

Speech-Language Pathologist Assessment for a Speech Device

Date of AAC Evaluation	04/03/2023
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	04/10/2019
Speech & Language ICD 10 Code & Description (Select all that apply)	F80.2 – Mixed Receptive-Expressive Language Disorder, F84.0 – Autistic Disorder

Replacement Device

Is this a replacement device?	No
Has the device been deemed un-repairable by the manufacturer?	N/A
Has the device had extensive repairs in the past?	N/A
Are more repairs anticipated?	N/A
Has the existing equipment outlived useful lifetime (5 years)?	N/A

Background Information

Background Information	
Medical history with summary of speech therapy intervention	John’s mother reported he was a full-term baby born without complications. John walked unassisted and used single words to communicate at approximately 11 months old. At 17 months, John began to withdraw and his expressive vocabulary diminished from 10 words to none. John's mother reported that at age 2, John was diagnosed with Autism at the Apple Medical Center. She reported that John began to speak again at 11 years old. John has received speech-language therapy consistently since age 5 and has demonstrated progress toward the development of functional communication skills. He currently uses Speech Generating Device (SGD), to supplement his approximations and gestures. He uses his SGD to request preferred items/activities/actions, use social phrases, and self- advocate.
Current living environment	Home with family
Is the patient's verbal speech expected to improve?	No

Current Communication Impairment and Limitation	
Current Communication Impairment and Limitation	John demonstrates severely impaired speech and language skills. He is unable to objectively and consistently communicate wants, needs, and ideas without an SGD. This is especially apparent with an unfamiliar communication partner and without a known context.
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	
Patient is hearing impaired	No
Patient possesses adequate hearing to understand speech generated by the device	Yes
Patient possesses the hearing abilities to effectively use a SGD to communicate functionally	Yes
Patient is visually impaired	No

Comprehensive Assessment	
Patient possesses adequate acuity for use of device	Yes
Patient possesses adequate visual tracking skills for use of device	Yes
Patient requires modifications to utilize the device (ex: lighting, angle)	No
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
Attention to task	Intact
Memory	Intact
Problem Solving	Intact
Understands cause and effect	Yes

Cognitive Status	
Cognitive Status	Client 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).
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
Patient will access the SGD system by	Direct selection
Will the patient require assistance while physically accessing the SGD system? (If yes, please select what type of assistance will be required)	No
Does the patient's linguistic performance indicate the necessary language skills required to functionally communicate using a SGD?	Yes

Cognitive Status

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

When John communicates with verbal utterances, he is intelligible 50% of the time to familiar listeners and 10% to unfamiliar listeners. John communicates using two to three word approximations, facial expressions, gestures, and a SGD to express wants/needs, greet, protest, gain attention, and comment. He uses a school-based SGD with an AAC program. Unfamiliar communication partners may not understand him without a known context or the use of his SGD. Without his device, John demonstrates limited patience when not understood verbally. John benefits from his device to repair communication breakdown and to express his everyday needs and thoughts. Despite progress towards functional communication skills, John continues to display severe communication abilities.

Needs Assessment

Describe past use of communication support and why it does not fit the patient's current needs

Previously, John received speech therapy in school 2 days a week for 30 minute sessions. John knows some sign language, however those around him are not fluent which makes it hard for John to get his needs known. He also knows 20 signs and methods to increase his sign language vocabulary has plateaued with these 20 signs. Writing was ruled out as John does not have the fine motor dexterity to be able communicate his wants and needs via this method.

Include typical communication partners and environments that this patient would be in while utilizing their SGD

John needs to communicate with family, health professionals, members of his community, and peers. This would include communication in the home setting as well as at doctors appointments, public spaces such as restaurants, stores, etc. He will need to communicate health needs, when something hurts (feeling pain), if he needs help, greeting others, asking questions and much more.

Does the member currently own an iPad or tablet?

No

Please explain

John currently uses a school-based SGD. A personal dedicated SGD is being recommended for him to use at home and in the community.

