

The logo consists of two stylized, overlapping circular shapes made of concentric arcs, resembling signal waves or a network, in shades of yellow and orange.

Communication Support World Network *Newsletter*

July 2019

Introduction

The main goals of CSWN newsletters are to share what is happening in AAC around all continents and to promote networking. CSWN includes articles, resources, and additional information. The articles are about conferences and your personal experiences, with insights and information that can assist others on similar paths. Additional information includes future AAC conferences and events happening in your area. Resources are usually websites that you have come across and found very useful for your day-to-day activities in AAC. We are open to hearing your news! CSWN depends on you to read and submit, so how about we make CSWN “our” newsletter!

By Co-editors Nadia Browning (Chair of ISAAC Council) and Dorothy Fraser (Chair of ISAAC BUILD Committee)

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312 Dolomite Drive

Suite 216

Toronto, ON

M3J 2N2

Canada

Phone: 905-850-6848

Fax: 905-850-6852

Email: info@isaac-online.org

Website: www.isaac-online.org

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My Life: Locked in Boy

By Jonathan Bryan

www.eyecantalk.net

"My charity, Teach Us Too, working towards a world where all children are taught to read and write regardless of their label, which as you know is so vital for AAC users."

<http://www.teachustoo.org.uk/>

My Life: Locked in Boy won the 2019 Children's Broadcasting Award. Read quotes from the judges at broadcastnow.co.uk



Jonathan attending the Sandford St. Martin Awards at Lambeth Palace, where the CBBC documentary My Life: Locked in Boy won the Best Children's Programme at the Broadcast Awards.

CBBC's first-person documentary strand has covered many difficult topics over the years, but the subject of this sensitive film presented a unique challenge from the outset.

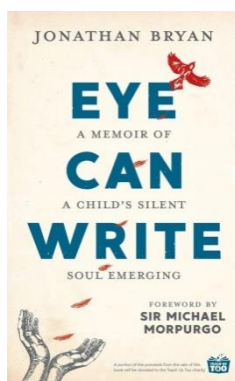
As the first *My Life* documentary authored by a "non-verbal" child, how would it convey its subject's thoughts in an authentic way? The answer was woven into the film up-front, as 10-year-old Jonathan, who was born with cerebral palsy, chose one of his friends to speak his words on his behalf.

Showing these boys queuing up to be chosen made for a powerful opening statement, put Jonathan in control, avoided showing him as a victim and introduced him as a bright, charismatic character with whom viewers would want to spend half an hour.

"It showed children being receptive to difference," said one judge. "It said, 'he's one of us, and here's how we can help him.' "

While presenting an inspiring tale, in which Jonathan helped to secure research funding for disabled children in the classroom and met author Michael Morpurgo, the documentary was up-front about his day-to-day health and physical challenges, and overcame the potential limitations to provide an intimate, authentic glimpse into his life.

"This was an exceptional documentary that gave a voice to a witty, talented and courageous boy," said one judge, praising it as an "inclusive, diverse and articulate" piece of factual film-making.



Eye Can Write: A memoir of a child's silent soul emerging
Available on [Amazon](#)

Augmentative and Alternative Communication in Northern Thailand

By Nicole Bender, Volunteer AT/AAC Consultant, Chiang Mai, Thailand

The Rajanagarindra Institute of Child Development (RICD), Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Clinic held a workshop on the 14th and 15th of January, 2019 at their center in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The purpose of the workshop was to present AAC communication and activity supports to families, caregivers, and professionals in a fun environment, with the long-term goal of AAC acceptance and success in individual community and professional settings. The opening remarks were given by Dr. Samai Sirithongthaworn, Deputy Director Department of Mental Health, and Dr. Duangkamol Tangviriyapaiboon, Director of the RICD Autism Research Center. The event was attended by staff from various departments within RICD and families from inpatient and outpatient clinics, as well as teachers from the Central Special Education Center in Bangkok. Activities were organized by the AAC Clinic team with support from the Speech Language Therapy Department.



