and others with communication disorders. I hope you can see why.

Myself and others with communication disabilities cannot do this alone. With the Augmentative and Alternative Communication Team at Hotel Dieu Shaver Health and Rehabilitation Centre we are not alone they give us ``Comfort, Care and Hope``.





**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
AUGMENTATIVE AND ALTERNATIVE
COMMUNICATION CLINIC ON YOUR
GRAND OPENING
I WISH YOU CONTINUED SUCCESS.**

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