



parent café

For Glyne Gap Parents and Carers

16th May 2018

Total Communication

The Communication Team...

- We are a multi-disciplinary team
- Work in collaboration with every class to ensure every pupil has a communication programme
- Provide a range of additional support
 - Work on development projects



This morning we'll talk about...

- What Total Communication means
- Why communication is so important
- What is receptive & expressive language
- How you might want to support your son or daughter with their receptive and expressive language at home.





A Little Ice Breaker!

- Get into pairs
- One person will be drawing, the other will be the communicator
- Both of you imagine you don't understand or use speech, reading or writing.
- The communicator will face the board, the drawer will face the other way.
- The communicator is going to describe a picture and the drawer will draw it! You have a couple of minutes!





How did that feel?

How did you communicate?



What is communication?

Communication is how we interact with others. It incorporates:

- The use of non-verbal methods e.g. listening, looking, facial expression, body language.
- How we understand others and the world around us (receptive skills)
 - How we make ourselves understood (expression)



Total Communication

Total Communication is a communication philosophy– not a communication method and not at all a teaching method……Total Communication is an approach to create a successful and equal communication between human beings with different language perception and/or production…….To use Total Communication amounts to a willingness to use all available means in order to understand and be understood’.
(Hansen)

Understanding

Total Communication

Expression



So why is Communication
important?

‘Being able to communicate is the most important skill we need in life.

Almost everything we do involves communication; everyday things such as personal care, getting basic needs met, learning, making friends and having fun rely on our ability to communicate with each other’

(Communication Trust)

All of our pupils need a total communication approach to enable them to communicate – in order to facilitate this we need a whole range of communication tools and systems. . .





“ Children will use the quickest, most effective, and most accessible way available to them to communicate. Speech beats any other AAC system if it is available to the child.

Available research indicates that AAC facilitates spoken language by increasing interaction, language skills, and/or providing a voice output model for speech”

(Cynthia J, Cress PHD)

Receptive Language is

“ How we understand others & the world around us”

How we gain information
(what's happening)

&

Developing a vocabulary
(understanding of words)





For our pupils developing their receptive skills enables them...



- To demonstrate what they know
- To understand, learn new skills and words
- To regulate their behaviour
- To support their emotional wellbeing
- To have an element of control over their environment
- To feel successful, empowered & independent



The Communication Ladder

6) Words; Written or spoken

5) Black & white symbol

4) Colour picture

3) Colour Photo's

2) Pretend object, e.g. a toy

1) The real object



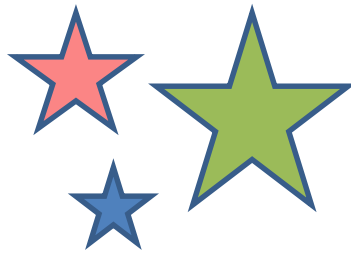
‘visuals are useful in helping a child to make sense of routines, to understand what is going to happen next..... If you use visuals to back up your language, you are giving pupils two chances to understand – they can hear your words and see the visuals. The visuals stay there, spoken words disappear!!!’

Systems to support receptive language

- Cue your child in to what's happening by using simple clear language
- You can support key words with objects, sounds, signs, photos, symbols and written words (depending on their level of understanding).
- Teach your child key words e.g. more, finish, help, toilet, cuddle, play, food, share, my turn/your turn, stop, go, drink...

Systems to support understanding

- Use simple routine cards
- Your phone is great for photo's, sounds
- The way things are laid out e.g. things kept in the same place so they learn where to find things
- Countdowns to activities finishing and telling your child when something has finished



What is Expressive Language?

At Glynne Gap language is described as the comprehension of a vocabulary (receptive language) and how this vocabulary is used (expressive language).



Speech is the sounds used to produce words. This includes how people speak, the fluency, volume, intonation and pitch used to support meaning.

AAC is every communication method other than speech!

For our pupils developing their expressive skills enables them...

- To have a chat, interact with someone
- To gain someone's attention
- To get what they want!
- To express how they feel and what they think
- To reject
- To repair communication
- To comment
- To give information
- To negotiate
- To ask questions
- To have a laugh!
- These are just a few!!!





The Communication Ladder

6) Words; Written or spoken

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1) The real object

Examples of systems to support expression..

- Objects (e.g. pointing to a choice)
- Photos – PECS, choiceboards, books...
- Symbols – as above
- Text – phone, written, computer, books
- Written and drawn messages
- Signs
- Step by step/ big mack
- Individuals own signals

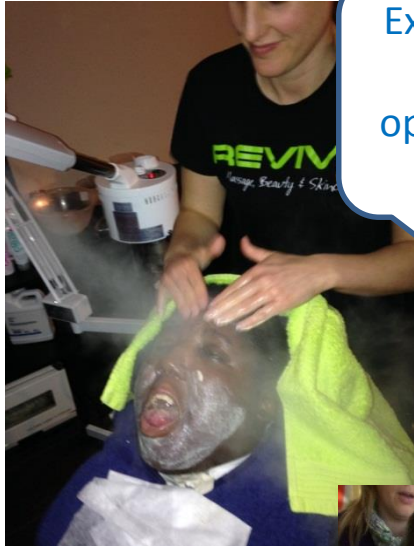
How to be super communication partners!

- Be positive when using a range of methods yourself
- Model, model, model!
- Slightly extend what your child says
- Allow time for your child to process what you have said
- Providing opportunities to use the communication systems!
- Keeping systems up to date
- Liaising with your child's class team
- **Have fun!!!!!!!**





Developing Communication enables children to.....



Express what leisure opportunities I like!



Enjoy a good gossip with my friends!



Participate no matter what I need to communicate



Be independent as independent as I can be!



Make new friends and play!

Having a chat with my friend....



Making lunch with the lads!



Considering what I want my future to be....



Thank you for coming..



Any questions?



