

A cost-effective way

to support pupils who find it difficult
to **speak, read or write**



“ It’s a unique and invaluable
service. Thank you. ”

Oxfordshire Teacher

ace
centres
Giving people a Voice...

Hundreds of pupils

with physical and communication difficulties across England and Wales are already benefitting from better communication, access to learning and access to technology.



Mia is eleven and is an enthusiastic communicator. She has complex learning difficulties, very little speech, and her reading and writing are very delayed. She struggles to hold a pen and needs to use a computer for writing. She communicates by signing, pointing and vocalising. We assessed Mia's needs in consultation with her school-based therapy team. As a result, she now has a computer with specialist writing software, a communication book, and a voice output communication aid.

Mia, along with her family and school, will continue to be supported by us. Her assessment formed part of a training programme in assistive technology for the staff, and they now feel confident to work with similar pupils by themselves, and we're there to provide support when required.



Sophie is a confident eight-year-old who attends her local primary school. She has cerebral palsy and, as a result, she can't walk, speak, or use her hands for writing. Instead, she has a wheelchair and uses a communication aid for speaking and a computer for writing.

Sophie came to us for an assessment, accompanied by her parents, teacher, teaching assistant and SLT. As a result of the assessment, she was given an extended loan of a communication aid with customised software resources.

The loan was so successful that a year later her local authority, on our recommendation, bought her a powerful communication aid. Using two head switches mounted on either side of her wheelchair headrest, Sophie can now speak, write, and access the curriculum.

Smarter support

It's not easy to balance your finances against the requirements to support the communication and education of pupils with special educational needs. Especially when that involves assistive technology.

We can save you money. Our services can be tailored to your school's budget *and* provide the best and most appropriate ongoing help

for each of your pupils.

You decide on the combination of advice, training, equipment loans and consultancy to suit your needs.

All of our support is delivered by **highly experienced professionals** who are all experts in the field of Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC), and assistive technology.

| FEATURES | BENEFITS |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Access to expertise | You'll have access to a team of highly experienced professionals. They have the expertise in delivering independent services for your pupils with disabilities who have a wide range of needs. |
| Equipment loan services | Don't waste money on unnecessary equipment. You'll have access to thousands of pounds' worth of communication aid equipment in our loan library, enabling you to 'try before you buy'. |
| CPD for your staff | We'll train your teachers and assistants to support your pupils communication and technology needs in the most effective way. |
| Flexibility | Use our services for your own combination of assessment, training, consultancy and loan equipment. |
| Reduce multi-agency overlap | You benefit from our multidisciplinary teams of therapists, teachers and technologists. They will work together with your staff to enable the best and most informed outcomes for your pupils and school. |
| Free Network Days | Guaranteed free places on our popular Network Days which provide a variety of workshops and seminars relating to current assistive technology, and a valuable opportunity to meet other professionals in the field. |

Our flexible support packages give you:

Assessments

We can help you identify the best plan of action in terms of assessment, equipment and ongoing support for each pupil. Our full multidisciplinary assessments are backed up with equipment set-up, plus training for those working with the pupils on a daily basis. By working alongside your own staff we can provide as little or as much support as you need.

Training

Benefit from access to a wide range of training events, accredited courses and network days. These range from themed day courses to workplace sessions designed to meet your specific needs. It's an effective way of providing training for new staff and managing the continuing professional development of your existing teachers and therapists.

Loan equipment

We hold an extensive loan library of AAC/AT equipment in the country, including the latest speech output devices, eye-gaze systems, mounting accessories, computer access equipment and software. Trial loans are available to support assessment recommendations made by us.

Audits and consultancy

These services include, for example, audits of Augmentative and Augmentative Communication (AAC) and Assistive Technology (AT) provision, and support in developing AAC & AT policies.

Network days

Guaranteed free places on our popular Network Days which provide a variety of workshops and seminars relating to current assistive technology, and a valuable opportunity to meet other professionals in the field.

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Giving people a Voice...

Contact us now

to find out how we can help

ACE Centre North

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ACE Centre South

92 Windmill Road

Headington

Oxford

OX3 7DR

Tel 01865 759800

www.ace-centre.org.uk

“ ...Invaluable both for professional development and meeting the needs of children with communication difficulties.”

SEN Advisor, Staffordshire.