

Interface National Newsletter



**Centre for
Augmentative and
Alternative
Communication**

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**Interface promotes
communication for
people with complex
communication needs
by supplementing
existing communication
with gestures,
communication boards
and assistive
technology (thus,
augmentative &
alternative
communication)**

Individual Highlights

Interface South Africa	Page 2
Regional News	Page 2 - 4
School News	Page 4 - 5
CAAC News	Page 5
Up close and personal with Diane Nelson Bryen	Page 5 - 6
Technology Talk	Page 6
Adapting books	Page 7

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Editorial

Ever slept with a mosquito?

Theodore Roosevelt said "Do what you can, with what you have, where you are."

This quote encapsulates a concept which seems to have been present in my life over the last few months. I think it's an important one for us all, as I'm sure many of us have often felt "What can I do?", or "I don't have the knowledge, skills or energy", or "I'm so busy I don't have time" or "I'm not doing enough" or "I don't have the money or resources to do x, y, z etc". As a result, we tend to either withdraw from what we have already been doing or don't even attempt to do anything.

I feel though we underestimate the impact and difference we can make. I know from my own experience, often we feel "I can't do this" or "I can't get involved as it's too big", or "I don't have enough time," or "I don't know enough" or "I can't do something because I don't have x, y or z, so what's the point in even trying".

But I ask you this, ever tried to sleep in a room with one tiny little mosquito buzzing around



your head?

It's amazing what an impact a tiny mosquito can have!

I'm sure many of us have also heard the story of a little girl walking along the beach throwing back Starfish that had been washed ashore during the night. When asked by a passing stranger why she was even bothering as there are so many Starfish, that the task seems pointless, "you can't possibly save them all". To which she responded by picking up another starfish, and as she threw it back into the ocean she said "it matters to this one and this one..." as she continued to return the stranded Starfish to the ocean.

I therefore encourage those of you who are tired, feeling discouraged, overwhelmed or despondent or those of you who feel that you can't make a difference to "do what you can,

with what you have, where you are." Everybody has something to offer, even if, for whatever reason, we can only offer it some of the time, or to a limited extent, it's important to remember that no contribution is ever too small!

You will notice that this edition of the newsletter is shorter than previous editions. We were forced, due to budgetary constraints, to reduce the number of pages. In so doing we've also decided to slightly shift the focus of the newsletter to include more practical ideas, helpful hints and useful resources. As always should you wish to contribute, please don't hesitate to contact me.

I would like to thank everybody who has contributed to this newsletter over the past year, I really appreciate all the time and effort that goes into the articles I receive. Finally as this year comes to a close I wish you a restful, happy and peaceful festive season and a prosperous and inspiring 2007!

**Martin Pistorius
Editor**

Send comments &
contributions to
martin.pistorius@up.ac.za

Chairman's report

Changing of the guard

As Rodney Pistorius reported in the last newsletter, Interface South Africa held their Annual General Meeting on the 14th of July at the University of KwaZulu Natal at which a new committee was elected. At the meeting a decision was made to allocate the various portfolios to individuals at the first National Executive Committee (NEC) meeting.

In the weeks prior to our first NEC meeting, the committee members exchanged numerous e-mails discussing a few matters. We then held our online meeting on the 7th of October and the following portfolios were agreed upon:

Myself Chairperson, Maureen Casey Vice-chairperson, and Daniel Ngcobo was appointed as Chairperson-elect, the committee's thinking is for Daniel to be given the time and support to learn the ropes and then for him to take over as chairperson from myself. Margi Lilienfeld is responsible for Liaison and Networking, Archie Roberts for Fundraising, Graham Clarke for Disability Rights/Advocacy, Nicky Smit for Membership and Felicity Jonck is the Secretary. Last but not least Desirae Pillay, who has already done such great work raising awareness in the Joburg area, will continue with this task.

Unfortunately we are still in search of someone to take on the treasurer's portfolio. I therefore again appeal to anybody with some financial knowledge who is willing to serve on the committee to please contact me.

