Exploring AACcess Options: Partner Assisted Scanning

May 19, 2016

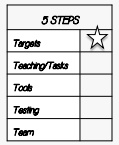
Maureen Nevers, M.S. CCC-SLP

angelman syndrome foundation | COMMUNICATION TRAINING SERIES

Introduction

Today's Webinar

- Access
  - Selection Techniques
    - Direct Selection
    - Scanning
      - Partner Assisted Scanning



1. www.Angelman.org Communication Training Series
2. Expand "+" Introduction Set
3. Select webinar #3

Does Your App Measure Up? Evaluating Communication Supports

August 28, 2015

Maureen Nevers, M.S. CCC-SLP
Speech-Language Pathologist
Augmentative Communication Consultant

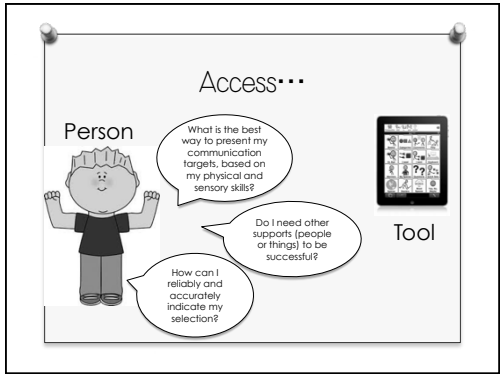
angelman syndrome foundation | COMMUNICATION TRAINING SERIES

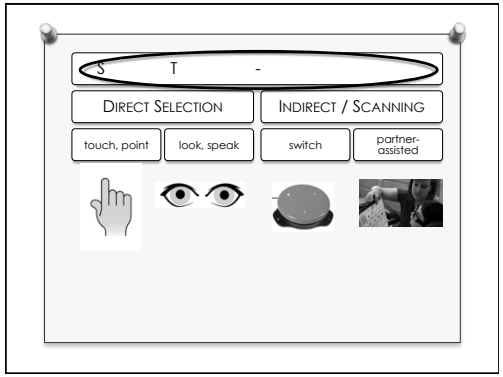
Access

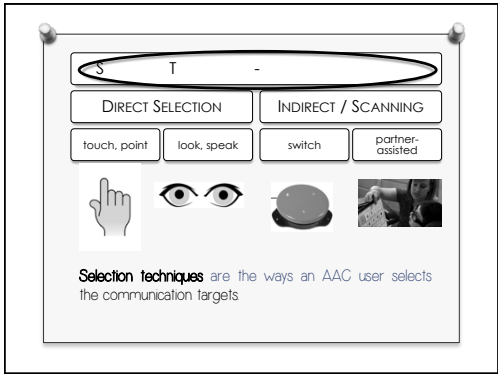
Access First

Access is THE most important factor to consider when selecting an appropriate communication system.

We must determine what features the person needs to best access the messages on the system and make a selection.


Access…
Person
What is the best way to present my communication targets, based on my physical and sensory skills?
Do I need other supports (people or things) to be successful?
How can I reliably and accurately indicate my selection?
Tool


S T -
DIRECT SELECTION
INDIRECT / SCANNING
touch, point
look, speak
switch
partner-assisted


S T -
DIRECT SELECTION
INDIRECT / SCANNING
touch, point
look, speak
switch
partner-assisted
Selection techniques are the ways an AAC user selects the communication targets

S T

DIRECT SELECTION

touch, point | look, speak

Direct selection is when the AAC user selects a target 'directly' from the displayed set.

S T

INDIRECT / SCANNING

switch | partner-assisted

Scanning requires sequential presentation of the options before the user can indicate their selection using a motor response.

S T

INDIRECT / SCANNING

switch | partner-assisted

In switch scanning, presentation of the options and the selection of targets is controlled by the AAC user and an electronic switch.

S T

INDIRECT / SCANNING

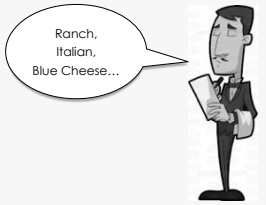
switch | partner-assisted

In PAS, the partner is the one who presents the options and receives the user's signal. The partner intentionally uses their knowledge of the person, environment, context to adjust the interaction and increase success.

Scanning

Examples

Real Life Example:
Auditory Scanning



Real Life Example: Auditory Scanning

Real Life Example: Visual Scanning

Real Life Example: Visual Scanning

HELLO

H = 44
E = 33
L = 555
L = 555
O = 666

Selection Techniques

Decision Making

One Important Note….

When considering the user's response mode, remember that **communication is the PRIMARY purpose of this system**

other goals must come after this

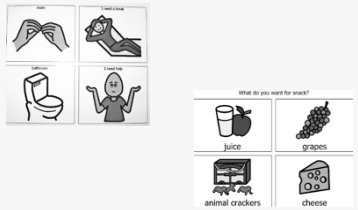
Direct Selection Indicators

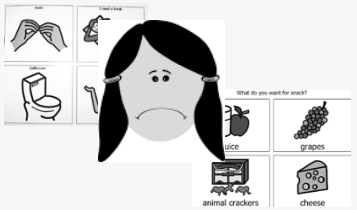
- Consistent motor skills
- Accurate selections
- Few miss-hits (errors)
- Short latency (time to access target)
- Low energy demands / not fatiguing
- Low physical demands (e.g. positioning, looking, listening)
- High quantity of symbols available on display

Direct Selection Supports

- Keyguard
- Delayed key activation
- Stylus
- Space between targets

Common "Solution"





Partner-Assisted Scanning (PAS) Indicators

- Consider using PAS in addition to or in place of Direct Selection if it direct access:
  - is fatiguing
  - has high error rate
  - requires dramatic reduction of quantity of symbols in set/ display
  - requires precise seating/set-up for accuracy
  - is inconsistent
  - is impacted by contextual factors (distraction)

Direct Selection and Scanning

Availability of AAC user, context, and purpose of interaction all impact selection of appropriate method at that time.

