Improving Intervention for Individuals with Complex Communication Needs Using and Online Community of Practice

[Summary]  Emily D. Quinn (Ph.D Candidate) M.S., CCC-SLP, Alexandrea Cook, B.A., Kristi Atkins, M.A., CCC-SLP

1. Member Bios allow you to gain all the benefits of membership (i.e., the ability to post to the forum and interact directly with other users). Most online communities of practice also allow users to follow other members to customize their experience.

2. Community Forum: Learning to navigate the community forum allows users to find exactly what they want and need. You can search for specific content, use the filters, write a post, and respond to a post.

3. Collections: Many communities highlight specific posts or users. The Communication Matrix Community invites guest hosts to contribute posts on a specific topic to help you get the most out of the Community.

4. Shared Science: While not often in a community, there are a number of ways researchers are attempting to share their results with the public. The Shared Science section of the Communication Matrix Community mines data from a database Communication Matrix assessments completed online to improve the knowledge base of users through composite profiles of communication skills in various populations of children with CCN.

References


IMPROVING INTERVENTION FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH COMPLEX COMMUNICATION NEEDS USING AND ONLINE COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

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LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Discuss the knowledge gaps in implementing evidence-based AAC interventions among providers and families.
2. Describe the advantages of using an online community of practice to support dissemination of evidence-based information regarding implementation of AAC strategies.
3. Discuss how to utilize the Communication Matrix Community of Practice as a Platform to interact with other professionals and families, learn about AAC intervention strategies, and explore communication profiles of children with complex communication needs.

COMMUNICATION MATRIX TARGET POPULATION

• The earliest stages of communication (0-24 mo. in typical development).
• Use any type of communicative behavior.
• Any type or degree of disability.
• All ages.
• Do NOT already use some form of language meaningfully and fluently.
MEET ANDREW

- Andrew has Down syndrome
- He enjoys Swimming, Music Time, Basketball, and Playing videogames
- What are his skills on the Communication Matrix assessment?

HOW DOES ANDREW COMMUNICATE?
COMMUNICATION MATRIX ASSESSMENT
WWW.COMMUNICATIONMATRIX.ORG

Pinpoint exactly how an individual is communicating now and craft realistic goals for the future.
Track progress to determine next steps.
Available online in 7 languages & PDF in 9 languages.

Available online in the following languages:
• English
• Spanish
• Korean
• Chinese (traditional)
• Vietnamese
• Czech
• Russian
• Dutch

It is important that the Communication Matrix assessment reaches as many people as possible.

Translate the website, along with the assessments, into several languages. Use the site to translate it.
WE WANT TO SPREAD IDEAS

- US Department of education is interested in encouraging widespread implementation of technology to improve outcomes of individuals with disabilities

- 79% of 359 school-based SLPs surveyed did not feel they had the expertise to help struggling learners who require AAC (Fallon and Katz 2007)

IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE RESEARCH: EXPLORES WHY IDEAS AREN’T SPREADING

Challenges
- Communication Assessment with individuals CCN is often inadequate
- Appropriate evaluation of communication skills is a prerequisite to generating appropriate goals
- Empirically supported interventions for individuals with CCN are not integrated into clinical practice
- Knowledge is not easily shared with educators and clinicians intervening with individuals with CCN
- Access to evidence-based practices are limited by time, money, and location
WE CAN HARNESS TECHNOLOGY TO HELP IDEAS SPREAD

Develop a Community of Practice

- to deepen knowledge and expertise in assessment and interventions for individuals with CCN
- to provide timely and relevant solutions
- to discuss contextual fit of assessments and interventions to school culture
- to improve educational practices for individuals with CCN

WHAT IS A COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE?

- A virtual community that leverages the knowledge of widely dispersed members across professional differences to share information, problems
- Model of professional development that focuses on implementation and the iterative process of learning and doing
- Model that facilitates learning through ongoing collaboration
EXAMPLES OF COPS YOU MIGHT ALREADY USE

ASHA Community

Professional Learning Communities

National Center on Deaf-Blindness

PrAACtical AAC

The Mighty

Facebook Groups

WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES TO ONLINE C.O.P.S?

Advantages

- Can be accessed in rural areas
- Time zone not an issue
- Encourages sharing across geographical boundaries
- Crowdsourcing of resources and expertise
WHO USES THE COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE?

- **SLPs**: 16,283 (26%)
- **OTs, PTs, BCBAs**: 6,384 (10%)
- **Teachers & Educators**: 6,384 (10%)
- **Parents & Family**: 1,112 (2%)
- **Faculty and Pre-Service Students**:

THE COMMUNICATION MATRIX COMMUNITY

- **Central Features**
  - Member Bios
  - Community Forum
  - Collections: curated sets of posts on specific topics by invited guest hosts
  - Shared Science: Profiles of Communication in individuals with rare disorders
- **Free**
- **Open to all**
- **Users can add posts in any language**
- **Purpose**: Spread Effective Strategies for Individuals with CCN
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO ABOUT IT?

THE BASICS

What specific behaviors do you want to focus on?

This will depend largely on what the learner wants to communicate about and what behaviors (whether pre-symbolic or symbolic) are needed to communicate about those things.

