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	09/01/2021

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. His family was referred for an evaluation with a developmental pediatrician, where he was diagnosed with autism at 30 months old.
How long the client has been receiving speech therapy services? Describe the length and frequency of speech therapy sessions.	John has been receiving one hour of speech and one hour of occupational therapy in the home since the age of two. John also receives outpatient speech therapy services once per week for 30 minutes.
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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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
Will the patient's speech improve with more therapy? How will an SGD help with speech?	John's verbal language skills are not sufficient for meeting his communication needs at this time. Studies have demonstrated that use of SGDs facilitate the development of verbal communication. John's skills are anticipated to improve over time, yet it is likely that John will continue to need a high-tech SGD to fully meet his communication needs long-term.

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, Walking, or Seated
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).

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

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	Device Name
Trial Type	Trialed and ruled out
Device Type	Other

Trial Information

Trial Device 1 Summary - Other	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	Device Name
Trial Type	Trialed and ruled out
Device Type	Other
Trial Device 2 Summary - Other	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.
How is a simpler device (such as PECS or GoTalk) inadequate at meeting the patient's communication needs?	At present, verbal communication is not meeting John's needs because his vocabulary is significantly limited. During previous speech therapy sessions, other systems were introduced but were not sufficient for meeting his communication needs. These included sign language, PECS, and a communication board. John did not seem to understand the concept of these communication systems and required significant support to attend to or use them. John appears to be unmotivated to use a communication system that does not have a speech generating function.
What types of messages cannot be produced using simpler devices that instead require a high-tech SGD?	John demonstrates the capacity to comprehend a wide variety of words that he is not yet able to express verbally. A high tech device is the only means by which he can have access to a wide variety of core and fringe vocabulary. A low/mid-tech device is much harder to edit to support the growth of John's language skills. A low/mid-tech device would also be limited in terms of a speech generation function, therefore reducing his level of independence in communicating with others. It would be too cumbersome to use a physical system like PECS and a mid-tech device would significantly limit his access to a robust vocabulary. A high tech system is best suited for John's communication needs.

Trial Device 3 - Recommended Device

Trial Start Date	05/01/2024
Trial End Date	05/31/2024

Trial Device 3 - Recommended Device

Trial outcomes and explanation as to why the QuickTalker Freestyle is recommended	John has shown steady progress over the 30 day trial when using the QuickTalker Freestyle. He was able to use the device at home during a variety of structured activities to communicate for different reasons. He is able to push the core vocabulary buttons on the main page to use one-word utterances independently. He was able to request a snack by selecting the word "eat" with minimal prompting. He selected the word "open" to ask his mom to open the door with moderate verbal and physical prompting. John greeted his therapist at the clinic by selecting "hi + name" when provided pointing cues. John showed these outcomes most successfully with the QuickTalker Freestyle. This device is necessary to support John's language development by providing access to robust vocabulary so he can fully express his wants, needs, and ideas.
Describe specific words, sounds, and/or messages being communicated using the device that could not be communicated at baseline.	John is able to navigate the buttons on the main page John independently during structured tasks (e.g. open, Mommy, no). He requires assistance in navigating to the vocabulary pages on the device. For example, an adult will demonstrate clicking on the folder to access the page with his favorite foods. John attends to the device as the adult pushes the buttons and then he is able to make a selection of the food he wants. He understands the concept of cause and effect to request desired items. With verbal and hand under hand cues provided, John communicated messages including "more + milk" and "hi + name." At baseline, he was unable to communicate these messages verbally and required maximal assistance to communicate using the SGD.
Summarize the client's progress in the use of an SGD during the trial period and the degree of independence..	At the beginning of the trial, John required consistent maximal cueing to attend to and use the device functionally. He required verbal reminders, hand under hand cueing, and direct models. Throughout the trial, he was able to gain independence in using common words and phrases during structured tasks. Examples of messages that he communicated included "open," "more + milk" and "hi + name." He successfully uses the device to communicate when minimal-moderate cueing is provided. It is anticipated that he will continue to gain independence in using the device to communicate in functional ways.
Is the patient able to use the requested device without help?	Yes
Describe clearly the patient's ability to use the device independently.	John is able to navigate the main page independently to communicate using words like "open" and "Mommy." He requires more assistance (verbal and physical cues) to put more than one word together and navigate to specific vocabulary pages. He is able to attend to and is motivated to use the device to communicate, so it is anticipated that he will continue to gain independence in using the device.
Device Model	QuickTalker Freestyle Mini

Trial Device 3 - Recommended Device

Prognosis Using the Above Outlined Device	John has demonstrated consistent gains in his functional communication skills through use of an SGD. A dedicated communication device would significantly improve his ability to express functional information and basic wants/needs with his family. A QuickTalker Freestyle best fits John's need for a device that is easy to transport and easy to modify as his needs change. With continued therapy sessions focusing on using the device, the prognosis for successful implementation of the SGD is good to excellent.

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 create novel multi-word combinations in 8 out of 10 opportunities 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

Speech-Language Pathologist Signature

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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