

# Augmentative Communication in Practice: Scotland Study Day

(Repeated by popular demand)



## Communicating with Pictures and Symbols

This Study Day will provide teachers, therapists, social work staff, carers and others with an opportunity to find out more about how pictures and symbol systems can be used to support children and adults with communication difficulties.

This is a second chance to attend the Study Day, originally held on 10th November 2003, which many people were unable to attend due to the unprecedented demand for places.



**Stirling Management Centre,  
University of Stirling**

**Monday 22nd March 2004**





# Communicating with Pictures and Symbols

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University of Stirling, Stirling  
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## Timetable for the Day

- 8.45 - 9.20 Registration & Coffee
- 9.20 - 9.30 Welcome and Introduction
- 9.30 - 10.15 Alison MacDonald, Queen Margaret University College, Edinburgh - *Pictorialising Symbols and Symbolising Pictures.....What are we Symbolising?*
- 10.15 - 11.15 Workshop Session 1
- 1A *Introduction to Symbol Selection*, Deborah Jans, KEYCOMM & Kathy Sherrit, Raeden Centre Nursery School
  - 1B *Symbolising the Environment*, Jane Donnelly & Annie Kirkaldy, FACCT
  - 1C *Talking Mats™*, Joan Murphy & Sally Boa, AAC Research Unit, University of Stirling
  - 1D *Communicative Drawing*, Lynsey White, Western Infirmary, Glasgow
- 11.15 - 11.45 Coffee / View Poster Displays
- 11.45 - 12.45 Workshop Session 2
- 2A *Symbols - A Whole School Approach*, Presenters to be confirmed.
  - 2B *Gathering Images*, Susan Gibb, CALL Centre, University of Edinburgh
  - 2C *Designing Communication Boards and Displays*, Janet Scott, SCTCI
  - 2D *Better Health through Better Communication*, Kim Hartley, Lothian Primary Care Trust
- 12.45 - 14.00 Lunch / View Poster Displays
- 14.00 - 15.00 Workshops Session 3
- 3A *Strategies to Support Symbol Implementation*, Pamela Cornwallis & Dithe Fisher, TASSCC
  - 3B *Inclusive Literacy Ideas - Stories for Everyone*, Noreen Brown, KEYCOMM
  - 3C *Symbols in the Process of Documenting, Consulting and Planning*, Sally Millar, CALL Centre, University of Edinburgh
- 15.15 - 16.00 Tina Detheridge, Widgit Ltd. *Future Development of Symbols and their Technologies.*
- 16.00 Close

## Augmentative Communication in Practice: Scotland

Augmentative Communication in Practice is an open group composed of people in Scotland who have an active interest in AAC - users of AAC, families, carers and professionals from a variety of different disciplines.

The core of the Organising Committee consists of individual members of staff from the different centres in Scotland with a particular interest in Augmentative and Alternative Communication - the CALL Centre, SCTCI, FACCT, KEYCOMM and TASSCC - and others.

**Continuing Professional Development** - Attendance at this Study Day can count towards ongoing professional development. Certificates of Attendance will be available on the day.

**Collected Papers** - There's no need to worry about not being able to attend all of the workshops that you might wish. A book of the collected papers will be available to buy at a discount on the day.

# Workshops

There will be three workshop sessions during the course of the day, with the following choices:

## Session 1

### 1a *Introduction to Symbol Selection*, Deborah Jans, KEYCOMM & Kathy Sherrit, Raeden Centre.

This workshop will discuss the impact symbols have for improving communication for adults and children. Features of symbol systems will be explored through practical activities. The range of systems discussed will include commercially available symbol systems as well as other symbol options.

### 1b *Symbolising the Environment*, Jane Donnelly & Annie Kirkaldy, FACCT.

This presentation will give an overview of how symbols can be used within the environment to enhance comprehension, facilitate expression and encourage the development of early literacy skills. The workshop will give a practical demonstration on how symbols can be introduced and developed within school settings but these can be transferred into adult environments.

### 1c *Talking Mats™*, Joan Murphy & Sally Boa, AAC Research Unit, University of Stirling

This presentation will give an overview of the various ways *Talking Mats™* is being used both in clinical practice and in research. It will be illustrated with video clips and digital photographs and participants will have a chance to have some hands on experience.

### 1d *Communicative Drawing*, Lynsey Bowie, Western Infirmary, Glasgow.

This workshop aims to summarise the current literature on drawing therapy and its relevance for adults who have communication impairments. Drawing as a means of expression is not quickly recognised in a communicative world dominated by speech. A positive case presentation will highlight practical implementation of communicative drawing with an adult. Participants will be provided with an opportunity to practise and discuss the case and methods used.

## Session 2

### 2a *Symbols - Use in a School*, (Presenters to be confirmed)

This workshop will present a study of a whole-school approach to symbols, including the use of symbols to assess learning. There will be practical examples to support.

### 2b *Gathering Images*, Susan Gibb, CALL Centre, University of Edinburgh.

There are times when symbols alone cannot provide sufficient information to be helpful and need to be supported by other material. This workshop will examine the use of various alternative sources for images, including digital photographs, scanned images, clip art and material obtained from the internet.

### 2c *Designing Communication Boards and Displays*, Janet Scott, SCTCI

Arranging language two-dimensionally on a sheet of paper is difficult! This session will consider factors (including the individual's physical and visual abilities) you have to think about when designing a communication display. It is important to make things as easy as possible, both for the display owner and for their communication partners. Participants will have an opportunity to try using different layouts and designs.

### 2d *Better Health through Better Communication*, Kim Hartley, Lothian Primary Care Trust .

This project involved putting communication resources and skills into primary care facilities across the North of Edinburgh. Achievements include: more inclusive communication environments in 85% of practices; development of standard symbols and accessible literature; development of a model programme for the expansion of accessible communication environments across NHS Lothian.

## Session 3

### 3a *Strategies to Support Symbol Implementation*, Pamela Cornwallis & Dithe Fisher, TASSCC.

This workshop will discuss: ideas to support the implementation of symbols; ways to maintain and develop use of symbols for communication; practical approaches to setting up a flexible symbol system that can grow as the user's needs develop. The session will focus on examples mainly for use with children, although participants will be able to adapt the ideas for use with adults.

### 3b *Inclusive Literacy Ideas - Stories for Everyone*, Noreen Brown, KEYCOMM / ITSU.

Story telling has been part of people's lives and experience since earliest times. Today, we watch videos but still enjoy sharing stories at home, school and in other settings. This presentation will show innovative symbol materials developed at KEYCOMM to encourage story times for children with communication and other difficulties. There will be time to examine materials and ask questions.

### 3c *Symbols in the Process of Documenting, Consulting & Planning*, Sally Millar, CALL Centre.

This workshop will examine the roles of different documents using photos, pictures and symbols, e.g. Communication Book; AAC Log; Home-school Diary; Passport; Photo Album; Social Stories; All About Me; Record of Achievement; Co-ordinated Learning Plan; Individual Support Plan; etc.. How might communication-impaired people participate more actively in making and using these, developing choice making and being consulted, and having their views represented?