Dr. Sirithongthaworn and Dr. Tangviriyapaiboon express their appreciation to the presenters (L-R Alisa Suwannarat, Batin and Sonja Carpenter, and Wantanee Riengraisawat) with a gift from the Institute



Representatives of the Central Special Education office presenting a "Talking Pen Vocabulary Book" to RICD staff: Dr. Kanchana Koonrungsomboon (Acting Director), Dr. Duangkamol Tangviriyapaiboon (Director, ARC), Suphinya Phromkathaew (Public Relations), Nicole Bender (Consultant, AAC Clinic), Worakanok Pappring (Speech Language Therapist), and Noppawan Buathong (Lead Nurse Outpatient Department)

The first day of training was targeted at caregiver and professional understanding of supporting AAC users use of their AAC systems, it included Miss Alisa Suwannarat, Section Head of the Research Center for Assistive Technology and Medical Devices, National Science and Technology Development Agency based in Bangkok, who provided attendees with a comprehensive overview of AAC and practical ways to implement AAC instruction in their daily lives. Miss Suwannarat has over 17 years of experience developing and implementing Assistive Technology and AAC with organizations throughout Thailand. She was joined by Miss Wantanee Riengraisawat, a Special Educator from Kawila-Anukul School in Chiang Mai who furthered the training with more specific supports for teachers working in a formal school setting as well as encouraging techniques for strengthening AAC use with family and school collaboration. Kawila-Anukul School is a beneficiary of The Information Technology Foundation under the Initiative of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn. Miss Wantanee Riengraisawat utilized case story examples from the project to both illustrate techniques and also encourage caregivers and families.



Sonja Carpenter, Batin Carpenter, Worakanok Pappring, Alisa Suwannarat. A team effort during Batin's presentation using her speech generating device in English, with translation into Thai.

Attendees were also fortunate to have presentations by Sonja and Batin Carpenter of New Zealand.

Sonja Carpenter works as a Speech Language Pathologist in Early Intervention with children with multiple disabilities, at the Champion Centre in Christchurch. She has a professional and personal passion for AAC as her eldest daughter, Batin, is an AAC user. Batin was born in Thailand where she spent her first 10 years before being adopted by Sonja and her husband. They shared presentations "Augmentative Alternative Communication (AAC) in Early Intervention; not a product but a process" and "Boardz 4 Boards Fun and games; AACcess community and FUN through games supported by Augmentative Alternative

Communication (AAC)" which were delivered as part of the most recent International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication, ISAAC, conference held on Australia's Gold Coast. The mother-daughter pair was able to illustrate successful AAC use within the family setting as well as outline the potential fun that can be had by using AAC with board games.

Batin's presentation was the perfect segue into day two during which participants observed and interacted with a range of communication systems and techniques. Stations were set up to cover visual support strategies such as daily (across task) schedules and mini (within task) schedules using pretend play, with dolls in addition to the actual schedule of the day's activities. Attendee child and caregiver pairs together helped the doll successfully brush her teeth, get dressed, and eat a yummy breakfast. A Balloon crafting station included choice boards and supports for scanning yes/no in response to available designs during which attendees enjoyed directing their caregivers on creating their unique balloon head character.



Day two activity stations: Daily Scheduling, Crafting, Games, Shared Reading

The team translated a number of game-based aided language displays from Batin's presentation, which proved to be lots of fun for attendees. Pirate Barrel was an especially popular game, as attendees were encouraged to interact with one another across a shared activity. The communication board not only encouraged successful game play but illustrated the power of communication during game play. The shared reading station utilized RICD's core/fringe vocabulary folders. A variety of voice output devices and switch-adapted toys were incorporated into the day's activities as well. Families and professionals were able to see how activities they were already doing, such as shared reading, could be transformed into times of meaningful and fun engagement with AAC. Without significant expense of time or resources, they could simply use the AAC system and engage with the AAC user.



Overall, the two-day training was a successful time of learning and collaboration with practitioners, families and professionals joining together. Families and professionals reported feeling an increased level of understanding in how to implement AAC within their daily lives as well as how to use activities such as shared reading, game play, arts and crafts, and even activities of daily living to support and encourage AAC user success.

A video compilation of the workshop can be viewed at <https://shorturl.at/beiO7>.

Questions regarding the work being done through the RICD AAC clinic may be addressed to aacricd@gmail.com.

Thai language information and resources may be accessed through <https://www.ricd.go.th/webth1/arc/>

Emergency Communication Boards in Mozambique

The art of communication is the language of caring

*By Professor Juan Bornman, Director, Centre for AAC, University of Pretoria, South Africa,
and Dr. Ulrika Ferm, Director, DART, Gothenburg, Sweden*

In the wake of cyclones Idai and Kenneth, millions of Mozambican citizens are left in need of humanitarian aid. An [emergency communication board](#) was developed in order to bridge communication gaps between rescue and support workers who might not speak Portuguese and Mozambicans (e.g. children and elderly persons) who only know Portuguese. This board contains the most important health and medical information supported by pictures with both the Portuguese and English words to facilitate interaction. The health care/rescue worker can then ask questions by pointing to the pictures, and the person in need of support can reply by also pointing to the pictures. The pictures have been designed in such a way that they are gender, age and culturally appropriate. Supporting the interaction with pictures can help to eliminate possible communication breakdowns and misunderstandings. The boards and additional material is available at www.caac.up.ac.za

The board was developed as part of a collaboration between the Centre for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (Centre for AAC) at the University of Pretoria and our research partners at DART (Centre for Augmentative and Alternative Communication and Assistive Technology) at Sahlgrenska University Hospital, Sweden.

