

## Low Technology AAC Systems (Augmentative and Alternative Communication)

Many adults and children experience communication difficulties as a result of injury or conditions such as head injury, stroke or Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). A speech pathologist can assist the individual and their family and friends to find ways to improve communication. This is where the use of Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) may be appropriate for the individual.

Low technology (low-tech) AAC systems are a form of aided AAC as an external resource utilised to assist the individual's communication. These systems are not battery powered and are often referred to as Visual Communication Aids. Low-tech AAC systems can often be a less expensive option, with some systems being constructed with hands-on materials at home. Low-tech options can often be more durable and can be used in instances where a high-tech option may not be appropriate (For example whilst swimming or in the shower). There are many low-tech systems available, with some of the key systems outlined below.

### Pragmatic Organisation Dynamic Display (PODD) Communication Books

The PODD Communication Books are books or devices containing pictures and symbols that people use to communicate. PODD refers to a way of organising language (a whole-word and symbol vocabulary) in a book, thus not all communication books are PODD books. The main aim of a PODD book is to provide a list of vocabulary, for the user to convey a range of messages, in multiple environments, across a range of communication functions. It allows for requests, greetings, comments, questions, opinions, feelings and more. All PODDs are custom-made and suited to the users and different types may work better for different people and situations.



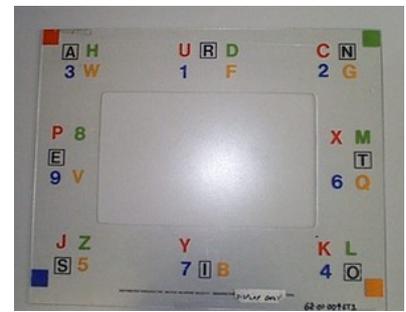
## TalkingMats Communication System



This low-tech communication system is developed to help people with communication difficulties. Using a simple system of picture symbols and a textured mat, people can indicate their feelings across various topics by placing relevant images on the mat. A Talking Mat is a low-cost and simple-to-use AAC system.

## E-Tran Communication Board

The E-Tran communication board is a non-electronic communication aid for people using eye pointing access for communication. E-Tran Boards are also known as eye-gaze spelling boards. It has an alphanumeric display in eight groupings around a rectangular opening on a clear perspex sheet. The board allows the user to indicate symbols to the communication partner by looking at the relevant area on the board, allowing them to spell out intended words to communicate.



## Frenchay Alphabet Board (FAB™)

The Frenchay Alphabet Board is a portable alphabet board which is used to support a person with communication difficulties. It has a clear plastic keyguard to support accurate finger location and a non-slip base. The board has yellow letters on a blue background. The keyboard is washable. It comes in two sizes and two layouts (QWERTY or ABC).



There is a varied range of AAC products available, contact ILC Tas for more information or arrange an appointment to see or try them in the display centre.