
Supporting your young person's journey to using a talkpad



Contact us

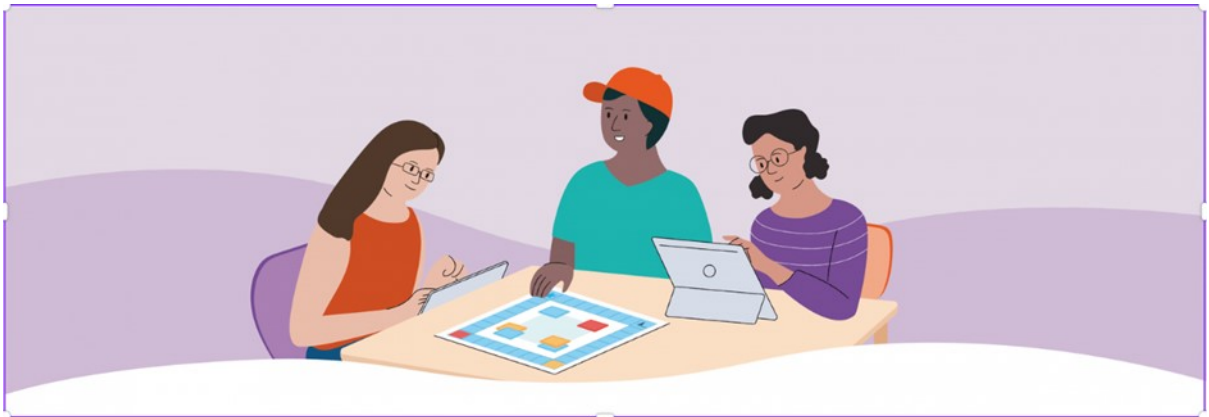
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This guide is to help support you and your young person at the start of their talkpad journey.



It is filled with information, activities and ideas for you to complete with your young person to help become familiar with their talkpad.

Your young person's talkpad is part of the world off AAC..so

What is AAC?

AAC is short for Augmentative and Alternative Communication.

Communication devices, systems, strategies and tools that are used as an alternative or support natural speech are known as AAC.

Types of AAC	
Aided Systems	Unaided Systems
External products that support the user to get their message across. System such as core charts, communication books and voice output communication aids. An example would be your young person's Talkpad!	Strategies that only use the skills that are available to the individual and require no equipment. Examples are body language, sign language, spoken language and facial expressions.

Aided AAC systems can come in paper based and power based formats.

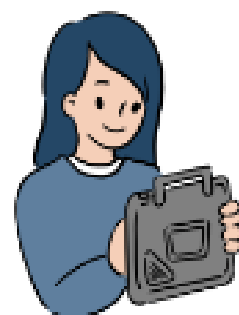
Paper Based:

non electronic equipment
such as books and core
charts



Power Based:

electronic and battery
operated equipment



For effective 'total' communication
your young person can use a mixture of all
types of AAC; from facial expression to their
new SCARC talkpad.

Your SCARC talkpad



Your SCARC talkpad has a vocabulary (grid) specially selected for your young person with the right size and number of buttons (cells) for them to use.

All our vocabularies include 'Core Words'. These are the words we use most often. They make up about 80% of words we use everyday. These are words like 'help', 'look', 'more', 'stop', etc. Core words are the sort of words that young children start using very early on, and therefore are the sort of words that we want to get started with straight away. You can find these on the home page of most of our vocabularies and on a paper version at the back of this workbook.

what	where	who	when	why	in	here	there
literally	want	go	play	help	an	more	finished
you/your	do	like	come	put	under	good	bad
she/her	=	see/look	have	feel	off	same	different
he/his	can	make	say	eat	open	now	next
it's	no	wait	stop	drink	to	and	again

The vocabulary given to you is editable and can grow and change as the needs of your young person change.






We are all unique! This means that everyone has different interests so it's important to personalise your talkpad for the system to be a success. Our training session will provide you with the skills to programme new buttons but our Easy Peasy guide will also help support you and a copy can be found within this booklet.

This includes all you need to know including our button colour coding scheme, so you can colour code your buttons like ours!

Personalising your talkpad

Now you have your young person's SCARC talkpad it is time to personalise it. The personalising of the talkpad is a **team process** where everyone supporting your young person should be involved. This may include parents, carers, siblings and school/setting staff and peers. As well as, where appropriate, your young person too.

The software on your SCARC talkpad is Proloquo2Go and below are some ideas for personalisation.