Since 2016, DART has been leading a project designed to support communication between asylum seekers and medical/dental professionals. The project is supported by public healthcare authorities using government funding allocated for handling the refugee situation in Sweden. It has resulted in picture-supported written information and a large number of communication boards for different care activities and procedures. All material is translated to 11 different languages and is free to download from the website www.kom-hit.se/flykting. The current board is a continuation of this work.

The International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication ([ISAAC](#)) assisted with ensuring the correctness of the translations.

My Dreams, My Life, My Story

By Carla Van Nieuwenhuizen



My name is Carla van Nieuwenhuizen. I want to tell you about myself. I am 28 years old and I live in Johannesburg in South Africa.

My parents are Marlene and Paul. I have one sister Melissa. She will be 23 this year.



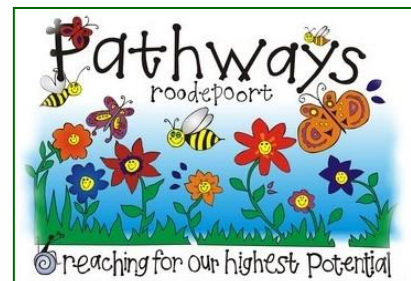
I was born normal but at 6 months old I started to have fits which were caused by a genetic disorder. Because of a lack of oxygen to my brain I got brain damage. My disability is mainly physical which means I cannot walk or sit or do anything on my own. But I am a very clever young lady with a photogenic memory.



I attended the West Rand School for learners with special education needs in Krugersdorp from the age of 3 – starting at their preschool – until school-leaving age (18). <http://westrandschool.co.za/>.



I left school and my parents found a centre for disabled persons called Pathways Roodepoort that I could attend (<http://www.pathwaysroodepoort.org.za/>). I have been at the centre for 6 years now. The centre caters for all ages of people with disabilities.



I am one of seven young ladies at Pathways. Our activities range from cooking, baking, arts and crafts. We have spa days where we get treated to manicures and pedicures which everyone enjoys. We also have a class WhatsApp group for all the mothers where I post photos of our activities of the day.



As part of my disability, I have a speech impairment. I find it very difficult to talk normally. People would think I am stupid because I cannot communicate like a normal person. Then I got to use an AAC device called Grid 2. It is a program on my laptop. I also have a communication board with which I started communicating and so a world of possibilities opened up for me.

I was very honoured to be invited to the Fofa course organized by the Centre for AAC at The University of Pretoria 8 years ago. Here we were taught how to use the Grid 2 program to its full extent. I have attended this course as a mentor for the last couple of years and I have learned so much. Here is a link with more information about the Fofa project: <https://www.up.ac.za/centre-for-augmentative-alternative-communication/article/25835/fofa-communication-empowerment-programme>.



At the first course we were asked what our dreams for the future were. My dream was to do local and international motivational speeches, to tell the public about my life, my dreams, my likes and dislikes and to educate everyone about people with disabilities. I am so happy to say that I have made most of my dreams come true.

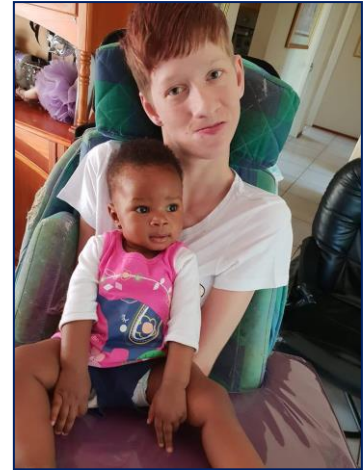
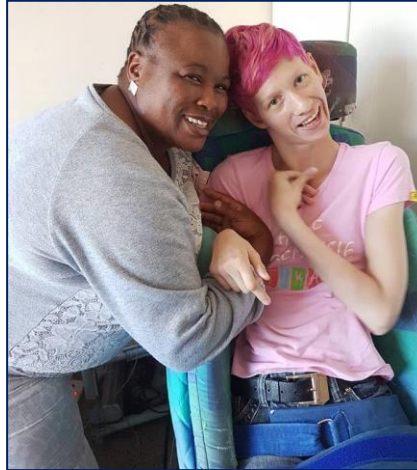


I was invited to my first motivational speech shortly after the first Fofa course and I have been invited by different groups like churches, ladies' teas, women's days, golf days and fundraisers to do my speeches. It is important that people know that in this funny looking body, there is a normal person with feelings, dreams and the wish to be treated as such.

