

Speech-Language Pathologist Assessment for a Speech Device

Date of AAC Evaluation	04/10/2023
Evaluating Speech-Language Pathologist	Susan Pathologist
Email Address of Evaluating Speech-Language Pathologist	fundingservices@ablenetinc.com

Demographic Information

Patient's Name	John Smith
Patient's Date of Birth	08/10/2018

Background Information

Medical history with summary of speech therapy intervention	<p>John's mother reported he was a full-term baby born without complications. John walked alone at 15 months, used single words to communicate at approximately one year of age. He used an expressive vocabulary of >10 words and participated in joint attention routines such as pat-a-cake and peek-a-boo.</p> <p>At 18 months, John began to withdraw and no longer made eye contact or responded when spoken to. His expressive vocabulary shrank to two words (no and water, which he used only infrequently). He was diagnosed with Autism in August 2020. John has received speech therapy (ST) consistently since his diagnosis and has demonstrated significant progress toward the development of functional communication skills. He is now able to use alternative/augmentative communication to request preferred items/activities, makes consistent eye contact during shared routines, and in vocal play.</p>
Current living environment	Home with family
Speech & Language ICD 10 Code & Description (Select all that apply)	F80.2 - Mixed Receptive-Expressive Language Disorder, F84.0 - Autistic Disorder

Current Communication Impairment and Limitation

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John does not consistently produce words/word approximates directed at communication partners. He is able to use iPad-based AAC program to consistently request items/activities either independently or when given cues. John can follow 1-step directions.

Given the severity of the communication impairment as described above, does the patient require the use of a speech generating device (SGD) for functional communication?

Yes

Comprehensive Assessment

Does hearing status influence the patient's communication and/or the choice or use of a device?

No

Does the patient show adequate hearing abilities to effectively use a SGD?

Yes

Comments - Hearing Status

John completed a hearing screening in September 2022, hearing is within functional limits.

Does vision status influence the patient's communication and/or the choice or use of a device?

No

Does the patient show adequate vision abilities to effectively use a SGD?

Yes

Comments - Vision Status

John completed a vision assessment in September 2022, vision is within functional limits. There are no concerns with vision.

Functional Ambulation/Mobility

Independent Abmulation

Communication device to be used in the following positions:

Standing, Walking, or Seated, Patient has reliable and consistent motor response sufficient to operating a SGD

Cognitive Status

John demonstrates the necessary cognitive prerequisites for appropriate use of AAC/SGD. He understands cause and effect, object permanence, and demonstrates procedural memory for finding target responses, and accessing the speaking app. John also demonstrates ability to use a speaking device to express a sequence of information with limited prompting.

Comprehensive Assessment

Does the patient demonstrate the necessary cognitive abilities (i.e. attention, memory and problem-solving) skills to learn to use a SGD to achieve functional communication goals?

Yes

Does the patient's linguistic performance indicate the necessary language skills required to functionally communicate using a SGD?

Yes

Expressive Language Skills: Is the use of an SGD necessary for the patient to be able to adequately express ideas, thoughts, feelings or emergent information?

Yes

Receptive Language Skills: Is the patient able to adequately understand and has the potential to respond in conversation with the assistance of a SGD?

Yes

Comments - Language Skills

John interacts with family, peers and school staff appropriately in social and academic settings. John demonstrates the necessary cognitive prerequisites for appropriate use of AAC/SGD (e.g. simple cause and effect, object permanence and procedural memory for the operation of the device). John is currently working on receptive language skills in sessions. He has demonstrated the ability to maintain his attention to tasks. He has demonstrated the ability to locate icons/vocabulary on an SGD, independently. John demonstrates ability to use a speaking device to express a sequence of information with limited prompting. John demonstrates the cognitive abilities to use an SGD, high tech device.

Daily Communication Needs

Must be able to communicate about:

Personal Needs, Personal Information, Medical Needs, Social Interaction, School Tasks

Where will the device be used:

Home, School, Community, Day Program

With whom will the device be used to communicate with:

Family, Friends, Therapists, People in the Community

Daily Communication Needs

Comments - Daily Communication Needs

John will be using the communication device at home, school and in the community. At home, John will be able to express to his family his wants and needs as well as activities he would like to engage in. At school, John will be able to communicate with his peers and staff as this device will provide a means of effectively expressing himself. This will ultimately help repair communication breakdowns and allow John to communicate important information.

Trial Information

Trial Device 1

PECS

Trial Type

Tried and ruled out

Device Type

Low-tech 1

Trial Device 1 Summary - Low-tech 1

Picture Exchange Communication system: this method is too cumbersome for John and family to have constant, quick access to necessary vocab. John is ready for more vocabulary options and quicker access which is not provided through this system.

Trial Device 2

QuickTalker FeatherTouch 12

Trial Type

Tried and ruled out

Device Type

Low-tech 2

Trial Device 2 Summary - Low-tech 2

The QuickTalker FeatherTouch 12 has important auditory output, but limited vocabulary. John is ready for a wider level of vocabulary and has shown that he can link several communication responses independently.

