

Specialized Communication Resources for Children

Specialized Communication Resources for Children is a department of the Rehabilitation Centre for Children. Our aim is to offer support to Manitoban families with children who have difficulty developing functional communication. Our programs reflect our Centre's family centred-mission and values by working with parents, offering them education, guidance, materials and equipment as a support to their efforts in raising their child to be the best they can be.

For more information about workshops, the Relate Program Parent Learning Series, or for an AAC referral package,

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Specialized Communication Resources for Children

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CENTRE for CHILDREN

Specialized Communication Resources for Children



Meaningful Communication....

In partnership with the families who use our services, we aspire to help non-speaking children find the motivation and means to express themselves. Human communication is much more than requests, questions and answers. It is about sharing our thoughts and plans, our opinions and perceptions.

Our programs have grown and changed. In our service delivery model, caregivers are challenged to become effective guides for their own child, which enhances the child's ability to think, solve problems, and communicate in ever more complex and mature ways. Caregivers learn through the use of video samples, self reflection and carefully staged learning challenges. This enables us to more effectively reach those clients who live far from our Centre, to track the child's communication development and to make meaningful and specific recommendations to the child's parents and teachers.

Other services available include:

- Group learning opportunities for parents, clinicians and school teams of developmentally delayed children, whether they are speaking or not.
- Access to our picture adapted children's book library of over 500 titles, including French, Spanish and Cree languages.
- Communication device maintenance and repair.
- Clinicians have access to our adapted language assessment tools.

The Relate Program

The caregiver-child relationship is front and centre when it comes to teaching budding communicators. The Relate Program systematically teaches caregivers how to become effective guides for their own child. This guiding relationship serves as the vehicle to help draw the pre-verbal child up through the developmental levels of thinking and communicating.



Caregivers build their expertise in techniques that encourage thinking and communication abilities in their own child through an intensive program that spans a time period of 18 to 36 months. Caregivers learn

about the impact of communication style, learn how to generate learning and communication challenges, learn about the impact of memory, and how to construct knowledge. They are challenged to become self-reflective learners and by the end of the program, will be able to manage their own program.

Once the child becomes developmentally ready, children may be graduated into the AAC program or a traditional speech-language program.

Relate Program Entry:

- Parents are required to attend a learning series consisting of seven weekly sessions.
- At completion, families with a non-speaking child have the option of applying for more intensive family support.

The Augmentative & Alternative Communication Program

The AAC Program has been active in the community for the past 20 years, and continues to offer support to educational teams and to parents in planning and preparing picture communication materials and devices for their children with severe oral motor speech impairment.



The program's Speech-Language Pathologist helps evaluate the child's current communication status in order to prepare an individualized communication plan that is just right for the child's developmental level. A guided participation—whole language intervention model is used to help the child gain skills in developing their functional expression.

The program provides access to a library of assistive devices, and an integrated team of a Speech Language Pathologist, Assistive Technology Assistant and Assistive Technology Technician to help prepare materials and devices based on the child's needs, and to service these systems.

AAC Program Entry:

- Referrals are accepted from community based clinicians.