Since the last report, an auditor was commissioned to

audit our financial statements after receiving the assurance that the cost would be minimised if he was able to the work on an "ad hoc" basis. Currently auditing of the financial statements for the past 4 years has been completed and finalisation of the relevant reports is under way. We will receive the required documents shortly.

Our new brochures have been printed free of charge by Norma Beyl and Associates in Durban and will be distributed to the branches shortly. I thank them for their support of Interface, it's much appreciated!

I'd like to thank Margi and everybody else involved with the compiling of the new brochures.

I'd also like to thank Rodney Pistorius for all his work over the past two years, and for his willingness to continue to assist the committee where possible.

The first task we've set as a committee is to develop a five year plan with clear objectives as to where we want to see the organisation five years from now. Currently we are discussing this via e-mails.

Lastly, I would wish all of you a joyous festive season and a prosperous New Year.

Martin Pistorius

Regional News

Interface Gauteng:

Dear members, my name is Desirae Pillay and at present I am aiming to re-ignite the fires of our Gauteng branch. As Rodney Pistorius, mentioned in the previous newsletter, I joined the team in July this year. My main aim is to gain new membership as well as to make contact with our

existing membership in an effort to begin fund-raising and awareness campaigns.

Before we get to the technicalities of our organization, I'd like to share my own story with you:

My daughter Savannah was diagnosed as having CP and strong autistic tendencies. However, her most challenging hurdle was her poor communication. She was a quiet baby that squawked instead of cried. She seemed happy to be on her own never showing any interest in any of her toys. She never attempted to initiate conversation and struggled to make even simple sounds. We learned simple sounds, gestures and signs with her and soon established enough communication to get through some basic daily routines. However, Savannah seemed to know more that she could express and her frustration at her inability to speak became very apparent when she attended the Sunshine Centre Association for special needs. She often cried for no apparent reason and displayed aggressive behaviour.

Although, she received speech therapy I found it to be a daunting task and lulled myself into believing that speech would come. How could it not when she was surrounded by people talking? Surely she would just pick it up...from the television, music and the stories that I read to her?! It never just came to her. It took lots of exercise and finally at about 3 years she was able to say "Daaddee" and later learnt the sounds "M-ah" for mummy. Even though everyone in our immediate family are very involved with Savannah, it became apparent that I was the only

person who understood her completely.

We had heard about using devices and computer programmes but I was very resistant to the idea. When I quit my job in 2002 and became more involved with Savannah, I realized that she had a far greater cognitive ability than her assessments suggested. The problem was that she had nothing to use other than her mouth and her mouth would not say what she intended for it to say. My determination for her to talk lessened as I slowly understood the frustration that my little girl lived with every moment of every day just because her mouth would not say what she already knew!!

In December 2003, a business communications company Fleishman-Hillard, heard about Savannah from my friend Jo Ann Sewell and they decided to help Savannah communicate by purchasing a communication system for her. They consulted with Celeste Mukheibir of Inclusive Solutions and together we tried different ideas for Savannah until we settled on a software programme called "Boardmaker SD Pro".

When we were introduced to Boardmaker - a system of communication that can be basically described as PCS symbols that encourage "picture-pointing" or picture exchange; we found that Savannah responded very willingly to it. I had to learn to meet Savannah where she was at and by doing so, I began introducing symbols that gave her a sense of independence. I introduced signs for "I want the toilet" or "I need help". Savannah's speech therapist Tracey McCartney, introduced a neck chain containing these types of symbols and we

extended them to "I am hungry" and "I am thirsty" or even "I want mummy" and "I want daddy". By this stage, Savannah was attending Maylill Special School and they also agreed to introduce PCS to the school.

The moment I knew that Boardmaker had changed our lives was when I created a board showing symbols for "feelings". Savannah walked into my room on a Saturday morning holding the board. She pointed to "I am happy". I asked why she was happy and she promptly went to fetch her symbol that shows "Friday" and "tuck". She was happy because she bought tuck the previous day. That was the very first time in eight years that she meaningfully communicated with me all on her own.