Additional Comments

John has tried sign language throughout his time in ST. He is able to use sign to answer yes/no questions. These are the only signs that John is able to use in communication. Through attempts to teach more signs, it has been unsuccessful and John has not retained any new signs. John also does not have the motor abilities to functionally use writing as a way to communicate. Therefore, both sign language and writing were ruled out as less costly alternatives.

Trial Device 3 - Recommended Device

Trial Start Date

03/06/2023

Trial End Date

04/10/2023

Trial Device 3 - Recommended Device

Trial outcomes and explanation as to why the QuickTalker Freestyle is recommended

John has been trialing the QuickTalker Freestyle since 3/6/2023. He has demonstrated the ability to independently communicate his wants and needs. When communication partners could not understand John verbally, he used his SGD to effectively communicate. This has significantly decreased his tendency to physically manipulate these partners and decrease behaviors associated with not being able to communicate effectively. John would greatly benefit from having his own dedicated SGD as the one he is currently using is not his own. His success during this trial indicates he is ready for a personal device to carry with him between school, home, and community settings.

Describe the level at which this client moved beyond the exploratory phase and used the device to initiate communication.

John demonstrated strong cognitive skills to be able to navigate the device appropriately and learn the locations of certain vocabulary. During this trial, John quickly learned how to navigate pages and frequently used vocabulary after a few models. In early sessions, John only needed 2-3 models of "I + want + ____" before independently utilizing this phrase. In future sessions he showed his understanding using this phrase to start request other items and activities.

Was the client successful in trialing the device in both structured and unstructured settings? (in session vs spontaneous use)

John was successful in using the device in both settings. In speech sessions with some modeling, John began using new phrases and requesting + responding to the clinician. John was then able to use these new learnings later in classroom and at home per parent report. For example, John learned in session how to ask "help" and immediately started using this at home.

Describe the frequency or number of messages used within a scheduled session.

John can currently produce around 8 messages in a scheduled session. This is expected to grow as he becomes increasingly familiar with his device and new functions are learned.

Device Model

QuickTalker Freestyle

Prognosis Using the Above Outlined Device

John has demonstrated significant progress toward the acquisition of functional communication skills through use of an SGD. However, the device he has been trained on does not belong to him/his family and he is unable to use it outside of speech therapy sessions. The implementation of an SGD that he is able to use 24/7 would significantly improve his ability to communicate functional information and basic wants/needs across communication contexts. A QuickTalker Freestyle fulfills John's need for a device which travels with him across home, educational, and community contexts, allows for vocabulary growth as his language skills improve, and ease of access. John's prognosis for improved communicative function with continued skilled treatment and generalization of SGD is good-to-excellent based on his cognitive capacity, improving pragmatic skills, and prior success with AAC. Implementation of an SGD across communication contexts (home/social, school, therapy) improves the likelihood of his ability to develop functional communication skills and relate functional information with a wide variety of communication partners.

Trial Device 3 - Recommended Device

The QuickTalker Freestyle meets all medical necessity requirements for my client's communication needs while being the most cost-effective device compared to all other alternatives. The QuickTalker Freestyle comes with a 5-year warranty, while all other speech-generating device manufacturers only offer a 1-year, 2-year, or 3-year warranty. Additionally, the device comes with an exclusive technical support program, ableCARE. The ableCARE program allows my client and their family members to access AbleNet's technical staff quickly and easily to ensure the device is not only operable but successfully used so that we meet or exceed the goals outlined in my speech assessment.

The QuickTalker Freestyle (HCPCS code E2510) is a dedicated speech-generating device that, when configured by our technology team, only allows the user to use the device for communication purposes, making it a dedicated device. This dedicated speech-generating device has been recommended by a licensed speech-language pathologist and the client's prescribing physician.

Goals

Goal 1

Daily and medical needs goals

1 - Daily and medical needs goals

John will use the QuickTalker Freestyle to effectively express their daily and medical needs with 80% accuracy within 1 month.

Goal 2

Wh questions

2 - Wh questions

John will answer "who" and "what" questions in 80% of opportunities given aided language stimulation and fading cues.

Goal 3

Language functions

3 - Language functions

John will navigate pages appropriately to request, protest, or respond to a question 8/10 times gives language stimulation and fading models.

Treatment Plan

John's primary caregivers have shown great support and the need for him to have a dedicated device of his own. John will attend speech therapy 1x/week for the next 3 months to ensure his goals as stated above are met. Not only will the family and myself be there to support John with a funded device, but the ableCARE Product Success Team at AbleNet will be there to offer endless support, troubleshoot issues, help with updates and any other problems that arise.

Speech-Language Pathologist Signature

The recipient of the QuickTalker Freestyle will be the sole user of the SGD.

A copy of this evaluation and recommendation has been forwarded to the member's treating provider for review and completion of DME order.

I am not an employee of, nor do I have, a financial relationship with AbleNet Inc., the QuickTalker Freestyle speech device supplier.

Speech-Language Pathologist Signature

Date

04/12/2023

Name

Susan Pathologist

Credentials

CCC-SLP

Signature

Example