

Communication methods

Method	Description	Pros and Cons
Makaton symbols and signing	Using symbols, signs and speech as a form of communication. Signs are used along with speech for extra clarity.	<p>Pros</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signs are used consistently across settings • Signs are only used for key words which slows down speech and helps understanding <p>Cons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication partner needs training to understand signs • Physical impairments can cause difficulty in accurate signing
Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS)	To improve social communication and allow people to make choices, a person can communicate by handing people cards with pictures on.	<p>Pros</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easily understandable for communication partner • Tangible <p>Cons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be resource heavy and cards can be easily lost
Voice Output Communication Aids (VOCA) e.g. Proloquo2Go	An app that gets loaded to a tablet so people can tap icons and create sentences that get read out by the device.	<p>Pros</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easy to adapt vocabulary • Can be made bespoke • Portable • Easy for communication partner to understand <p>Cons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High cost • Attention can drift to other apps

<p>Communication books</p>	<p>A picture-based book where the user points to items to communicate</p>	<p>Pros</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easily personalised • Easily portable • Free to create, or templates can be bought online <p>Cons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time-consuming to create • No voice output so the user must first gain the attention of their communication partner
<p>Go Talk</p>	<p>A battery-powered, speech-generating device</p>	<p>Pros</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personalised for each learner • Voice output and press-button function for multiple sensory feedback • Hard-wearing <p>Cons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High cost • Heavy / bulky to transport