Savannah is now far more verbal and has gained more distinguishable words. She is involved in choosing the pictures to make her communication boards and is using the computer to aid her communication. I have created a set of boards for her using the inter-active programme Boardmaker SD Pro and we are currently training her with this system.

My attitude towards assistive communication has altered drastically and due to my startling progress with Savannah, I am also employed by Inclusive Solutions. It is also the reason that I am very passionate about Interface.

Over the last month, we have met with parents, teachers and therapists at Sunshine Centre Craighall Park, Maylill Special School, Down Syndrome South West region and Gateway School in an effort to share ideas and inspire. The response that we received was

overwhelming. Many people had not heard about AAC until these talks. There was no doubt in my or my husband's mind about the very important role that Interface plays in our society. We are hoping to have a meeting of all Interface-Gauteng members early next year and urge you to attend. A major goal in the pipeline is a fundraising event and awareness campaign that we are hoping to host next year. For more information, please contact me on: 082 822 5193 or send me an e-mail at: desiraep@hotmail.com Until next time, wishing you and yours a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Desirae Pillay

Interface Western Cape:

Greetings from Cape Town, where summer is almost upon us. Just about time to get out the board shorts and sunscreen. Wishing all our Interface friends a happy and restful holiday time.

On Saturday the 18th of October we had an Interface "Family Get-together" in Somerset West. It was a time for therapists, families and AAC users to get to know each other better, share information and offer advice on various issues; such as seating and upgrading devices. Vaughan was able to show off his new 4x4 wheelchair, which can go anywhere, except through some doorways! The new chair has made a big difference for Vaughan's comfort and independence. Thanks to everyone who was there and contributed to the discussion and eats. An enjoyable time was had by all and Mrs. Eyre's strawberry cheesecake was a hit!

We received a generous donation of R10 000 from the

Reddam House Matric Class. Thank You Reddam! Interface was selected as one of their charity beneficiaries this year. Thanks also go to Jenny Tully who represented Interface at their Valedictory Service and received the donation.

For information, advice and technical support on AAC technology, please contact Nicky Smit (details below). The Interface office at Vista Nova School, is open on Friday afternoons by appointment, for this service.

Please keep your eye on the Interface website (www.interface-sa.org.za) as future events will be posted there. We also welcome suggestions or requests for training/workshops on specific aspects of AAC.

I leave you with a quote by Rick Creech: *"My communication aid is fantastic, but without me, it does not do anything. I could not function in society without a communication system. However, the communication system is just the key that unlocks the door to the candy shop. I'm the candy."*

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Interface KZN:

The past few months have been exceptionally busy for Interface KZN and the following are a few highlights.

Introductory AAC workshop at Ethembeni LSEN School in Inchanga.

This workshop, sponsored as part of the promotion of excellence project that was sponsored by funding from the Carl and Emily Fuchs Foundation was held over three mornings at the school

in the beginning of October. Participants included all the educators, the therapists, psychologist and hostel staff of the school. One of the presenters who made a deep impression was Dan Ngcobo, who had attended the school as a young boy. Dan, using The Grid on the laptop loaned to him by the CAAC, spoke of his early life; the difficulties he encountered since leaving school; his dreams and recent achievements. Dan stressed the importance of academic and literacy skills for children who required AAC. Paul Burdett, using both the Pathfinder and an alphabet board with the assistance of his mother, Sharon, was another presenter who was asked lots of questions by the educators. He related anecdotes of his childhood that illustrated the importance of expectations and attitudes toward individuals who use AAC. He also highlighted his early literacy experiences.



