



ISAAC MEMBERSHIP

WHAT IS ISAAC?

The International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (ISAAC) is a membership organization working to improve the lives of children and adults who use AAC.

ISAAC's vision is that AAC will be recognized, valued and used throughout the world.

ISAAC's mission is to promote the best possible communication for people with complex communication needs.

ISAAC's goal is to create worldwide awareness about how AAC can help individuals without speech. ISAAC accomplishes this by sharing information and promoting innovative approaches to research, technology and literacy through AAC. Activities include hosting the ISAAC biennial conference, sponsoring projects, and offering awards and scholarships. ISAAC is a non-governmental organization in Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

- ISAAC was formed in 1983.
- ISAAC has Chapters in 17 countries or regions: Australia, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, French-speaking countries/regions, India, Israel, Italy, Netherlands-Flanders, Norway, Poland, Singapore, Spanish-speaking countries/regions, Sweden, Taiwan, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America.
- ISAAC members include people who use AAC, their families, therapists, teachers, students, doctors, researchers, organizations, and companies that create AAC related products/services.
- The ISAAC International Office is located in Toronto, Canada.

WHAT IS AUGMENTATIVE AND ALTERNATIVE COMMUNICATION (AAC)?

AAC is a set of tools and strategies that an individual uses to solve every day communicative challenges. Communication can take many forms such as: speech, a shared glance, text, gestures, facial expressions, touch, sign language, symbols, pictures, speech generating devices, etc. Everyone uses multiple forms of communication, based upon the context and our communication partner. Effective communication occurs when the intent and meaning of one individual is understood by another person. The form is less important than the successful understanding of the message.

Source: Burkhart, Linda J. (2012). *What is AAC?* Retrieved from <http://www.isaac-online.org/english/what-is-aac>.



WHAT DOES ISAAC DO?

- Advocates for augmented communicators and their families.
- Supports the use of AAC around the world.
- Facilitates international information exchange through its website and publications.
- Encourages AAC research activities.
- Promotes AAC products and services.
- Celebrates and supports International AAC Awareness Month every October.
- Holds international conferences. The next ISAAC Conference is the AAC Awareness Month "Vibes of AAC" Virtual Event October 29-30, 2024. Register now at <https://conference.isaac-online.org/>
- Sponsors *Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC)*, a peer-reviewed scientific journal.
- Supports and provides awards and scholarship programs for members. Sponsors major projects, including BUILD and LEAD.

WHY BECOME A MEMBER OF ISAAC?

The main benefit of ISAAC membership is to belong to an international community that focuses on improving lives of individuals with complex communication needs. ISAAC keeps you updated on what is going on around the world and provides several ways for members to network, collaborate, and share information.

Networking and collaboration

- Access to our annual online Membership Directory.
- ISAAC Biennial Conference proceedings free downloads.
- Link to organizations such as Assistive Technology Industry Association (ATIA).
- Travel scholarships for persons who use AAC to attend the Biennial Conference.
- Awards to support Early Career Researchers to attend the Biennial Conference.
- Reduced member rates to attend the Biennial Conference.

Advocacy

- AAC Awareness Month pamphlets, brochures, material, videos.



- BUILD AAC Committee supports AAC in emerging countries.
- LEAD Committee encourages and supports people who use AAC in taking a leadership role within ISAAC.
- Human rights and AAC documents shared on the website and social media.

Education

- Webinars (introductory and advanced webinars on a variety of AAC topics).
- ISAAC Biennial Conference registration discount for ISAAC members.
- Travel scholarships (beginning researchers and researchers from emerging countries, and through BUILD AAC) to attend Biennial Conference.

Research

- AAC Journal, which is ranked in the top 20 of all rehabilitation journals.
- Guidelines for “Best practices for obtaining consent from persons who use AAC.”
- ISAAC Research Committee organizes a robust research agenda and symposium for the Biennial Conference.

Information dissemination

- *The ISAAC Communicator*, quarterly e-newsletter.
- Guidelines: *Communication Access Symbols*.
- Access to a global network of AAC professionals, researchers, manufacturers, people who use AAC, and family members.
- Eligibility to apply for monetary awards, some of which include presentation opportunities, i.e., The Outstanding Consumer Lecture Award; The Bridge School/ISAAC Teacher in Residence Award.
- ISAAC Press publications, i.e., *Waves of Words*.
- Position Statements.



Become an ISAAC member in 2024!

Find out more by visiting our website at www.isaac-online.org, or by contacting the ISAAC International Office, 312 Dolomite Dr., Suite 216, Toronto, ON M3J 2N2, Canada Phone: 905 850-6848 ▪ Fax: 905 850-6852 ▪ Email: franklin@isaac-online.org

Please note: If there is an ISAAC Chapter in your country or region, you are encouraged to become a member through that Chapter. See above for countries that have online renewal through the ISAAC international website. Please contact the ISAAC International office for more information.