During my school days, I met a lifelong friend called Tsholo. We were together in preschool, primary school and then high school. We continued to be friends after school. Our disabilities are very similar which makes it easier for one of us to understand what the other one is going through. We try and visit each other as often as possible.



I have an amazing caregiver Virginia Patosi. She has been like my “other mother” for 9 years now and I don’t know how I would cope without her. Last year, God blessed us with a beautiful baby angel daughter. Her name is Star. We love her so much. My mother calls Virginia an angel sent from above. She is not only my caregiver she is my friend.



I am a very happy life-loving young lady who loves fashion and makeup. One of my dreams was to learn more about makeup. Then I got invited by Louise van der Merwe owner and head of a beauty college in Roodepoort called Face to Face Westrand, to do a makeup course. I completed this amazing course and I received my certificate. Louise asked me to put their social media for the college on Facebook and I receive a monthly salary for my work.



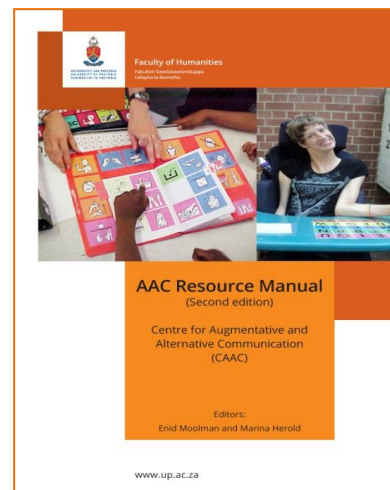
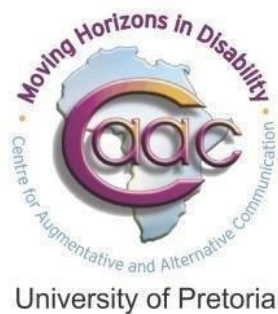
I am very proud to say that I am also a sales consultant for Avon II. This helps me to get an extra income. I love doing the sales and I am very good at it.

I love music and I try to fill my days with lots of music and songs. My favourite artist and the sexiest one too, is the South African singer, Bobby van Jaarsveld. I think I am his biggest fan ever. I try to see all his shows. At one of his shows, he got off stage and serenaded me. He sang Bruno Mars' "Just the Way You Are". At all his shows he takes special time to come and say hello to me. I have been blessed to have met so many celebrities.



I have had a very exciting challenging life and have made some of my dreams come true. I am a very positive person and I am living every day to the fullest. I don't know what will come across my path tomorrow but whatever it is I AM READY. As for my motivational speeches, I still want to continue doing this important task. I want to tell the world about me and people with disabilities and to change their attitude towards us. I was also recently selected to represent South Africa on the International Society of AAC as a member of ISAAC BUILD committee. I am very proud and honoured to represent South Africa internationally.

<https://www.facebook.com/centreforaac/>





What Are Your Resolutions?

By Sharon Teo, Motor Neurone Disease (MND) Patient, Singapore, written using my Tobii

The dawn is broken by the chirping of the birds. The early bird catches the worm. I love the smell of the fresh air and watch the leaves danced to the direction of the breeze from my window. The pre-war building facing my balcony is now a medical school. It stood proudly with the yellow spot lights shining on it. What are your resolutions for this year?

I will have more challenges in 2019. I still have to move forward. Will my resolutions be the same as last year? I revisited the projects I have completed for the MND Support Group and my participation in other activities. What will I be doing this year?

Presentation Slides.

A picture paints a thousand words. I developed slides for presentation to the patients and the medical students on attachment. Many are amazed that technology is so advanced that it can be replaced by eye-gaze.

I felt like I was standing next to a live wire when I first opened the PowerPoint software. I can't imagine how I am going to write text, resize, crop and insert photos. This can be done easier and faster if I am using the mouse. I made many attempts and found that it wasn't that scary after all.

I shared my journey and challenges at each stage of my MND with the medical students. It is never easy to break bad news to the patients. Patients will need more help and support as their condition progress. It is also important to have dentists specialised in treating MND patients to help them maintain good oral hygiene. They could get choked easily when the throat muscles get weaker and have difficulty controlling the water in their mouth.

We also discussed engaging domestic caregivers from Philippines, Indonesia and Myanmar to take care of them. We want caregivers who have looked after patients of such condition, the right attitude and willingness to learn. Communication is another major factor. It is extremely difficult to find reliable ones as most take this as shopping trip. Using mobile phones are more important than working. It becomes very stressful to the patients and family members to

restart the search process. I had one who threatened me and another covered her head with a blanket to chat with her friends late into the night.

