

**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 and social behavior. Our programs reflect our Centre's developmental and 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, The SCRC Library or for an AAC referral package, Please contact Yvonne Kash at 204-258-6500, or at yvonnek@rccinc.ca

**Specialized Communication
Resources for Children**

SSCY Centre
1155 Notre Dame Ave.
Winnipeg, MB

Phone: 204 452-4311
Fax: 204 477 5547
E-mail: aac@rccinc.ca

SCRC is generously supported by



REHABILITATION
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 continue to grow and change. 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. Video helps the team track the child's communication development and to make meaningful and specific recommendations to the child's parents and teachers. The Telehealth option enables us to more effectively reach those clients who live far from our Centre.

Other services available include:

- Group learning opportunities for parents, clinicians and school teams of developmentally delayed children.
- Access to our picture adapted children's book library and picture enhanced language learning materials. Holdings include over 500 titles, with some in French, Spanish and Cree languages as well.
- Communication device set up, maintenance and repair.

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 child up through the developmental levels of social thinking and communicating.



Caregivers are encouraged to learn guiding techniques during a parent education program that combines group learning and individual therapy sessions. Parents meet weekly for two months and are expected to actively participate in homework assignments and self reflection. Caregivers learn about the impact of their communication style. They learn how important team work is and they learn about the impact of memory and how to influence it. Parents also learn the meaning behind some of their children's most challenging behaviors.

At completion, families will be given the option of having a brief assessment and personalized 6 month home program designed for them.

Young children who may have struggled to learn to talk or sign, or use their AAC device or who have made little gain in their traditional speech-language program may benefit from this program.

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, physicians and parents.