Speech-Language Pathologist Assessment for a Speech Device

Date of AAC Evaluation	09/01/2023
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	03/01/2019

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 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. 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.
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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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. He will occasionally and with maximum support use gestures or signs for simple requests such as "more" and "please, and will occasionally physically manipulate others in order to request or have needs met.
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 June 2023, 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 June 2023, vision is within functional limits. There are no concerns with vision.
Functional Ambulation/Mobility	Independent Ambulation
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

Comprehensive Assessment

Comments	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.

Cognitive Status

Cognitive Status	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).
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

Cognitive Status

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
Comments - Daily Communication Needs	John needs to communicate basic wants and needs such as when he is hungry, sick, needs help, etc. His current communication methods do not allow John to meet his daily communication needs. John needs to communicate with family, friends, school staff, and caregivers in the home, community, and school settings. Daily communication activities for John include expressing wants and needs, express how he feels and how he interact with peers.

Trial Information

Trial Device 1	PECS
Trial Type	Trialed 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	Trialed and ruled out

Trial Information

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 speech therapy. 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	08/01/2023
Trial End Date	09/01/2023
Device Type	QuickTalker Freestyle
Trial outcomes and explanation as to why the QuickTalker Freestyle is recommended	John has been trialing a QuickTalker Freestyle SGD since 8/1/2023. 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.

Specific Device Recommendation Details

Recommended Augmentative Alternative Communication Device	Custom Configured QuickTalker Freestyle
Individualized Communication App	{Communication Application Name}

Specific Device Recommendation Details

Device Description	The QuickTalker Freestyle is managed through specialized software that will ensure complete control over ensuring only the speech application is available to John. The software used by the AbleNet custom-configuration team ensures the devices is only usable for communication. John is unable to unlock their QuickTalker Freestyle without the assistance of ableCARE, the AbleNet Product Success Team, and approval from their speech language pathologist.
Device Individualization	The AbleNet custom-configuration team will program the QuickTalker Freestyle so the prescribed speech app is the only available function on the speech device. As the speech language pathologist, I will configure the speech app so it will display individualized communication for John.
Does the severity of the client's speech diagnosis require the use of a customzied QuickTalker Freestyle to functionally communicate?	Yes
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 will a wide variety of communication partners. |

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.

Goals

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.

Date	09/04/2023
Name	Susan Pathologist
Credentials	CCC-SLP
Signature	*Example*