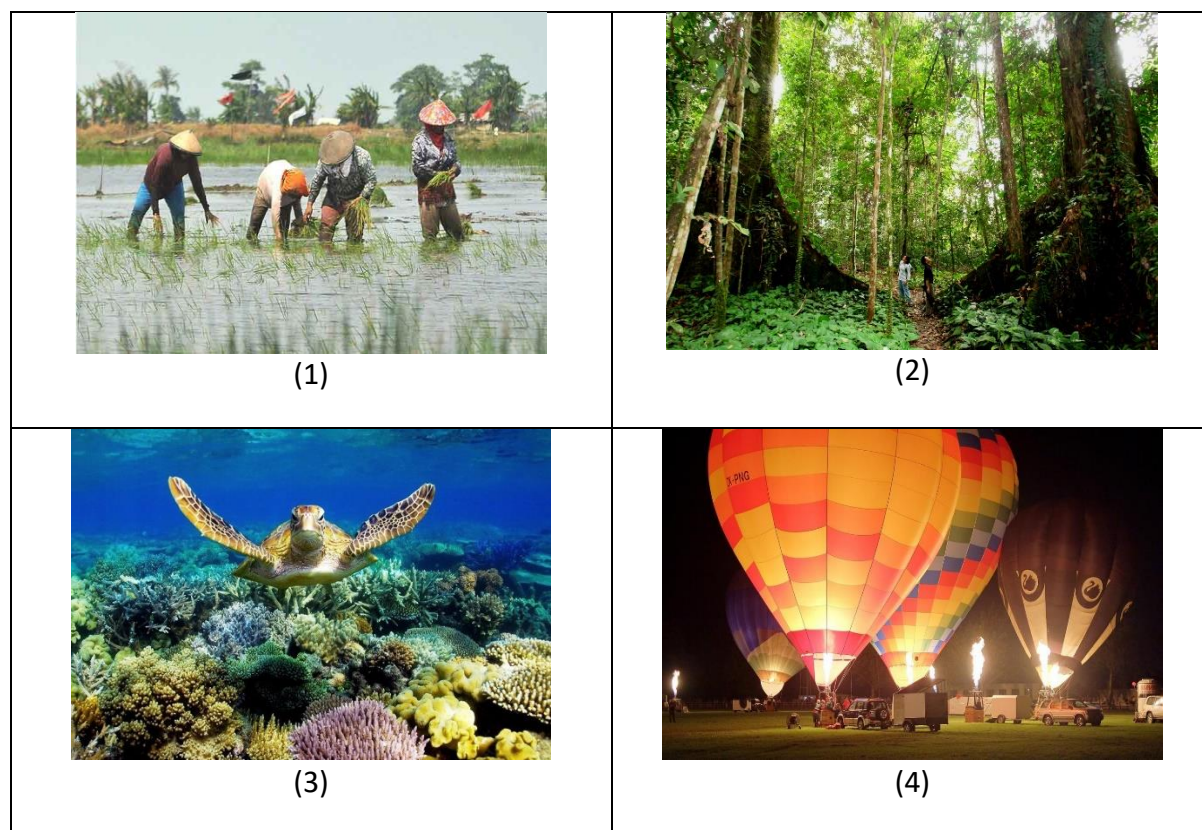
The home vent team from the hospital will visit patients who have difficulty travelling to the hospitals for their treatment. The physiotherapist will train the care givers how to help the patients exercise. The students watched my eyes scrolled my slides on “Cough Assist” and asked “Excuse me Sharon, did you put special lens into your eye balls?” “Can your Tobii read our eyes?” They put their faces in front of the screen and laughed when it didn’t move.

Imagery Music

This is like stretching my brain cells beyond the boundaries.

“Close your eyes. Inhale slowly through your nose and exhale from your mouth. Relax and let the light travel upward from your feet to all the organs in your body”. My Music Therapist paused for a while and slowly let the music fill the room. I focused on the picture in front of me and my mind began to wonder. I could see more than what was there. I could go back to the past, the present and then to the future. She started to take down what I said and I ended my story the same time as the music and I gave it a suitable title. Hmm, it was relaxing.

It is your turn now. What do you see in the 4 pictures below?



Hospital Bed Story

John and Sam were patients next to each other in a 2-bedded room. John's bed was next to the window and he could see the park. The park had a big pond and a few swans flapping their wings next to a big fountain. He would tell Sam the activities in the park every day. They had a lot in common and became good buddies.

