AAC Awareness activities in France for the month of October 2013

October 16: "1 hour non speech Challenge" : "Lunch without speech"

Thirty children at Notre Dame de Neuilly Special School, near Paris, spent their lunchtime without words. The children who do not use AAC had access to signs, pictograms and alphabet boards in order to communicate with their friends who do use AAC. Isabelle Guillot, who organized "1 heure sans paroles", in response to the "24 Hour Non Speech Challenge" initiated by CSCOE (www.cscoe.com), says it was messy but full of fun!

pictures: some communication boards used during event "1 hour without speech", friends speaking with communication aids, adhesive macaron for each participant, Jason did "24 hours without speech"!!

October 23 (from 10AM to 8PM): CAA Francophone Chat on Facebook, Skype

The young people who attend special school and adults who participate in Notre Dame de Neuilly programs helped to organize the 5th annual "Francophone AAC Chat". The objective of the day was to bring together as many people as possible to talk and exchange ideas about the importance of communication and the use of AAC by using:

Skype (caa francais)
Facebook http://www.facebook.com/CommunicationAlternative
Twitter @caafrancophone
The young people in the school gathered in two meeting rooms where computers and a large wall screen were installed. They came and left as their schedules allowed. The chats were displayed so that everyone could see and participate. The day opened with a chat with Judy Baily in the United States. The French AAC users listened to her greetings that she had prepared in French, and then they presented their questions and comments. There were other chats with people from Nantes and Toulouse.

On Facebook there were messages from Canada, Belgium, as well as communications between students and adults who use AAC – from their homes and from their rooms at Notre Dame de Neuilly. As a result of comments, different elements have been added to the Francophone Facebook page.

"Thank you to everyone for telling us what you like best:
"the graphic : "is displayed too high"
and
"it is written too small"