The importance of literacy and the evolvement of children's AAC systems was also evident in the excellent presentation by Elaine Byrne and Felicity Jonck that focused on the experiences and implementation of AAC with their respective sons. Elaine and Felicity also presented theoretical perspectives on literacy in AAC. Kirsty Nourse tackled unaided AAC in the classroom and Margi Liliensfeld introduced aided AAC, implementation strategies in the classroom,

the academic evaluation of children who require AAC and access methods. During the workshop Dan prepared an additional presentation on computer access for children with motoric difficulties and the workshop was interspersed with practical application sessions.

Photos from the Fuchs Foundation Training Project are available on the Interface website at: www.interface-sa.org.za/news.html

Children's Amendment Bill

Interface KZN made an oral and written submission at a public hearing in Durban to the portfolio committee on Social Welfare in KZN with respect to the Children's Amendment Bill. The submission urged the committee to make changes to the Bill to include children with disabilities with particular reference to Early Intervention Services, Early Childhood Development and partial care facilities. A copy of the submission can be obtained by e-mailing: margi.lilienfeld@westvet.co.za

Pub Quiz evening

The final Interface KZN fundraising event organized by the committee is the Pub Quiz held on 10th November at the St John the Baptist Anglican Church hall in Pinetown. We would like to thank the many sponsors of prizes and lucky draws.

Margi Lilienfeld

School News

Nuwe Wending News

The learners at our school are still eager to learn how to use their communication aids. Positive responses have been obtained from teachers who have implemented different strategies for communication during teaching and conversation. We have also had the

privilege of accommodating some of the students from the Limpopo University (MEDUNSA campus), who have been able to observe and learn more about the AAC-field within the school context.

We at Nuwe Wending School would like to thank all of you who contribute to the field of AAC, and we wish you all a happy holiday and prosperous New Year!!!

Heidi Mapisa
(Speech therapist, Nuwe Wending School)

Pathways-Kloof News

2006 has been an exciting year at Pathways. We have had many exciting themes and events on the go. With regards to AAC, our older children are making excellent use of PCS symbols to assist them in the sequencing of sentences for reading and writing which has made a great difference to the development of their skills in this area. We have also introduced 3 of our autistic children to the picture exchange system with fantastic results. Our littlies each have their own communication system and we have seen all of our children beginning to use basic communication consistently.

Our biggest excitement for the year however is having our therapy pool installed. This should be ready by the end of the year and we can't wait to swim our summer away!

Kirsty Nourse

Pathways-Pretoria News

Pathways-Pretoria is grateful for this year. We were blessed with a bunch of special children and young adults. Our young adult group also took off. They are

involved in life skills training and job sampling. Our aim is that most of them will have a job in the open labour market one day. Some of our young adults are also involved in our small businesses of beading, papermaking and woodwork. We had a stall at the Pretoria show as well as at other craft markets and we were a great hit.

We attended the ISAAC Biennial AAC conference in Düsseldorf, Germany and got a lot of new ideas for literacy and behaviour management. We have already started a literacy room with 19 activities to immerse our children in literacy experiences; they enjoy all the playing with literacy tools.

One of our new friends Guy-Laurent is from the Congo. The sad thing for is that there isn't a single school in that country that will accept a child with autistic tendencies, so the whole family need to stay in South Africa in order to help Guy. One of our dreams for next year is to start schools in other African countries.

Another big highlight is our Christmas concert on the 11th of November. We will present different musicals to our parents and our "Pathways orchestra" will have their first performance. We also have an outreach to our friends in Soshanguve and Eersterust and will have a fun day together.

Pathways-Brits

Pathways-Brits has new premises for their 7 children on a beautiful plot just outside Brits. They have Equestrian therapy at their school as well as "Kinder musik". They recently attended a training session at Pathways-Pretoria about all the new things they learnt and presented at the ISAAC conference.

They also have two other groups for children with other learning problems and are excelling in the work that they are doing.

Danita Nel

Whizz kidz News

I'm totally flabbergasted at how this year is passing by – just goes to show "time flies when you're having fun"! And boy have we had fun while being very busy little bees!