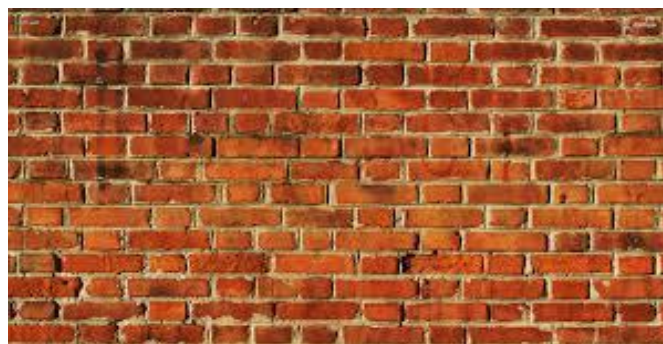
The weather was beautiful. The children in their bright oversized outfits were happily chasing their dogs, flying their planes or playing soccer in the park while some were reading or jogging. The park was also the lovers' meeting place.

A young lad was proposing to his girlfriend but she threw the ring and walked away. Oh no, what did he say that upset her? The young lad picked up the ring and ran after her. John waited to see what's next. Sam also waited to hear from John.

The young lad finally caught up with his girlfriend. It looked like they argued. The young lad then kneeled on his knee. The lady was reluctant to give in but finally stretched out her hand. He quickly grabbed it and slipped the ring onto her finger. Oh yeah!

Both John and Sam spoke about their mischievous bachelor days and how they proposed to their girlfriends. They were still married to the same women and their wives still looked attractive. They burst into laughter. Come on, let's celebrate!

A nurse entered the room. "Hello Mr. Johnson, are you ready?" John moved to the wheelchair and the nurse wheeled him out of the ward. Sam said to him "Hi buddy, let's catch up later. Good luck!" Time flew. Sam woke up from his sleep. It was a long wait before a nurse finally came in to tidy up the bed. Sam asked her where was John. She hesitated and replied "John did not make it." The news slapped Sam but he controlled his emotions. Next he asked her to tell him what she saw in the park. She was puzzled but drew open the window blind and told Sam it's only a wall. Sam was quiet again. He didn't understand. Only a wall? Where is the park? John told him so many wonderful happenings in the park every day. He was confused.



It's only a wall.

The nurse saw Sam frowned and told him that John was blind. Sam understood now. John had remained strong despite the odds were against him. He believed he was still able to inspire. He didn't give up.

What did you learn from this story?

Mindset Therapy

Many could not believe I am 6 years into my MND. Many are curious how I live with no family support. Many said they would have thrown in their blankets if they were in my shoes. I wanted to resume "working" just like before and I use my Tobii every day. Perhaps that gives me the direction and strength to live with MND. Try this Mindset Therapy.

A gentle message to all my friends: Spend quality time with your love ones. Let them support your journey and turn them into beautiful memories. You are always special to them.

Our resolutions will change according to our needs, e.g. stay healthy, have a good job, target better return in the business, visit the turtles farm in Malaysia, get better grades in school, give back to the community, etc.

So, what are your resolutions in 2019?

Cam on Wheels

By Mascha Legel, and the Cam on Wheels crew

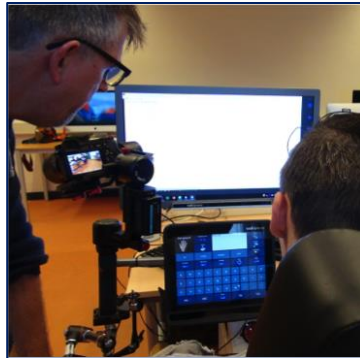
www.camonwheels.nl (translation in process)

Today digital technology has the ability to give access to new ways of communication, like audio-visual language. It is now simple and commonplace for us to capture and share important moments and events on film, just by using our mobile phones, tablet computers, or occasionally more specialized devices, such as visual scene displays (VSDs). We upload images to our Facebook pages, and share them on Twitter or the WhatsApp messaging app. We also use our captured films to share personal stories with friends, for example, about a camping holiday, or with our colleagues, about how we use augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) devices. It is such a simple but powerful tool for augmenting communication. The idea of Film as Observable Communication (FaOC) is a research and method in development. (More news about that soon.)

Audio-visual filmmaking is very useful for sharing personal narrative, but can also be a way to participate with peers, privately and professionally. Filmmaking, as an editor or camera-operator, is a cool and popular profession. It is very accessible for anyone who is interested in making audio-visual productions, with or without motor disabilities, and with or without complex communication needs.



In our project, Cam on Wheels, young adults with and without disabilities create professional audio-visual productions. They are all audio-visual students, some attend audio-visual college courses, while others work in the crew. They take the lead in the whole production process, from script writing and storyboarding, through filmmaking, editing, and finally, to presenting their work. They collaborate closely, each contributing their own individual talents.