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
Patient is able to meet daily communication needs using the following natural communication methods:	
Body Language/Gestures/Facial Expressions	No
Natural Speech	No
Sign Language	No
Writing	No

Trial Information	
Trial Device 1	School-Based SGD with Proloquo2Go
Trial Type	Trialed and ruled out
Device Type	High-tech 2 Non-Dedicated
Trial Device 1 Summary - High-tech 2 Non-Dedicated	<p>John trialed the clinician's iPad with a speech application. The iPad being used is not a dedicated device for the primary use of communication and is not designed for speech output. Further, the iPad’s applications and functionalities may be a distraction for the client and hinder the client’s communication goals.</p> <p>For this reason a dedicated SGD (QuickTalker Freestyle) is being recommended so that John can use a personal and dedicated device in school and at home and in the community.</p>
Trial Device 2	QuickTalker FeatherTouch 12
Trial Type	Trialed and ruled out
Device Type	Ruling out low-tech/mid-tech
Trial Device 2 Summary - Ruling out low-tech/mid-tech	<p>The QuickTalker FeatherTouch 12 has limited vocabulary. John is ready for a wider level of vocabulary and has shown that he can link several communication responses independently.</p>

Trial Goals

Trial Goal 1	John will be almost fully independent in using his device, requiring cueing in 0/5 opportunities.
Goal 1 Baseline	John currently requires cueing in 2/5 opportunities
Goal 1 Results	John was able to meet this goal during the trial period. He required minimal assistance as seen in the data below where he required one indirect and one direct prompt. Throughout the course of the trial, his level of independence with the device increased, thus he met this goal.

Language Sample/Messages Examples

Language Sample/Messages Examples 1	
Prompting Level	none/independent
Communication Intent	Request Item
Communication Setting	Home
Utterance Produced	I + want + juice
# of Pages Navigated	3
# of Buttons Pushed	2
Language Sample/Messages Examples 2	
Prompting Level	none/independent
Communication Intent	Request Action
Communication Setting	School
Utterance Produced	Want + Hug
# of Pages Navigated	2
# of Buttons Pushed	2
Language Sample/Messages Examples 3	
Prompting Level	none/independent
Communication Intent	Request Need
Communication Setting	School

Trial Goals	
Utterance Produced	I + want + home
# of Pages Navigated	3
# of Buttons Pushed	2
Language Sample/Messages Examples 4	
Prompting Level	none/independent
Communication Intent	Request
Communication Setting	Restaurant
Utterance Produced	more + fries
# of Pages Navigated	2
# of Buttons Pushed	2
Language Sample/Messages Examples 5	
Prompting Level	minimal
Communication Intent	Comment
Communication Setting	School
Utterance Produced	like + blue
# of Pages Navigated	2
# of Buttons Pushed	2
Trial Goal 2	John will initiate communication in 70% opportunities during the trial period.
Goal 2 Baseline	John currently initiates communication in 40% of opportunities.
Goal 2 Results	John was able to initiate communication in 60% of opportunities. He was independent with 60% of his communication as it relates to requesting. Before the trial, John would not initiate any communication as he often was not understood through sing language or gestures. With the SGD, he is more confident in initiating communication.
Language Sample/Messages Examples	

Trial Goals

Language Sample/Messages Examples 1	
Prompting Level	none/independent
Communication Intent	Greeting
Communication Setting	School
Utterance Produced	Hello + Ms.Johnson
# of Pages Navigated	2
# of Buttons Pushed	2
Language Sample/Messages Examples 2	
Prompting Level	minimal
Communication Intent	Farewell
Communication Setting	Home
Utterance Produced	Bye + Mom
# of Pages Navigated	2
# of Buttons Pushed	2
Language Sample/Messages Examples 3	
Prompting Level	none/independent
Communication Intent	Question
Communication Setting	School
Utterance Produced	you + like + cookies?
# of Pages Navigated	3
# of Buttons Pushed	2
Language Sample/Messages Examples 4	
Prompting Level	none/independent
Communication Intent	Request

Trial Goals		
	Communication Setting	Home
	Utterance Produced	more + milk
	# of Pages Navigated	2
	# of Buttons Pushed	3
	Language Sample/Messages Examples 5	
	Prompting Level	minimal
	Communication Intent	Question
	Communication Setting	Home
	Utterance Produced	where + is + train
	# of Pages Navigated	2
	# of Buttons Pushed	3
# of Pages Navigated	2	
Trial Goal 3		John will be able to comment in speech therapy sessions in 3/5 opportunities
Goal 3 Baseline		John currently is able to comment in 1/5 opportunities
Goal 3 Results		John met this goal. He had troubles locating off of the first page for a few utterances, but overall he did well through the navigation.
Language Sample/Messages Examples		
Language Sample/Messages Examples 1		
Prompting Level	none/independent	
Communication Intent	Comment	
Communication Setting	Speech Therapy	
Utterance Produced	like + purple	
# of Pages Navigated	2	
# of Buttons Pushed	2	

