

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	01/25/2012

Background Information

Medical history with summary of speech therapy intervention	John was born 6 weeks premature. No other complications were reported. No known major hospital visits. He was diagnosed with Autism in August 2016 and has received speech therapy consistently since September 2016. He is currently still enrolled in speech therapy at Speech Clinic. John was enrolled in Early Intervention services with a focus on communication.
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

Current Communication Impairment and Limitation	John has been diagnosed with severe Mixed Expressive/Receptive Language Disorder. John does not have verbal production for functional communication. Prognosis is poor for verbal communication. John is completely non-verbal. The client will occasionally and with maximum support use gestures or signs for simple requests such as "more" and "please, and the client will occasionally physically manipulate others in order to request or have needs met.
--	--

Current Communication Impairment and Limitation

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

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

Functional Ambulation/Mobility Independent Abmulation

Communication device to be used in the following positions: Standing or Walking, Patient has reliable and consistent motor response sufficient to operating a SGD

Cognitive Status
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.

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

Comprehensive Assessment

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 has severe speech and language impairment. However, John can respond to yes/no questions by shaking his head. John's intelligibility is 20% with unfamiliar communication partners and 30% with familiar communication partners. John can independently create sentences using the device, however he is unable to vocalize to communication partners. The prognosis for speech production is poor. Receptively, John is able to follow multi-step directions independently. He is able to understand more than he is able to express. John is very responsive when asked a question. He responds using a communication device. He does not often initiate communication with peers or school staff. John exhibits the receptive abilities to use the requested speech 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

Trial Information

Trial Device 1 Make/Model Device Name

Device 1 Manufacturer Other

Other - device 1 Manufacturer 1

Trial Information

Trial Type

Trialed and ruled out

Device 1 Trial Summary

The Device is heavier than the QuickTalker Freestyle device. John needs a device that is lightweight and easy to carry. The Device is also not an iOS-based device. John is familiar with Apple IOS products, and when trialing this non-iOS based device John was disengaged and was not independently using the device. John's family also is familiar with Apple products and would therefore be better with day-to-day support for John. He trialed and was not successful in using this manufacturer's app to communicate. The trial with this Device was unsuccessful and is being ruled out.

Trial Device 2 Make/Model

Device Name

Device 2 Manufacturer

Other

Other - device 2

Manufacturer 2

Trial Type

Trialed and ruled out

Device 2 Trial Summary

During the trial, John was successful in accessing buttons on the device and using the power button, volume and touch screen. However, he was unsuccessful in using the communication apps on this device. When trialing these apps, he required maximal prompting support. This device was ruled out due to lack of offering the communication app that best meets John's needs. This manufacturer also offers a limited warranty which would not provide John with the maximum support needed for his communication device.

Trial Device 3/Recommended Device

Trial Start Date

03/10/2023

Trial End Date

04/07/2023

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

John has been trialing a QuickTalker Freestyle since 3/10/2022. He has demonstrated the ability to independently communicate his wants and needs. He required minimal to no prompting in requesting objects, greeting family and therapists, and requesting for help. 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 but a trial device. His success during this trial indicates he is ready for a personal device to carry with him between school, home, and community settings.

Trial Device 3/Recommended Device

Device Model	QuickTalker Freestyle
Device 3 Manufacturer	AbleNet Inc.
Trial Type	Tried and recommended
Prognosis Using the Above Outlined Device	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.
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	

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.

Goals

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 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.

Date	04/12/2023
-------------	------------

Name	Susan Pathologist
-------------	-------------------

Credentials	CCC-SLP
--------------------	---------

Signature	Example
------------------	---------