Adjustments, which have to be made to make filming and/or editing accessible, are one type of activity focused upon at Cam on Wheels in close collaboration with AAC technology experts and audio-visual technology experts. We still have some challenges to overcome but the first steps are taken.



AAC is part of daily communication at the office during brainstorming and script development, or even more informally around the coffee table.

Filming is a low-key profession: as a camera operator you are not in the spotlight but, rather, a quiet partner in the filming process. Filmmaking is a quiet process that requires high levels of collaboration among the crew, and is based on a lot of non-verbal communication. Communication among crew-members is often facilitated by gestures and signing. In a way this is funny, as the AAC crew-members are specialists in non-verbal communication. There is no difference between the student with or without a disability, since there is a clear job to focus upon: that of film production.



Editing is a solitary process, but in consultation with the crew-members and/or clients, it leads to a high-level final output that reflects the intentions and wishes of the client. FaOC augments the conversation by using images to make communication clearer for each communication partner.

A nice example of a Cam on Wheels production was our project for the Eurovision Song Contest 2019. The crew consisted of three audio-visual students. The interview with our Dutch winner of Eurovision 2019, Duncan, was based on AAC, using the Proloquo4text app from AssistiveWare. The main cameraman, Jelle, conducted the interview and filmed their encounter. His camera-static arm was placed on his wheelchair. He has limitations in camera-angles available to him but this was not a significant obstacle as Duncan, the winner, was happy to accommodate him by kneeling during the interview. A new camera-wheelchair is in development to tackle this problem. After filming, the crew edited the film and shared it via social media. The Cam on Wheels crew carried out the whole production process, including organizing press cards.

Here is the link to the Cam on Wheels Eurovision 2019 video: <https://vimeo.com/340250609>

Cam on Wheels is a learning environment, through professional production with the assistance of professional filmmakers. The idea of Cam on Wheels is to be an inclusive place where students, with or without disabilities, explore the audio-visual profession in close partnership with audio-visual colleges and AAC experts. Simultaneously we do research on the role of film in communication and participation, but the most important goal of Cam on Wheels, is for participants just to be making films and having fun with their peers.

Rwanda

By Rene William Ngabo, President of Rwanda Assistive Technology Access (RATA)

Website: www.rata.rw Rwanda Assistive Technology Access (RATA)

We have started with visually impaired people but we plan to work with other people with disabilities, while empowering them through the use of assistive devices in the future.

- [RATA Newsletter, January – February 2019](#)

Empower Visually Impaired for Employment in Rwanda

Providing training for people with visual impairments on ICT

<https://www.globalgiving.org/projects/empower-visually-impaired-for-employment-in-rwanda/>



News of AAC in Russia

By Irina Tekotskaya and Nadia Browning

St. Petersburg, Russia – a rapidly growing AAC community! Caritas has been promoting yearly AAC Conferences with national and international participants and speakers. This year saw 267 participants from all over Russia, from places such as Omsk, Novosibirsk, Yfa, Krasnoyarsk, Igevsk, Perm, Velikii Novgorod, Borovichi, St. Petersburg, Pskov, Yfa, and Tula. This conference links people who have been implementing AAC in Russia for the past years as well as professionals from different backgrounds who are new to AAC, a combination that provides opportunities for networking and learning.

Please open the following links with photos taken during the 2019 AAC Conference to see for yourself:

- <https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipOHOJnDbul8QwFlbvIY5gARCbCvg3uVEBSf-78oWI5XnmJfCTuQS2rQkdBKOW0fMQ?key=Qk4zWVFwNjFiRFpfRG1XNnZnNUhEWHJ4U2FpTIZB>
- <https://photos.app.goo.gl/epfgi6nDdD3z3qoX7>
- <https://photos.app.goo.gl/a1qA5PUDEqMAVYMJ6>

Caritas also creates partnerships with countries such as Poland, and promotes several AAC workshops and seminars in different regions of Russia (for example, Petrozavodsk, Vladimir, Moskva, and Kirov).

AAC in Russia is certainly developing quickly and welcomes all neighbouring countries to join in.

International Conference Dates for 2019

- **September 8–10, Leeds, UK** Communication Matters (ISAAC UK chapter) Annual International Conference

The Communication Matters International AAC Conference is the UK's leading annual AAC event, with a diverse program of plenaries, presentations, posters and exhibition held over two and a half days. Details [here](#).

- **October 15–17, Zagreb, Croatia** Annual International Assistive Technology and Communication (including "Watch-Online" option)

If you are interested in participating at the ATAAC conference but are unable to visit Zagreb, you will have the opportunity to watch the conference online this year! With a "Watch-online" ticket, you will get access to all the lectures of ATAAC 2019 and will be able to watch them at your own pace. The lectures will be available online for two weeks. All non-English language lectures will be simultaneously interpreted into English. Details [here](#).