About Me Folder		make sure that buttons giving information like the user's name and age are filled in with the correct and current information.
People Folder		include family, friends and other important people in the AAC user's life. You can take photos of these people and <u>add them to the buttons</u> . Settings can add staff and friends where permission is granted.
Places Folder		include regular and favourite places that the AAC user goes.
Food		make sure to put foods the user frequently eats on the first pages of the folders, where they are easy to find.
Activities		include YouTube channels, favourite websites, books, movies, games, toys, music, and any other activities you think the AAC user will want to talk about.

Your Turn!

It's time to think about what your young person would like on their talkpad.
Use the spaces below to write down your ideas.

About Me	My favourite things	Music	Things I don't like
My family	TV shows	Jokes I like to tell	I would prefer not to have
My friends	Movies	Food	I would prefer not to talk about
Who I live with	Games to play	Activities I do	I would prefer not to do this
Extra	Extra	Extra	Extra

Modelling

The most valuable strategy we can use for AAC learners is modelling.



All AAC users need to see what it looks like to communicate using their AAC system in real conversation. They can then start to understand how they can use their system to communicate with others.

Every time a learner sees you model, it builds their knowledge. It helps us familiarise ourselves with our young person's communication system and that we accept their strategy to communicate.

Modelling means we use an AAC system to talk to the AAC user and demonstrate what can be said, when and how.

Modelling can be on an AAC device (such as your SCARC talkpad), or with a printed/paper based core chart.

We've added a paper core chart within this booklet for you.



Helpful Video!

[Aided Language Stimulation Explained - Bing video](#)

(Type this into your internet browser address bar)

Tips for Modelling

Point to words on the talkpad or core chart as you speak



You don't have to point to every word

When starting out try choosing a word you want them to use such as 'more'

Start small and build up your modelling, and focus on a few words first, then slowly build up

Model regularly through the day



Model different reasons to communicate — not just to request e.g. expressing feelings or commenting

Helpful Video!

[Modeling: Use AAC to teach AAC - AssistiveWare](#)

(Type this into your internet browser address bar)

Opportunities to Communicate

To help support the integration of the talkpad into your young person's life think about reasons and opportunities why and when they need to communicate.

Daily activities/routine ideas involving AAC

A routine is the usual series of things that you do regularly and sometimes at a particular time

Here is an example!

Daily Routine

Getting dressed

Reason to Communicate

Choosing clothing items, expressing likes/dislikes, accessories, asking opinions

Words to Use

yes, no, like, more, don't like, want, you, choose, top, bottoms, shoes, jumper, coat, headband, red, blue, gold

Now it's your turn to give some thought to your young person's daily activities and routines — this will help you with opportunities to model and introduce the talkpad.

Daily Routine	Reason to Communicate	Words to Use
<p>EXAMPLE: Getting dressed in the morning</p>	<p>Choose clothing, expressing likes/dislikes, asking opinion</p>	<p>yes, no, like, don't like, want, you, top, socks bottoms, shoes, red, jumper, headband etc.</p>

Talkpad Housekeeping

There are a few things that are handy to remember to make sure your talkpad is working well and is always available to your young person.

Take your talkpad everywhere with you. Always have it available so your young person has the opportunity to communicate. We provide a carry bag to make this easier!

If your talkpad gets broken don't panic! SCARC will support breakages and arrange repairs at no cost to you. We ask that you let us know as soon as a talkpad is broken. Just call or email us.

Make sure your talkpad is charged. We recommend charging in the evening/night when your young person is in bed.

Connecting your talkpad to WiFi is important for many reasons but especially for backing up the Proloquo2Go app. The next page in this guide outlines backing up.

Don't forget the SCARC talkpad policy. Our talkpads are purely provided as communication aids and should not be used for personal apps, photos or videos.

Remember to keep your personalised grids up to date—it could be new friends, food or fun activity.






Always make sure your talkpad is locked into Proloquo2Go when being used by your young person. Page 3/4 in our Easy Peasy guide.

Backing Up Your Proloquo2Go Vocabulary

It's really important that you make sure your young person's personalised vocabulary is protected. If anything went wrong with their talkpad and it could not be fixed, and there was no backup, their personalisation would be lost and you would have to reprogram their device from scratch!

To avoid this please make sure your device is on your home WiFi and backed up regularly.

Backing up Checklist

	Make sure the talkpad is connected to WiFi
	Make sure the Dropbox app is logged in —SCARC should have done this for you.
	Make sure that Dropbox is switched on within the Proloquo2go backup settings. Options > BackUp > Dropbox (switched to green) - SCARC should have done this for you.
	After you make any changes to your young persons vocabulary run a back up. Options > Backup > “Back up <i>username</i> Now” (second blue option on the screen)
	Routinely run a back up just in case previous ones have been lost.