- Use the learner’s current skills as a foundation
- The learner should be allowed to perform at his/her current level
- The learner should be steadily pushed toward a higher level

ANDREW’S PROFILE

Andrew 2/2/18
COMMUNICATION MATRIX COMMUNITY

Welcome to our Community Forum
Our Community is a resource for anyone who supports someone with a severe communication disorder. Family members, educators, professionals, and researchers see the forum to educate themselves and support each other.

Search the forum

Our guest hosts select the best of the Community forum.

Check out events in your area, or post your own event.

Explore the site to learn more about communication disorders.

All Posts

Funded 2 Year Graduate Student Positions in AAC Available at Penn State University
Kitty Foster
3/5/2019

This AAC Collaborative Project at Penn State, under U.S. Department of Education grant HHS NIAID2310, will prepare speech language pathologists and special education teachers to provide evidence-based...

ACES at Temple University July 23-August 3, 2018

COMMUNITY FORUM

Write posts
- Ask for help
- Offer suggestions
- Upload PDFs, video examples, lesson plans, data sheets

Comment on Ideas
- Share your expertise
- Links to video examples or articles

Promote community events
Search for intervention strategies
Search

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Search the forums

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ACEC at Temple University July 23-August 3, 2018

Results

Search Results: shared reading

No results found

Categories

No results found

ENGLISH LITERACY
Other Ways to Browse

Matrix Filter
Matrix Filter Results

Events

10:15am - 11:15am
Inclusive Storytime
Mittwoch Public Library
3930 NE Brookwood Way, Milwaukie, OR 97264
3/5-7/2018

12:00 - 1:30
Finding Resources for Morgan’s Intervention on the Communication Matrix Community
ASHA (Assistive Technology Industry Association)
3/4/18/10

10:15 - 11:15
Inclusive Storytime
Mittwoch Public Library
3930 NE Brookwood Way, Milwaukie, OR 97264
3/4/18-3/5/2018
roll - roll

Children With Autism: Matching Interventions to Communication Needs
ASHA
https://www.asha.org/intervention-choices/
COLLECTIONS

Posts centered on a theme/topic
Library of curated posts
- Topics such as:
  - Conceptual versus Concrete Vocabulary
  - PLAI: Promoting Language through Active Interactions
  - Family and Caregiver Involvement in Speech Therapy

GUEST HOSTS

Invited guests share their expertise
Highlight and “promote” the most significant posts
Create a collection of posts around a topic or theme

Welcome to Collections
Collections allow members of the Communication Triage Community to gather posts on a specific topic and share them to help guide the rest of the Community.

“A Model of Communication in Children with Deafblindness

Suggest a Guest Host

This is a collection of things I have learned (and relearned) from a training called Movement and Communication taught by Claire Cotter, Gayle Porter and Linda Burkhart. There may also be some goodies I have received from mentors and friends along the way.

Suggest a Collection Curator

Armen Gulian

Bio: Armen is just another fox in the aoc beat, I have the pleasure of working with students that have severe to profound sensory, motor, cognitive and communication needs. SLP in Detroit Area living the life. The posts are my own, any wisdom included is these posts are clearly from others.
QUALITATIVE DATA/FEEDBACK FROM DEVELOPMENT SITES

“I love a focus on complex communication needs. Frequently I look at sites or information that does not apply to my students. It is great to have a site that focuses on the students I work with.”

“I love seeing what others are trying and learning new strategies.”
HOW TO CREATE A MEMBER BIO

Register
Create a new account.

EMAIL
SCREEN NAME
PASSWORD
CONFIRM PASSWORD

Upload avatar

Register
MEMBER BIOS

• Membership is free
• There are no eligibility requirements
• Benefits of membership include ability to:
  • Use communication matrix assessment tool
  • Post to the community forum
  • Reply to posts/engage in the community

Charity Rowland
Oregon Health & Science University
• Portland, OR
• Senior Name: Charity Rowland
• Language:

I am passionate about helping people develop and improve their communication skills so that they can communicate effectively in their personal and professional lives. I enjoy using the Communication Matrix to help clients identify communication barriers and develop strategies to overcome them. I believe that effective communication is essential for building strong relationships and achieving personal and professional goals.
SHARED SCIENCE

- View data on the communication skills of specific populations from our database
- Compiled from database of over 90,000 completed CM assessments
- Infographics in highly accessible format

WHO IS PARTICIPATING?

- SLPs (16283)
- Educator (6384)
- Parents (1112)
- Researcher (409)
- OT (341)
- Other (134)
- PT (102)
WHO IS WRITING POSTS AND COMMENTS

- SLPs (16283)
- Educator (6384)
- Parents (1112)
- Researcher (409)
- OT (341)
- Other (134)
- PT (102)

WHO VISITS THE COMMUNITY?

- New Sessions: 32%
- Returning: 68%
IDEAS FOR ANDREW

• Shared reading
• Unite for Literacy database
• Modeling
• Need more? Post a question on the forum

COMMUNICATION MATRIX

BE A PART OF OUR COMMUNITY!

Our website:
  ▪ https://www.communicationmatrix.org/Community

Email us:
  ▪ info@communicationmatrix.org

Social Media
  ▪ https://www.facebook.com/CommunicationMatrix
  ▪ Twitter: @Comm_Matrix