

Article from **RERC on Communication Enhancement eNews**

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August 24, 2004

Announcing.....

Want to know what's new in our world? Check out what we've recently published, posted, produced, and participated in.

Publications Hot Off the Press

The partners and staff of the AAC-RERC have been busy spreading the word through journal and newsletter articles. Here's a list of some of our recent publications. Check the [Pubs & Presentations](#) section our website for a complete bibliography.

- [AAC and Cell Phone Use: One Off-the-Shelf Solution and Some Policy Considerations](#) (Bryen, D.N. & P. Pecunas, *Assistive Technology*, 16(1), 11-17)
- [AAC-RERC Writers Brigade Fired Up.](#) (Schwartz, J., *The ConnSENSE Bulletin*, 6:1, May 23, 2004)
- An Update on Employment in AAC: How're We Doing? (Blackstone, S. *Augmentative Communication News*, October 2004)
- Autism and AAC (reviews and demonstrates the use of AAC techniques and technologies with people with autism – Williams, M., *Augmentative Communication News*)
- [Backup plans create havoc for disabled.](#) (Hemphill, J. *FresnoBee.com*. August 28, 2004.)
- Family acceptance of supplemented speech strategies used by survivors of TBI. (Hanson, E. Beukelman, D., Fager, S., & Ullman, C., *The ASHA Leader*, 205)
- Love and Marriage (raises issues and discusses the realities of maintaining intimate relationships – Williams, M., *Alternatively Speaking*)
- Networking Towards Employment (Carey, A., Potts, A. & Bryen, D.N., *TASH Journal*, 29 (1), 40-52.)
- Speech Supplementation Techniques for Dysarthria: A Systematic Review (Hanson, E., Yorkston, K. & Beukelman, D., *Journal of Medical Speech Language Pathology*. 12, ix-xxix)
- The Political Process (Williams, M., *Alternatively Speaking*, October 2004)
- Visual Scene Displays (highlights AAC-RERC partner work using visual scenes instead of traditional grid displays as an AAC interface with beginning communicators, people with aphasia and children with autism – Blackstone, S., *Augmentative Communication News*)

Augmentative Communication Inc.(ACI), a partner of the AAC-RERC, publishes and distributes *Augmentative Communication News (ACN)* and *Alternatively Speaking (AS)*. These print newsletters provide the latest information on hot topics in the field, discussion of vital issues for AAC stakeholders and news from the AAC community. For more information about these publications, visit [ACI](#) on the web.

New Products on our Website

Our website is constantly changing. Visit often to see what's new.

- We've updated the [Medicare Funding of AAC Devices](#) section with the most recent guidelines and information.
- Our [brochure](#) has been translated into Spanish and Portuguese. The **English, Spanish, and Portuguese versions** are available for download from our website.
- We've recently updated our [Pubs & Presentations](#) section with a running bibliography. **Clinical Pathway for Communication Changes with ALS** . The most recent PDF

version of the "[Patient's Clinical Pathway for Communication Changes with ALS](#)" and the "[Speech Pathologist's Clinical Pathway for Communication Changes with ALS](#)" can be downloaded from the AAC-RERC website.

- **New White Paper on Web Accessibility.** The Institute on Disabilities, a partner of the AAC-RERC, is proud to announce a new white paper and repair tool on [Web Accessibility for People who Rely on AAC](#).

Postings from ACOLUG

What features should communication devices provide you to make better use of cell phones? What areas of adult life do you feel people who use augmentative communication are denied access to?

What barriers do you face when trying to communicate as individuals with autism or ASD?

Have you ever thought about these questions? Felt like discussing them? Through the Augmentative Communication On-Line Users Group (ACOLUG), you can.

ACOLUG is a LISTSERV created to exchange ideas, information, and experiences on augmentative communication by people from all over the world. By using e-mail, people who use augmentative communication and their friends and families discuss issues related to augmentative communication, such as equipment, funding, learning techniques, and supports.

Recently, ACOLUG discussions revolved around:

- Policy watch (May 17)
- Specialized AAC Vocabulary (June 7)
- Communication Performance Assessment (June 21)
- Dissemination projects (July 5)
- White Paper on Web Accessibility (July 20)
- Cellular phone access for users of AAC (August 16)
- Contextual Scenes for Persons with Autism (August 28)

The AAC-RERC provides support to ACOLUG. All you need to join is internet access and an email address. To check it out, visit [ACOLUG](#) on the web.

Dissemination through Participation

Webcasts

In the near future, the AAC-RERC will be sponsoring **webcasts** on various AAC and communication-related topics. Although the dates are yet to be determined, we've lined up a number of topics, including Transitions (David McNaughton), Contextual Scenes for Beginning Communicators (Janice Light), Contextual Scenes for Adults with Aphasia (David Beukelman), Funding (Lew Golinker), and Employment (Diane Bryen). Keep checking our website for the dates.

Resource Guide for Children with Disabilities

Recently, the AAC-RERC submitted entries for a **new resource guide** publication from the National Center for Dissemination of Disability Research (NCDDR) and the Consortium for Children and Youth with Disabilities and Special Health Care Needs. *Guide to Resources Produced by NIDRR Grantees: Infants, Children, and Youth with Disabilities* is now available in hard copy. The *Guide* contains 172 entries of resources used by teachers, rehabilitation personnel, therapists, and others who work with infants, children, and youth with disabilities. The following resources from the AAC-RERC were included in the *Guide*:

- Communicative competence for individuals who use AAC: From research to effective practice (*Janice Light, Penn State University; and David Beukelman, University of Nebraska*)
- Exemplary practice for beginning communicators: Implications for AAC (*Janice Light and David Beukelman*)
- Effects of hand-drawn and computer-generated concept mapping on expository writing of middle school students with learning disabilities (*Janet Sturm, previous AAC-RERC partner, University of North Carolina, currently at Central Michigan University*)
- Enhancing literacy development through AAC technologies (*Janet Sturm*)
- Enhancing participation in employment through AAC technologies (*David McNaughton, Penn State University; Diane Bryen, Temple University*)
- Getting your 'wheel' in the door: Successful full-time employment experiences of individuals with cerebral palsy who use AAC (*David McNaughton and Janice Light*)
- Improving the design of AAC technologies for young children (*Janice Light and Kathy Drager, Penn State University*)
- The performance of typically developing 2 1/2 year olds on dynamic display AAC technologies with different system layouts and language organizations (*Kathy Drager and Janice Light*)

For more information about the Guide, contact NCDDR online at www.ncddr.org or by phone at 800-266-1832.

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