- **November 15–17, Taipei, Taiwan** Second East Asian Regional Conference on Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC): Uniting local and international perspectives

The conference will be in English and participants from all countries are welcome. Information and Call for Papers [here](#).

Organizers: Department of Speech Language Pathology and Audiology, Chung Shan Medical University, Taiwan, and the Taiwan Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (ISAAC-TAIWAN)

ISAAC Conference 2020

- **August 1–6, Cancún, México** 19th Biennial Conference of the International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (ISAAC). Information and Call for Papers [here](#).

August 1-2: AAC Camp, Pre-Conference Workshops, Executive and Council Meetings

August 3 -6: Main Conference at the Cancún International Convention Center (Cancún ICC).

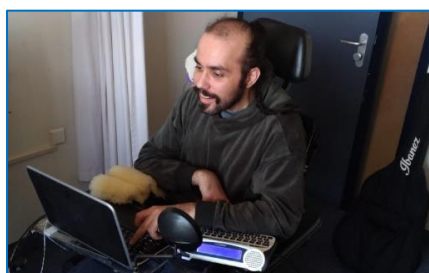


Resources

- **My Breath My Music** <http://mybreathmymusic.com/en/>; contact Ruud van der Wel

Although not all people are equally able to express themselves by speech, there is one language we all understand: music. My Breath My Music is a Dutch foundation that has as its goal to make it possible for people with (severe) handicap(s) to make music on their own and with others. For that purpose we make use of (among other things) Assistive Music Technology. In the 10 years of our existence, we have developed a growing arsenal of musical instruments that can be played with, e.g. only one or two fingers, only by mouth or by eye movement.

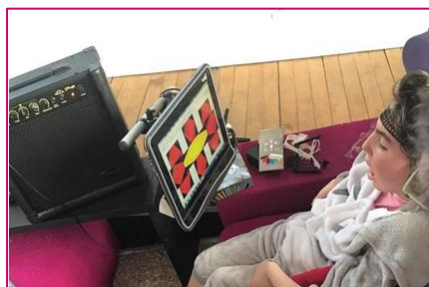
Watch here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PK8S7V5tpbU>



Antonio

Antonio was a professional musician until a severe stroke ended his musical career. Now, only able to move just two fingers, he is picking up the joy of music again with the software program Concert Keyboardist. Here you can see and hear Antonio performing 'Für Elise' using Concert Keyboardist: https://youtu.be/_w7mS7Mn5G2g.

For more information and to download the free software go to <http://mybreathmymusic.com/en/concertkeyboardist>.



<http://mybreathmymusic.com/en/eyeplaymusic> for *Eye Play Music*, free software for the Windows PC and for Tobii Communicator 5, for making music using eye movement.

- **AAC for Caregivers**, published online by the Specialised Assistive Technology Centre, SPD, Singapore. Made possible by the generous ISAAC Conference 2018 AAC *Lightning Pitch* cash prize, supported by ISAAC International and Deakin University in Australia.

This resource covers eight strategies in AAC and can be downloaded as a manual or as separate handouts when training caregivers/professionals working with individuals who use AAC. It is written with the Malaysian/Singaporean/Southeast Asia region in mind, but could possibly be used by AAC professionals in other countries too! Here is the link to the manual and official post: <https://www.spd.org.sg/aacforcaregivers/>

- **How to Speak When You Don't Have a Voice**, produced by Jemima Hughes and Screen South, April 2019

"Some disabled people have no voice or are hard to understand. That doesn't mean they have nothing to say, explains filmmaker Jemima Hughes in this five-minutes video: <https://www.bbc.com/ideas/videos/how-to-speak-when-you-dont-have-a-voice/p07693kc?playlist=redefining-disability>

- **Vital Voices Patient Stories**

"We have been collecting patient stories from across Scotland. The patient stories are vital to hear their voice when raising awareness within your organisation or with the general public. See what we have so far! You might be surprised: stories, poems etc.:" <https://acipscotland.wordpress.com/2019/05/01/patient-stories-raise-awareness-for-aac>

- **Teach It DIY**

Fun activities for the classroom and home: <https://www.facebook.com/TeachitDIY/>

Farewell Note

Thank you very much to everyone who contributed to this newsletter. We look forward to receiving more items from around the world for the next edition, which will be distributed in December 2019. Please send your articles, conference news, and resource information before the end of October to our email addresses:

nadiabrowning@gmail.com

dotfraser2@gmail.com

Best wishes to everyone,

Nadia and Dorothy