Trial Goals	
Language Sample/Messages Examples 2	
Prompting Level	none/independent
Communication Intent	Comment
Communication Setting	Speech Therapy
Utterance Produced	No
# of Pages Navigated	1
# of Buttons Pushed	1
Language Sample/Messages Examples 3	
Prompting Level	none/independent
Communication Intent	Comment
Communication Setting	Speech Therapy
Utterance Produced	more + please
# of Pages Navigated	2
# of Buttons Pushed	2
Language Sample/Messages Examples 4	
Prompting Level	none/independent
Communication Intent	Comment
Communication Setting	Speech Therapy
Utterance Produced	funny + ball
# of Pages Navigated	2
# of Buttons Pushed	2
Language Sample/Messages Examples 5	
Prompting Level	none/independent
Communication Intent	Comment
Communication Setting	Speech Therapy
Utterance Produced	was + fun

Trial Goals

of Pages Navigated

2

of Buttons Pushed

2

Trial Device 3 - Recommended Device

Trial Start Date

03/01/2023

Trial End Date

04/03/2023

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

John was able to meet multiple trial goals and has shown tremendous progress over the 30 day trial. The other devices tried did not result in such positive results in these trial goals which further supports the recommendation for the QuickTalker Freestyle. When communication partners could not understand Jon 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. Jon 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.

Device Model

QuickTalker Freestyle

Prognosis Using the Above Outlined Device

Jon 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 will a wide variety of communication partners.

Trial Device 3 - Recommended Device

Explain why less costly alternatives (mid/low-tech, PECS etc.) are not appropriate for the patient's current needs.

Low or mid tech devices will not meet John's needs because they do not have a large enough set of vocabulary available. Secondly, the page sets on these devices need to be manually switched out. Considering John's age and independence, he will need a device that he can use independently and without assistance. John needs voice output, this will allow him to get the attention of others, especially in emergency situations.

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

Short Term Goal 1

Other

1 - Other

John will use total communication (using his SGD paired with verbal approximations) to produce functional phrase(s) for the purpose of self-advocating ("I need help", "I need break", "finished" "I am hurt,") with 80% accuracy, provided visual and verbal support.

Short Term Goal 2

Other

2 - Other

John will use total communication (using his SGD paired with verbal approximations) to demonstrate independence/responsibility by sharing personal information (name, address, phone number, etc) when needed with 80% accuracy, provided visual and verbal support.

Short Term Goal 3

Other

3 - Other

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

Long Term Goal 1

Wh questions

1 - Wh questions

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

Long Term Goal 2

Language functions

Goals	
2 - Language functions	John will navigate pages appropriately to request, protest, or respond to a question 8/10 times gives language stimulation and fading models.
Long Term Goal 3	Other
3 - Other	John will use total communication (using his SGD paired with verbal approximations) to maintain (e.g. ask follow-up question, make association, make comment) interactive communication at the conversational level, for 4 exchanges, with 85% accuracy, independently.
Frequency/Duration (ex: 1 x 45 min/weekly, 2 x 30 weekly, 1 x 30 monthly)	Client will be seen 1x weekly for 6 weeks
Type of treatment	Individual
Individuals responsible for troubleshooting	ableCARE

Assurance of Coverage Guidelines	
The patient has a severe expressive communication impairment related to a medical condition or developmental disability that interferes with the patient's ability to meet daily functional communication	Yes
The patient's ability to communicate using speech and/or writing is insufficient to meet daily functional communication needs	Yes
The patient cannot meet daily functional communication needs with any unaided means of communication	Yes
The recommended device can be used to communicate with multiple individuals in multiple settings within the trial location while conveying varying message types without being fully dependent on prompting or assistance in producing the communication	Yes

Assurance of Coverage Guidelines

The member has the cognitive, auditory, visual, language, and physical abilities to use the recommended SGD for functional communication	Yes
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A licensed Speech Language Pathologist (SLP) experienced in AAC service delivery has made the recommendation for the device and a licensed physician, nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant enrolled as a NY State Medicaid provider has prescribed the device or software - (See below and attached documents for documentation)	Yes
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The member has demonstrated the ability to use the recommended device and accessories or software for functional communication as evidenced by a data-driven device trial showing that skills can be demonstrated repeatedly over time, beyond a single instance or evaluation session	Yes
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The SGD and related accessories are the adequate, less expensive alternative to enable the patient to meet daily functional communication needs. Other alternatives have been ruled out	Yes
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The SGD and related accessories must allow members to improve their communication to a functional level not achievable without a SGD or less costly device	Yes
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Physician Information

This report was forwarded to the treating physician so that he/she can write a prescription for the recommended SGD and accessories. p>

Physician	Mary Physician
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Physician Phone Number	123-456-7890
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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.

Date 04/12/2023

Name Susan Pathologist

Credentials CCC-SLP

Signature Example