Exploring AACcess Options: Partner Assisted Scanning
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Today’s Webinar
- Access
- Selection Techniques
- Direct Selection
- Scanning
- Partner Assisted Scanning
Access First

Access is THE most important factor to consider when selecting an appropriate communication system. We must determine what features the person needs to best access the messages on the system and make a selection.
Access... Person Tool

Access... Person Tool

Selection techniques are the ways an AAC user selects the communication targets.
Direct selection is when the AAC user selects a target 'directly' from the displayed set.

Indirect / scanning requires sequential presentation of the options before the user can indicate their selection using a motor response.

In switch scanning, presentation of the options and the selection of targets is controlled by the AAC user and an electronic switch.
In PAS, the partner is the one who presents the options and receives the user's signal. The partner intentionally uses their knowledge of the person, environment, context to adjust the interaction and increase success.

**Scanning Examples**

*Real Life Example: Auditory Scanning*

- Ranch
- Italian
- Blue Cheese...
Real Life Example:
Auditory Scanning

Real Life Example:
Visual Scanning

Real Life Example:
Visual Scanning

HELLO

H = 44
E = 33
L = 555
O = 666
Selection Techniques
Decision Making

One Important Note...

When considering the user's response mode, remember that communication is the PRIMARY purpose of this system; other goals must come after this.

Direct Selection Indicators
- Consistent motor skills
- Accurate selections
- Few mis-hits (errors)
- Short latency (time to access target)
- Low energy demands / not-fatiguing
- Low physical demands (e.g. positioning, looking, listening)
- High quantity of symbols available on display
Direct Selection Supports
- Keyguard
- Delayed key activation
- Stylus
- Space between targets

Common "Solution"
Partner-Assisted Scanning (PAS) Indicators

- Consider using PAS in addition to or in place of Direct Selection if it direct access is:
  - fatiguing
  - has high error rate
  - requires dramatic reduction of quantity of symbols in self display
  - requires precise settling/tear-up for accuracy
  - is inconsistent
  - is impacted by contextual factors (distraction)

Direct Selection and Scanning

Availability of AAC user, context, and purpose of interaction all impact selection of appropriate method at that time.

Partner-Assisted Scanning How-To and Signalng
The partner presents the items and interprets the user's "yes" signal.

**Partner-Assisted Scanning**

**Example of How-to**

1. Say "listen".
2. Name (and show) each option.
3. Say "now choose!"
4. Name (and show) first option.
   - For "yes" response - repeat the selected item and respond accordingly to choice.
   - For "no" response or no response - continue to next option and repeat step 4-5.

**Video Example**
**Signaling**
The repetition of a specific movement for communicative purposes in scanning.

**PAS Signal**
Any physical movement that is under the user's control and is recognized by the partner to indicate a selection. Many times PAS is used as a vehicle for the person to develop control over a movement and for the partner to learn to recognize the signal.

**PAS Partner**
Partner acts as the interface between the user and the materials. Partners work cooperatively with the user to increase speed, accuracy, and success.
PAS Partner
- Deregards unintended movement
- Alters presentation timing as needed
- Reads subtle nonverbal cues
- Uses contextual cues to assist in interpretation
- Recognizes problems and helps with solutions

(2006) Burkhart, L. Porter, G
ISAAC
“Partner-Assisted Communication Challenges for Children Who Face Multiple Challenges
Partner-Assisted Scanning
Getting Started and Do’s and Don’ts
### Partner-Assisted Scanning: Getting Started

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Selection Set</th>
<th>Motor Signal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quantity in a sequence</td>
<td>1 or 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of cycles</td>
<td>Defined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labels/names for offered items</td>
<td>Clarity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of &quot;something else&quot;</td>
<td>Latency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Inhibited (when not needed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No response</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### PAS Do's and Don'ts

- **DO** be clear about what signal you are looking for
- **DO** minimize use of multiple signals – too many motor planning “programs” running at once can be confusing
- **DO** consider using some form of PAS with direct selection, especially if the user struggles with motor planning

- **DO** correct your own mistakes:
  - I see your face does not look happy. I think I made a mistake. Let’s try again.
- **DO** provide lots of opportunities to practice the interaction with options that [seem] equally ‘good’
- **DO** offer a “way out” by including “none of these” or “something else” at the end of the list of options
- **DO** adjust time for distractions, interruptions etc.
PAS Do's and Don'ts

- DON'T ask for repetition of signal
- DON'T get caught in the "Was it or wasn't it a signal" spiral – if you think it is, it is!
- DO verbally identify the movement you are recognizing as a signal
  - "I saw your hand move…"
  - "I see you looking…"
  - "I think that's a smile…"

PAS Do's and Don'ts

- DO keep selection set in order; it is SO important that the scanning set always retain the same sequence to create automaticity and predictability through learned motor and language patterns.

Resources

Communicating with PAS YouTube video
  Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nGpSXQKrmR4

Partner-Assisted Communication Challenges for Children Who Face Multiple Challenges (Burkhart, Porter 2006)
  https://www.lburkhart.com/Isaac_instructional_06.pdf

Promoting Communication on the Fly for Students with Significant Disabilities Including Deaf-Blindness: Top 10 Tips for Partner Assisted Scanning (Hanser 2007)
Questions?

Thank You!
The ASF Communication Training Series is made available by the Angelman Syndrome Foundation and a generous grant from The Foster Family Charitable Foundation, a family foundation established in Central California.
Video Examples
- Bridge School
  https://bridgeschool.org/transition/multimodal/partner_assist_scan.php
- Linda Burkhart
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TOvC9OoygaA
- We Speak PODD demonstration
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_g5fs-JQJvQ

Student Examples
- Students:
  - NN
  - Mom
  - Joe
  - Jon M
  - Fiona