We have had a lot of changes with teachers this year and decided that the time had come for us to make some major changes. Most of our classroom assistants have been with Whizz Kidz since its inception and have many years experience in special needs. We have taken these highly skilled ladies and empowered them by making them Group Leaders. Part of their empowerment will require them to receive appropriate training in the correct procedures for running a class. We have approached NELRU (Natal Early Learning Resource Unit) and hope to send two of our Group Leaders on their Orientation Course early next year. Ensuring the success of this empowerment programme is Tracey MacNair, who has joined us in the position of Teacher/Group Facilitator. Tracey has settled in with our Whizz Kidz family very well and brings a wealth of experience in child care, pre-school education and ABET to our centre.

Our annual golf day held on the 6 June at Kloof Country Club was once again an overwhelming success with a total profit of R17 000 being raised!

Whizz Kidz was one of three projects selected for an international case study done

by Inclusion International. The case study was done 18 months ago and the report back seminar was held during the July school holidays, this year, in Cape Town. As the only project in Kwa-Zulu Natal we were invited to attend the one-day feedback session. We were fortunate to be able to take one of our parents, Gloria Zama, with us, which was so exciting.

From all at Whizz Kidz we wish you a restful festive season!

Kim Morgan

CAAC News

"If you always do what you always did you always get what you always got"

If you have ever read the bestselling book "Who Moved My Cheese" you will know that the notion of change is explored in a most simple but meaningful way in this little gem. So it is at the Centre for AAC that I am starting to believe that one of the "C's" in our name must surely stand for "change" as you can be certain that something around here will be different by the time you read the next newsletter! Moving on to explore "New Cheese" is Shakila Dada who I am sure many of you know. Shakila has been an integral part of our team for many years and it was with great sadness that we bid farewell to her at the end of September. We wish her well in the new path she has taken in her life. We also bid farewell to Ncamy Mazeka who left the Centre at the end of October for a new career in the private sector.

One of the new projects you have heard us talk about often in previous newsletters is that of Fofa. Thus it was with great delight that the

team of the CAAC with Kitty Uys as project leader received the University of Pretoria's 2006 Innovation Laureate award for this project. As you can imagine we are very proud of this acknowledgement from the University for a project we know is making an impact in the lives of AAC users.

Lesson learnt: "Movement in a new direction makes you find new cheese" and you even get rewarded as well!

A lesson which our main cheese mover (currently on sabbatical but no doubt exploring new cheese for us) fully believes in and actively promotes!

Congratulations also go out to Juan Bornman who has been promoted to Associate Professor and who also received one of the "Young Researcher of the Year" awards from the University of Pretoria recently. Okay enough of this patting ourselves on the back. We are going to become quite swollen headed if this continues much longer 😊!

This past year might therefore have been one which has been filled with many changes for you as well. With change however ultimately comes growth and as you finally reflect on the past year our wish for all our readers in 2007 is to embrace those changes that life blesses you with. I leave you with this blessing from my Gaelic ancestors (Somewhere in my "colourful history" I am sure I have some Irish blood): "May you have the hindsight to know where you've been, the foresight to know where you're going and the insight to know when you're going too far." and one of my personal favourites that me pappy always used to say "As you slide down the banisters of life may the

splinters never point the wrong way."

A blessed 2007 to all our readers.

Alecia Samuels (A.K.A the Cape Crusader)

Up Close and Personal With Diane Nelson Bryen



During our Fofa week, the centre had the privilege of hosting Dr. Diane Nelson Bryen, professor of Special Education, Executive Director of Temple's Institute on Disabilities and the founder of the ACES programme on which Fofa is based. This is an excerpt of an interview conducted with her during the Fofa week. For the full transcript go to the following link:

www.caac.up.ac.za/diane-interview.htm

A fireball of energy which belies her age; I told Diane recently that if I reach 60, I hope I have the vigour that just pours out of her. In addition to the fireball analogy I put it to Diane that there have been many other descriptions of her, namely leader, mentor, advocate, teacher, and friend in the disability community but which role does she most identify with. Surprisingly she answers "All of them! One of the exciting things about my life is the diversity, and how you create change by teaching people and generating new knowledge. Taking the knowledge and ensuring that it gets to the people that can benefit from it."

