

Speech-Language Pathologist Assessment for a Speech Device

Date of AAC Evaluation	06/01/2024
Evaluating Speech-Language Pathologist	Samantha L. Pathologist
Email Address of Evaluating Speech-Language Pathologist	fundingservices@ablenetinc.com

Demographic Information

Patient's Name	John Smith
Patient's Date of Birth	08/01/2021

Background Information

Medical history with summary of speech therapy intervention	John's parents report that he was born full term without complications. He experienced 2 ear infections as an infant, but these were cleared with antibiotics. John met his physical developmental milestones in an expected fashion, but his family noted concerns about his ability to engage with people, imitate words, and follow directions. John was initially referred for a speech and language evaluation through early intervention by his pediatrician due to parent concerns related to his delayed communication and sensory processing. He has been receiving speech and occupational therapy in the home since the age of two. John also receives outpatient speech therapy services once per week for 30 minutes. His family was referred for an evaluation with a developmental pediatrician, where he was diagnosed with autism at 30 months old.
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 uses some sounds and words intermittently, but primarily communicates by pointing and leading his family to what he wants. John will occasionally use single words to say what he wants to eat or shows he wants to watch, but this is inconsistent and his vocabulary is limited. He will sometimes script from TV shows. He is not yet using verbs or combining words into novel phrases.

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 Ambulation

Communication device to be used in the following positions:

Standing or Walking

Cognitive Status

John demonstrates the necessary cognitive prerequisites for appropriate use of an 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

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

Daily Communication Needs

Must be able to communicate about: Personal Needs, Personal Information, Medical Needs, Social Interaction

Where will the device be used: Home, Community

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 Device Name

Trial Type Tried and ruled out

Device 1 Trial Summary This device is significantly heavier than the QuickTalker Freestyle. John needs a device that is lightweight and easy to transport. This is also not an iOS-based device. John and his family are familiar with Apple products and it would be easier for them to navigate an Apple iOS device. He trialed and was not successful in using this app to communicate. The trial with this device was unsuccessful and is being ruled out.

Trial Device 2 Make/Model Device Name

Trial Information

Device 2 Manufacturer

Other

Other - device 2

Device Name

Trial Type

Trialed and ruled out

Device 2 Trial Summary

During the trial, John was somewhat successful in accessing buttons on the device. 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 language features that best meet John's needs. This manufacturer also offers a limited warranty which would not provide John's family with the maximum device support available.

Trial Device 3/Recommended Device

Trial Start Date

05/01/2024

Trial End Date

05/31/2024

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

The QuickTalker Freestyle has been used at home, in the speech clinic, and in the community. At the beginning of the trial, John required maximal prompting to engage with the device. He required hand under hand cueing to attend to the device and select icons on the screen. He required consistent repetition of models within various routines to learn cause and effect. By the end of the trial, John required minimal cueing to navigate the home page of the device. He knows to push the word "open" when he wants his family to open a door. With verbal reminders and a pointing cue, he is able to push "more" when he is requesting additional snack. He requires an adult to navigate to the food page and a verbal cue so that he can make a choice of what he wants to eat. He is able to use his device to greet his therapists by name with a verbal cue and pointing prompt.

Device Model

QuickTalker Freestyle Mini

Device 3 Manufacturer

AbleNet Inc.

Trial Type

Trialed and recommended

Trial Device 3/Recommended Device

Prognosis Using the Above Outlined Device

The prognosis for John's successful implementation of the SGD is excellent. Before implementing the SGD, John's family had to rely on his body cues and his limited vocabulary in order to know what he wanted. He would sometimes get frustrated when he couldn't express himself in a way that his family understood. With an SGD available, he now has an alternative method to express his wants/needs in a more concrete way. He benefits from cues within structured activities to communicate using the device, but he continues to gain independence in using the device every day.

Goals

Goal 1

Language functions

1 - Language functions

John will use total/multi-modal communication to express a variety of functions (e.g. greeting, requesting, rejecting, asking a question, etc.) within daily interactions in 8 out of 10 opportunities across 3 consecutive data collections, with cues fading to independence.

Goal 2

Language functions

2 - Language functions

John will imitate two-word phrases on the SGD following an initial model in 8 out of 10 trials across 3 consecutive data collections, with cues fading to independence.

Goal 3

Other

3 - Other

John will use the SGD to gain the attention of an adult in 8 out of 10 opportunities across 3 consecutive data collections, with cues fading to independence.

Treatment Plan and Training Schedule

John will continue to receive one hour of home-based speech therapy every week, focusing on continued implementation of the SGD. He will also receive one 30-minute session of outpatient speech therapy per week, where the device will also be utilized. John's therapists and family will work together to maximize the functional use of the device across multiple settings.

Speech-Language Pathologist Signature

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

The QuickTalker Freestyle (HCPCS code E2510) is a dedicated and custom configured speech-generating device that is only usable for communication purposes. The software used by AbleNet ensures the device is only usable for communication with the prescribed speech application. The user is unable to unlock the device without the assistance of ableCARE, the AbleNet Product Success Team, and approval from the treating speech language pathologist.

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	06/01/2024
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Name	Samantha L. Pathologist
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Credentials	CCC-SLP
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Signature	
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Physician Signature	_____
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