Workbook Checklist/Useful Information

Complete this checklist of helpful information you might need and update as you complete tasks from this workbook.

Talkpad SCARC No	
WSH asset No	
Dropbox Account	
Password:	
Guided Access passcode	
Proloquo2Go options passcode	
Local Speech and Language Therapist	
Contact Details	
Connect to home WiFi network	<input type="checkbox"/> (tick when complete)
Connect to setting WiFi network	<input type="checkbox"/> (tick when complete)
Watch videos on modelling	<input type="checkbox"/> (tick when complete)
Complete ideas for personalisation chart	<input type="checkbox"/> (tick when complete)
Personalise — About Me page	<input type="checkbox"/> (tick when complete)
Personalise — People page	<input type="checkbox"/> (tick when complete)
Personalise — Food/Activities/Places	<input type="checkbox"/> (tick when complete)
School/Setting personalisation	<input type="checkbox"/> (tick when complete)
Complete activities/opportunities ideas chart	<input type="checkbox"/> (tick when complete)
Post programming backup.	<input type="checkbox"/> (tick when complete)

Don't forget we are here to help!

Don't be afraid to make mistakes!
Learning something new takes time
and this is no different for both you
and your young person.
If you make a mistake with
programming it doesn't matter and
when modelling too - it's all about
giving it a go!

SCARC are here to help
you with any technical
problems or questions you
have about your talkpad so
please just ask!
No question is ever too
silly!

If you say the wrong
word when modelling
just say oops and
correct it. Your young
person may find this
funny and help you find
the right word. It's all
part of the learning
experience.

Backing up and locking down are
really important to protect your
young person's vocabulary. If you
have any queries over these
please do ask. Don't leave it! We
can help.

SCARC Contact Details:

Telephone: 01473 744223

Email: scarc@wsh.nhs.uk

Please find below a reminder of our SCARC talkpad policy. This would have been included with your SCARC assessment report.

Policy for Devices used as communication aids on loan from the Suffolk Communication Aids Resource Centre

The following policy applies to all environments, including home, school and other community settings:

When a device is loaned to the child/young person as a communication aid, no other apps, music or videos are to be downloaded onto the device.

To enable SCARC to remotely manage and support the child/young person's communication aid, we require the device to be connected to both home and where appropriate the child/young person's setting Wi-Fi network.

The device with Proloquo2Go/Grid for iPad or other approved SCARC communication software must only be used as a communication aid.

When the device is being used by the child/young person it must always be locked into the communication app by SCARC via the Blackberry UEM system (or Guided Access if advised by SCARC).







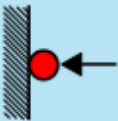






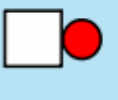







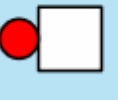

















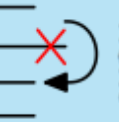





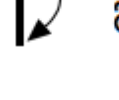
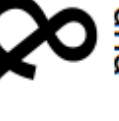
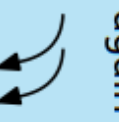
When the communication aid is with the child/young person, 'Restriction settings' in Proloquo2go/Grid for iPad or the approved communication software must be activated so that the Edit and Options programming buttons are not accessible to the child/young person.

Parents/carers and educational provision must ensure that the camera on the device is used appropriately. The camera must only be used to take pictures within the communication app for the purposes of communication/programming. Additional images or videos must not be stored on the device.

The internet (Safari/Google) on the device must only be used to search for relevant images, which are to be imported into the communication app, i.e. using Safari/Google images to search for pictures which are not available in the symbol library in Proloquo2go. The internet **must not** be used as a general internet browser.

When a device is recommended by SCARC as a communication aid, it is purchased and loaned to the child/young person by SCARC. SCARC cannot support any equipment that is independently purchased.

Therefore, a child/young person might have a SCARC device as a communication aid and a home device (purchased by parents/carers) which is used for games and other leisure activities.

 what	 where	 who	 when	 why	 in	 here	 there
 I/me/my	 want	 go	 play	 help	 on	 more	 finished
 you/your	 do	 like	 come	 put	 under	 good	 bad
 she/her	 am/is/are	 see/look	 have	 feel	 off	 same	 different
 he/his	 can	 make	 say	 eat	 open	 now	 next
 it/it's	 no/don't/not	 wait	 stop	 drink	 to	 and	 again