Does she not see a conflict between being a researcher and an advocate? "No I think the kind of research that I do is always policy relevant research and always in collaboration with people with disabilities. Some of the research questions generate from the people themselves. For example the work I did on 'Ending the Silence'-the abuse of people with disabilities, grew out of a meeting which I had with women who use AAC and they started to talk about how they learnt about sex and how little they were taught and knew! And then it started coming out about the abuse. So they told me what the research question was!"

Diane has been in the field of disability for over 30 years. I asked her what initially drew her to the field of disability. "Oh that's easy! I am a younger sibling of a man who has a disability. Also growing up in the 60's with all the Civil Rights issues happening at the time. I don't think I thought about it consciously but I think I could have studied any discipline and I would have been brought back to social justice issues. To some extent the disability community is a good litmus test for what we see as social justice for all of us."

Do you mean that if we were to see the effects of social change that we would see it in the disability community first? "Yeah! People with disabilities might be considered the least valued if we look at contributions and accommodations. So if (as a society) we figure out how to configure an environment that welcomes and supports the MOST different then I think we have configured it for all of us." So even after all these years and having accomplished so much in the field what still excites you?

She smiles, "Watching people with disabilities and family members becoming the leaders now. If I look at what I want to contribute in my remaining time is to see a more sustained power shift in terms of 'who is considered to be the expert' towards at least equality between what the person with the disability brings to the table and what the professional brings. Kinda figuring out how the partnerships can really work!"

As we have just embarked on the Fofa Project which is based on the ACES programme, what are the important lessons we in SA could learn from the 18 years that ACES has been running? "The devil's in the details and the details can kill the programme! Knowing that something will go wrong. Plus planning, planning, planning! And also you have to have a passion for it. It's also about building a community. How do you see a group of separate individuals come together and become a community that respects each other and supports each other's dreams. Other lessons-as much as the pre-planning is important, the follow-up is as important. You can have 1 or 2 weeks of great growth and dreams of the future. It can be devastating if there is not the follow-up support for the person to start working on that dream. Those I think are the critical lessons.

Her work obviously keeps her very busy but what does Diane Bryen do for fun? "I travel. I'm also a grandma! So I play with my grandkids. And then I also have a passion for sailing and snorkeling. I discovered that 8 years ago. I also enjoy reading woman writers from different countries. I'm fascinated with Indian writers, South American writers and I

also belong to a book club. I also really enjoy people. An evening for me with a glass of wine and good people and I'm VERY happy!" She laughs enjoyably and that is the lasting impression I am left with as I end my interview with Diane Bryen. A woman who is happy! and by her passion, love of life and search for new knowledge, tackles the world and its issues head on and makes no excuses for doing so. The disability field is indeed fortunate to have such a champion in its midst!

Alecia Samuels

Technology Talk

ClickToPhone



The ClickToPhone from Unique Perspectives Ltd. (www.click2go.ie/) is a switch accessible cellphone that enables a person who can't press the buttons of a cellphone to use a cellphone.

The ClickToPhone system consists of; a wireless Bluetooth switch interface that has a 3.5mm jack socket for connection of a single switch and a 6pin socket for connection of up to 5 switches devices such as the TASH mini joystick; a Windows Mobile 2003 SmartPhone and the ClickToPhone software.

The ClickToPhone software presents a series of grids to the user, much like an On-Screen keyboard for a computer. When the software begins it attempts to connect with the ClickToPhone hardware (i.e. switch

interface). Once connected the switch or joystick can be used to navigate and operate the phone.

Using the ClickToPhone software a person can:

- Answer and make calls with a single switch
- Compose and send SMS messages
- Read SMS messages
- Control of all cellphone functions
- Relay output for control of a second device (such as an environmental control or communication aid)
- Send and an emergency SMS message using the alarm function

Martin Pistorius

WORK WITH PEOPLE WITH SEVERE DISABILITIES OR CLIENTS WITH LITTLE OR NO SPEECH? WORK IN THE FIELD OF EARLY INTERVENTION?