Partner-Assisted Scanning

How-To and Signaling

Partner-Assisted Scanning

The partner presents
the items
and interprets
the user's "yes" signal

Partner-Assisted Scanning
Example of How-to

1. say "**listen**"
2. **name [and show] each** option
3. say "**now choose**"
4. **name** [and show] first option
5. **pause** [2 seconds] for response
   1. *for 'yes' response* - repeat the selected item and respond accordingly to choice
   2. *for "no" response or no response* – continue to next option and repeat step 4-5

Video Example

Signaling

The repetition of a specific movement for communicative purposes in scanning

PAS Signal

Any physical movement that is under the user's control and is recognized by the partner to indicate a selection

Many times PAS is used as a vehicle for the person to develop control over a movement and for the partner to learn to recognize the signal

PAS Partner

Partner acts as the interface between the user and the materials

Partners work cooperatively with the user to increase speed, accuracy, and success

PAS Partner

- Disregards unintended movement
- Alters presentation timing as needed
- Reads subtle nonverbal cues
- Uses contextual cues to assist in interpretation
- Recognizes problems and helps with solutions

[2006] Burkhart, L. Porter, G ISAAC "Partner-Assisted Communication Challenges for Children Who Face Multiple Challenges

PAS for Writing

Partner-Assisted Scanning

Getting Started and

Do's and Don'ts

Partner-Assisted Scanning: Getting Started

Selection Set

- Quantity in a sequence
- Number of cycles
- Labels/names for offered items
- Use of "something else"

Motor Signal

- 1 or 2
- Defined
- Clarity
- Latency
- Inhibited (when not needed)
- No response

PAS Do's and Don'ts

- DO be clear about what signal you are looking for
- DO minimize use of multiple signals – too many motor planning 'programs' running at once can be confusing
- DO consider using some form of PAS with direct selection, especially if the user struggles with motor planning

PAS Do's and Don'ts

- DO correct your own mistakes:
  - "I see your face does not look happy. I think I made a mistake. Let's try again"
- DO provide lots of opportunities to practice the interaction with options that [seem] equally 'good'.
- DO offer a "way out" by including "none of these" or "something else" at the end of the list of options
- DO adjust time for distractions, interruptions etc.

PAS Do's and Don'ts

- DON'T ask for repetition of signal
- DON'T get caught in the "was it or wasn't it a signal" spiral – if you think it is, it is!
- DO verbally identify the movement you are recognizing as a signal
  - "I saw your hand move…"
  - "I see you looking"
  - "I think that's a smile…"

PAS Do's and Don'ts

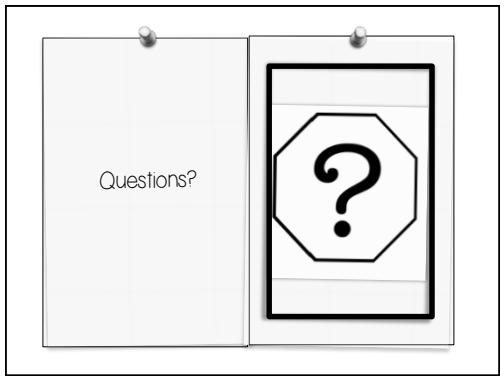
- DO keep selection set in order; it is SO important that the scanning set always retain the same sequence to create automaticity and predictability through learned motor and language patterns

Resources

Communicating with PAS YouTube video
Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nGpSXQKrmP4

Partner-Assisted Communication Challenges for Children Who Face Multiple Challenges (Burkhart, Porter 2006)
http://www.lburkhart.com/Isaac_instructional_06.pdf

Promoting Communication on the Fly for Students with Significant Disabilities Including Deaf-Blindness: Top 10 Tips for Partner Assisted Scanning (Hanser 2007)
https://www.meduncc.edu/ahs/clds/files/how-to-handouts/Top10TipsPA.pdf



Thank You!

The ASF Communication Training Series
is made available by
the Angelman Syndrome Foundation
and a generous grant from
The Foster Family Charitable Foundation,
a family foundation established in Central California

angelman syndrome foundation | COMMUNICATION TRAINING SERIES

angelman
SYNDROME FOUNDATION

angelman syndrome foundation | COMMUNICATION TRAINING SERIES

Video Examples

- Bridge School
https://bridgeschoolorg/transition/multimodal/partner_assist_scan.php
- Linda Burkhart
https://wwwyoutubecom/watch?v=TOvC9OoygaA
- We Speak PODD demonstration
https://wwwyoutubecom/watch?v=_q5fs-JQJvQ

Student Examples

Students:
- NN
- Mom
- Joe
- Jon M
- Fiona