

Light Tech Communication Supports: Simple, Cheap and Easy to Find!

Making Communication Happen Worldwide

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Communication Displays:

- Communication cans: <http://www.asu.edu/clas/tnt/ideas/comm/CommunicationCan.pdf>
- Communicating at the pool/lake:
- Floating board: <http://www.asu.edu/clas/tnt/ideas/eat/holdut.pdf>
- Pool noodle – tape symbols on it; cut a slit and put laminated communication display in slot
- Acrylic picture frames & magnetic frames for holding communication displays
- Talking pillowcase, pool boards, etc.- See p.17
- http://www.autismcommunityconnection.com/files/AAC_resources_for_families.pdf

Propping Books or Communication Displays:

From: <http://www.ecac-parentcenter.org/childhood/documents/AssistiveTech.pdf>

- Create slant boards/book stabilizers by gluing low pile carpet to a large 3 ring binder, and use Velcro to anchor books to the carpeted surface
- Adapt commercially available lap trays to use as supports for positioning books
- PVC pipe can be used to create free standing book stands that can be used by physical and occupational therapists to support books during therapy sessions that focus on positioning and other motor activities
- Easel, rain gutter or chalkboard tray used as a book support
- Use cookbook holders- put piece of Grip-liner underneath to hold in place



- Box Easel: <http://www.asu.edu/clas/tnt/ideas/play/boxeasel.pdf>
- PVC stand: <http://www.asu.edu/clas/tnt/ideas/comm/PVCSymbolStand.pdf>

Simple message recorders:

- Talking pockets <http://www.augresources.com/vindex.html>
- Talking bracelets <http://www.augresources.com/vindex.html>
- RadioShack® 5'x7" Talking Picture Frame
 - Model: 63-234 | Catalog #: 63-234
 - \$19.99 Preserve memories with both a photograph and a recorded message. <http://www.radioshack.com/search/index.jsp?kwCatId=&kw=talking%20picture%20frames&origkw=talking%20picture%20frames&sr=1>

Pointer/Switch access:

Laser pointer instructions

http://neurology.ucsf.edu/brain/als/PDFs/Laser_Pointer_Instructions.pdf

CD Switch kit <http://www.rjcooper.com/switch-kit/index.html> 5/\$50 (video/material list)

Copper adhesive back sheets

<http://www.globalsgs.com/blackbackcopperfoilsheet.aspx> \$5.99

Also available at Michael's craft stores \$8.00

Constructing a Battery Interrupter and a Business Card Switch

http://www.atinnh.org/pdf/Business_Card_Switchmaking.PDF

Supporting Literacy:

Adapting books:

<http://www.aacoinstitute.org/Resources/ParentsCorner/SharingAndIdeaAlbum/Reading/070101AdaptingBooks.pdf>

From <http://www.ecac-parentcenter.org/childhood/documents/AssistiveTech.pdf>:

- Scan or copy book pages to enlarge or place in more user friendly format such as 3 ring binders with page protectors, laminate, or photo albums
- Enhance copied book pages with communication symbols, textures or home made 3-D props, use Velcro to attach props, symbols or textures to story boards or book pages
- Commercially available books that are enlarged or come with 3-D props can be found at www.lakeshorelearning.com or [Constructive Playthings-www.constplay.com](http://ConstructivePlaythings.com)
- Create or make personalized books using photos placing them in photo albums with cardboard back pages, or 3-ring binders
- Add pictures or symbols to text to enhance story meaning
- Recycled materials like sheet packing foam, chip clips, large paper clips, sticky back foam, hot glue "dots" or soft Velcro can be attached to book page corners to "fluff" pages apart for easier turning
- Large heavy duty hair tie loops can be hot glued or taped to create handles on chubby book pages or pop up book

Page Fluffers

- <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/download/pdf/db-PgFluffersFS.pdf>
- <http://www.asu.edu/clas/tnt/ideas/play/FoamCorePageFluffers.pdf>

Writing/Drawing supports:

- Milk Jug Crayon holder:
<http://www.asu.edu/clas/tnt/ideas/play/MilkJugCrayonHolder.pdf>
- Gluestick Crayon holder:
<http://www.asu.edu/clas/tnt/ideas/play/gluestickcrayonholder.pdf>
- Ideas for holding utensils and markers/crayons:
<http://www.asu.edu/clas/tnt/ideas/eat/holdut.pdf>

Life skills:

Telling Time supports:

<http://www.aac institute.org/Resources/ParentsCorner/SharingAndIdeaAlbum/MaterialsUsefulWithAVarietyOfAACSystems/070107DirectionsForAssemblingTheClockTabs.pdf>

How Money Works activity

<http://www.aac institute.org/Resources/ParentsCorner/SharingAndIdeaAlbum/Symposium/2007/HowMoneyWorks.doc>

Look and cook cookbooks (Attainment Co.)

<http://www.attainmentcompany.com/product.php?productid=16536&cat=0&page=1>

Using a computer mouse:

Mouse House: <http://www.asu.edu/clas/tnt/ideas/other/MouseHouseDirections.pdf>

Grocery lists:

http://www.asu.edu/clas/tnt/home_files/ideas/errands/Grocery%20Store%20Help.pdf

Vermont Assistive Technology Program links:

Solutions - http://www.dail.state.vt.us/atp/publications/Solutions_2008.pdf

Getting started with AAC at home -

http://www.dail.state.vt.us/atp/publications/50_Ideas_2008.pdf

Adapting toys ideas - <http://www.dail.state.vt.us/atp/publications/AdaptingToyIdeas.pdf>

AAC KIT
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Glue stick – for quickly adding symbols to a communication board or book,
Double sided foam dots or double sided tapes – for semi-permanently securing communication boards, choice boards or schedule boards to hard surfaces.
Adhesive backed magnetic strip – for securing symbols or communication boards to metal surface.

Hole punch – for adding pages to 3-ring binder communication books

Post-it flags – Use as tabs for communication book.

Post-it notes - for adding quick words or hand-drawn symbols to books or boards.
Can also use to mask symbols in books or boards.

Small pocket photo album(s) – use as a portable communication book or to keep social stories readily available.

Metal rings – use them for symbols, choice boards or other visual supports.

Velcro – for anything and everything!

Stick 'n suck discs – Great for securing small communication devices to hard surfaces, without the need for a mount. Stick and suck discs \$25/5 sheets (each sheet has two 2 1/4" disks and one 3 1/4" disk)

<http://www.rjcooper.com/stick-&-suck/index.html>

Self-hold hair rollers – These are Velcro compatible and work as mini easels for symbols when no easel is available.

- Also makes it easier for individuals to grasp and hold symbols.

Velcro compatible fabric – come up with your own use for this stuff!

Plastic pocket pages –for communication pages in 3-ring binder books, allows symbols to be readily removed and added.

White board with markers – keep track of letters being selected by spellers, or draw/write choices when a choice board or communication book is not available.

GLAD Press'n Seal® wrap – wrap it over static display devices, switches, etc. to protect from moisture (good for folks who drool).

- Also great for temporarily positioning boards/symbols on hard surfaces, including walls.

Index cards – you can print single or multiple symbols on them (select index card under printer setup). You can also paste pictures/ photos from magazines and newspapers onto them to make a more durable symbol.

Sharpie – because we never have one when we need it.

VELCRO® brand ONE-WRAP® straps – great for securing switches to wheelchair headrests or arms. Lots of other uses.

Page fluffers – to make communication book pages easier to turn.

LED super bright keychain light (Garrity makes one with a nice click) – for light cueing.

Laminate sheets – when you don't have access to a laminating machine.

Magnetic photo frame – to position symbol(s) onto metal surfaces.

Acrylic easel photo frame – to position symbols or boards at an angle.

Swim noodle - for use on shopping cart handles (for grocery list items or schedule pics) and for floating boards at the pool.

Batteries – no explanation needed

Electrical tape – for repairing switches or securing cords.

Small bottle of alcohol and Q-tips – for cleaning switches, Step-By-Steps etc.

Wide cellophane tape - when you run out of laminate.

Retractable name badge holder – for attaching symbols or small boards to belt, backpack, etc.

Allen wrenches – for attaching, removing, and tightening wheelchair mounts.