

AAC Assessment and Support Team Process

Referrals are discussed at a multi agency meeting which may be attended by:

- **AAC Specialist Teachers**
- **AAC Technicians**
- **Educational Psychologists**
- **Occupational Therapists**
- **Physiotherapists**
- **Speech and Language Therapists**

After the meeting you will be contacted about any decisions made and the next steps.

The assessment and support team will guide you to the most appropriate services to help improve your child's communication.

Contact details

If you have any questions, you can discuss these with your child's school or contact us:

**AAC Assessment & Support Team
Children & Young People's Service
Springfield
Cliftonville
Northampton
NN1 5BE
01604 630082**

For general information about AAC we would suggest the following websites:

www.communicationmatters.org.uk

www.ace-centre.org.uk

www.becta.org.uk

Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC)

Information for Parents and Professionals

Helping people to communicate improves their quality of life



Northamptonshire 
Teaching Primary Care Trust

What is AAC?

AAC adds to (augments) or replaces (alternative) spoken communication for those who have little or no clear speech.

There are two main types of AAC, unaided and aided and most people use a combination of both.

Unaided communication

- body language, signing, facial expressions,
- pointing, gestures and vocalisation

Aided Communication may be either

- Low tech devices such as symbols, photos, objects
- Light tech devices which may be battery operated with a single action
- High tech devices which are more complex specialist electronic devices

It is important to understand that high tech devices are not always appropriate for all children. Low tech devices are sometimes the most effective in helping your child to communicate.

Referral

Professionals currently working with your child may refer to the Team (details overleaf) for an assessment or advice. A referral can also be made during Statutory Assessment or at an Annual or Interim Review. Parents and young people can also make a direct request for referral.

If you would like further information or advice please speak to any of the professionals currently working with your child, or your child's school.

If a referral is going to be made for your child this will be discussed with you first and you will be involved throughout.