



What is Augmentative Communication?

The act of communication is as important to a person's wellbeing as food and shelter. The **Augmentative Communication Service** at Five Counties Children's Centre offers access to various specialized techniques, as well as technology, to provide a voice, either written or spoken, for an individual who is otherwise unable to communicate. We believe everyone has something to say and should be afforded the opportunity to write a letter, order fries at McDonald's, talk to a grandparent, or pursue an educational goal.

What is the Augmentative Communication Service (ACS)?

Our interdisciplinary team assesses, makes recommendations, and can authorize equipment for, individuals whose spoken and/or written communication does not meet their daily needs at home or in the community. We see people from birth to their 21st birthday who live within the Five Counties geographic catchment area.

We are a consultative 'train the trainer' service

so education, demonstration, and other forms of training are provided to clients and their facilitators (ie. family, care-givers, and primary therapists) in order to ensure successful communication over the long term. For this reason, active participation is necessary throughout ACS intervention. ACS also provides education and advocacy within our community to promote an understanding of augmentative communication and to encourage an inclusive society.

'Who' is ACS?

ACS is comprised of a team of professionals from several fields who bring a broad expertise in the field of augmentative communication to the service.

ACS Team members include:

- *Speech Language Pathologists (SLP)
- *Occupational Therapists (OT)
- *Computer Technician (Tech)
- *Communication Instructor (CI)
- *Program Assistant (PA)
- *Administrative Assistant (ASST)

Our service is also a registered Expanded Level clinic with the Assistive Devices Program (ADP) of the Ministry of Health. This allows us to authorize ADP approved communication equipment for individuals who meet eligibility criteria of this

program. ADP pays 75% of the cost of this for home/community use. We can also write letters of support for other funding agencies if ADP funds are not available.

How to Access our Service?

Referrals can be made by a number of people, but must always be in consultation with parents or guardians. A referral can be started by contacting the Intake Coordinator at Five Counties or the ACS Administrative Asst.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

FIVE COUNTIES CHILDREN'S CENTRE AUGMENTATIVE COMMUNICATION SERVICE

872 DUTTON ROAD
PETERBOROUGH, ON
K9H 7G1

Phone: (705) 748-2221/1-888-779-9916

Fax: (705) 748-3526

Email to: info@fivecounties.on.ca

Website: www.fivecounties.on.ca



Not being able to speak ...

...is not the same as having nothing to say...



DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that learning augmentative communication does not interfere with learning to speak or using what speech someone has?

In fact, it can help support spoken language learning (e.g. consider how many people are using baby sign with infants while waiting for speech to develop). It can provide a way to reduce frustration, share information, and develop language skills while working on speech goals.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that nouns and verbs that you can easily make pictures for are not the words we use most often to communicate?

90% of what we say are the 'little words' and verbs that aren't easy to make universally recognized symbols for. i.e.: no, yes, that, is, want, a, go, take, etc., etc. Augmentative communication professionals can help with developing systems that take this into account.



DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that asking yes/no questions to figure out what someone is trying to say or to give them choices is augmentative communication?

Actually, the skills learned by using this method can teach the skills needed for using a communication device.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that learning to use an augmentative communication technique or device has to happen wherever communication is going to occur?

Some demonstration can be done in a 'therapy' setting, but this is artificial and practice has to happen in natural environments in everyday life in order to make it useful.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that being able to understand language doesn't mean that you automatically know how to produce it?

Regardless of the tool used (e.g. a communication book or communication device) it is only through modeling and learning over time that the tool will be used successfully.



* [wwwhttp://practicalaac.org/](http://practicalaac.org/)

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