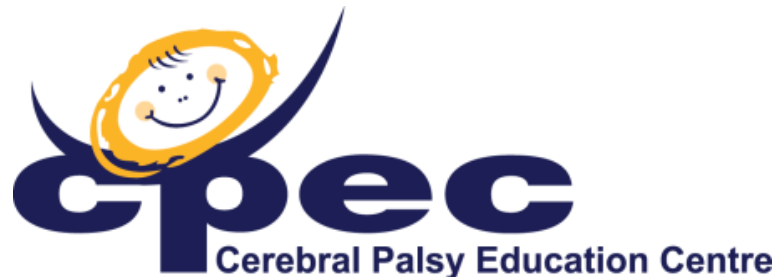


Empowering teenagers who use AAC through peer support and mentorship

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Our Chat Groups

- Different groups, different purposes
- Focus on language development
- Operational competencies
- Social competencies
- Building resilience
- Shared learning
- Peer support
- Mentoring

Speech Pathologist

- A speech pathologist will lead the group
- At least one other speech pathologist (and other therapists)
 - Provide receptive input
 - Facilitate interactions between students
 - Suggestions around vocabulary, device operation and strategies for efficiency
- All therapists in the group use AAC to communicate

Role Model

- Primary purpose is for students to see and be around a competent user of AAC
 - Someone they can relate to
 - Someone they can look up to
- Sharing of real life experiences
- Encourages the shyer students to have a go and join in

Mentor

- Encourages and guides the students
- Shares real life experiences
- Helps the students to see what is possible
- Active problem solving
- Constructive feedback

Peer Support & Mentoring

- We are aiming to:
 - Create a safe space
 - Model communication using AAC
 - Provide opportunities to practice new skills
 - Share real life experiences
 - The good, the bad, the ugly
....and the really FUNNY

Creating a Safe Environment

- Building trust
- No judgement
- The assumption everyone has something to say,
 - maybe not about every topic
 - not forcing participation
 - Invitation to join in, try something new
- Everyone's opinion is valued
- Allowing every one enough time to talk
- Often students set the agenda
 - Can start out talking about one thing and then it takes a turn because of what the students want to talk about or want support with

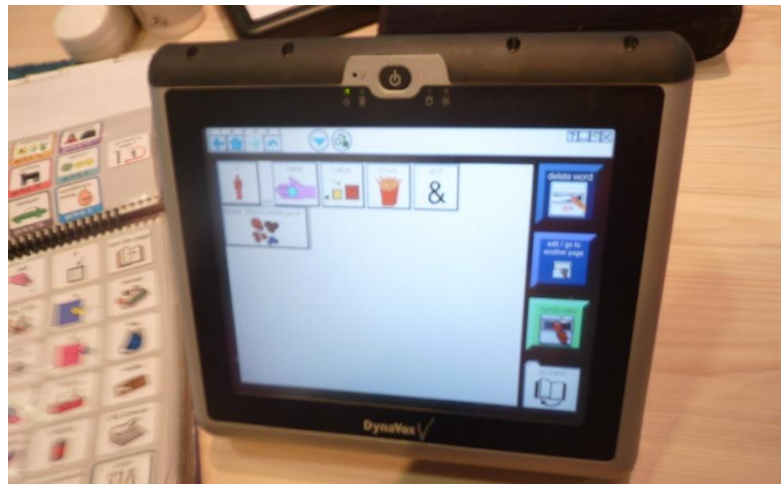
Time

- Biggest pressure on AAC users
- Therapists also use AAC to talk
- Everyone's messages are heard and responded to
- Everyone is given time to respond to each other



Modelling

- See AAC used to engage with range of people
- AAC in the community
- Communication for real purposes
- It's life!



Modelling

Model how to:

- be assertive
- be heard
- problem solve communication break down
- what to do when people talk over you or don't wait for you

Model how to feel comfortable at being you!!

Opportunities to Practice

- Introduce new skills, extend other skills
- Discussion around how, why, when you would do/use it
- Model
- Role play
- Feedback
- Implement in real world

Sharing real life experiences

- Honesty
- Open problem solving
- Opportunity to ask questions
- Share adversity
 - Share the successes!
- Talk about life outside of CPEC
- Communication and independence

It's life!

Knowing how to operate your device or how to put together a sentence is not enough

- Teach resilience
- Teach social competence
- Desire to be social and part of the world
- Knowledge that people are interested in who you are

Questions?