Consider these exciting formal training opportunities to advance your professional skills and academic qualifications:

- An Advanced Certificate in education with specialization in learners with severe disabilities
- B A Honours in AAC
- Masters Degree in Augmentative and Alternative Communication
- Multiprofessional Masters Degree in Early Intervention

For more information visit our website at www.caac.up.ac.za /or contact the Centre for Augmentative and Alternative Communication, University of Pretoria Tel: (012) 420-2001

CAAC Open Days and consultations

Do you want to find out more about AAC? About devices? About resources for the classroom or for home? Why not come round to an open day at the Centre for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (CAAC), at the University of Pretoria (Lynnwood Road entrance).

Parents, AAC users, educators or therapists can attend a free presentation by the CAAC on services, resources and activities. A demonstration can be given on high and low tech communication aids. Programs are tailored to your special area of interest. Open days take place on a monthly basis, usually on the last Friday of the month, from 9h00 -11h00. If you would like to attend, please confirm with Liza (012 420 2001) in order for us to individualise your program.

Apart from open days to give a basic overview of AAC and the Centre's services, the CAAC also offers consultations to persons with complex communication needs.

In order to schedule a consultation, please contact Alecia Samuels (012 420 4727) or Liza (012 420 2001), Consultations cost R500.00 to be paid on the day of the consultation. We operate on an in-contracted fee, so claims can be made from the medical aid.

A most grateful Thank You!
To our generous sponsors
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Adapting books for reading

Reading forms the basis upon which formal education is built. There is sufficient evidence in the literature indicating that reading enriches, among other things, language and literacy development, enhances listening skills, comprehension, and expansion of vocabulary. For children with communication problems specific adaptations are suggested to optimize the reading sessions. Reading stories can open up different worlds to a child who does not have the opportunity or cannot access different contexts due to his/her physical impairments and we should assist in creating these opportunities. Storybook reading should be a fun activity where the adults and children should participate together to create a world of learning.

① Page fluffers – These add spaces between each page for easy page turning. Page fluffers can be made out of foam, cloth pegs, ice cream sticks, hot glue dots, etc. In the photograph a piece of cardboard with a paper clip on, is used. Stick the piece of foam on the cardboard and add that to each page. This works well with books made out of cardboard.

② Pull off symbols – The symbols are duplicates of those used in the story and are found on the bottom of each story page. The adult will first point to the symbol and then pull off the extra symbol and show it to the child (in-your-face-communication). Lastly, the child can pull the symbol off to manipulate and explore.

③ Multi-sensory – Add as many textures to the pictures to make it a sensory experience. This will keep the children's attention when the story is read and they can participate in feeling the textures on each page, making the story more concrete to the learner. Add textures like sandpaper, cotton wool, cloth, seeds, feathers glitter, beads, etc.

④ Durability – Place each page of the storybook in plastic filling pocket. A piece of cardboard can be placed in between each story page. Put all the pages into a ring binder. The pages will stay open as you are telling the story.

⑤ Enlarge – Enlarge pictures in the book. Use the pictures as props. Laminate the picture, add a piece of Velcro to the back and stick the pictures in the book. It also gives the child the opportunity to manipulate the pictures and participate in the story by taking it off or putting it back again.

⑥ Object Book Props – Use 3 dimensional props that correlate with the pictures in the story. Velcro could be added on the props to place them on a separate felt board after they have "appeared" in the story, so they do not distract the children. These props can also be attached on each page, as the story progresses. A ring binder file is a good option for stability and now you only have to flip the pages over and have your hands free to augment your communication.

⑦ Choosing Books to Adapt – Books with simple backgrounds, lots of repetitive text, or rhymes, and the correct vocabulary level for the children. The example here repeats the phrases "...What do you see? ... I see a "animal" looking at me".



