



Referral Criteria for an Assessment by the Communication for All team.

For a young person to be considered for assessment, the referrer must be able to demonstrate that the reasons for referral require input over and above that which schools can normally be expected to provide.

Significant others involved in the young person's care e.g., family, carers, and teachers, must be able to contribute to the assessment and provide follow up input after the assessment. Young people will need to satisfy all the criteria listed below. The assessment process will help identify a communication solution for the young person. This may be a low technology or a combination of low and high technology.

The Criterion for assessment is:

The effective use of a low tech AAC system e.g., communication book, communication charts etc or evidence that it has been attempted but not been successful over a period of 6 months or more.

The young person is motivated to communicate and be an intentional communicator.

The young person presents with a potential need for a more complex communication system.

The young person will have consistent modes of communication that could be used to support the use of different access methods to technology.

The young person will have developed beyond cause and effect understanding.

The young person will have a discrepancy between their levels of understanding and their ability to communicate.

Should the young person not reach the above criteria, the Communication for All team will suggest to the referrer further ways of assisting the young person to develop their communication system or signpost them to alternative support.

There must also be an agreement demonstrating firm commitment that parents and educational professionals that they will use any AAC provided and that they will work in partnership with the team. Without a firm commitment of this nature any recommended solution is likely to be unsuccessful.