



isaac

CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL AUGMENTATIVE COMMUNICATION MONTH

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&

ACOLUG

(Augmentative Communication On Line Users
Group)

Support International AAC Awareness
Month

Look Inside



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Promoting the Communication Bill of Rights: Rights: What YOU Can Do!



In honor of **International AAC Awareness Month 2015**, celebrated during the month of October, the following was posted to the membership of **ACOLUG** and on the course home page for graduate students taking *Integrating Assistive Technology into the Classroom* with Dr. Bryen.

Communication Bill of Rights and a link to the poster.

Please identify one thing that YOU can do to promote the Communication Bill of Rights in your community. Email your responses and I will then collect them into a small booklet entitled *Promoting the Communication Bill of Rights: What You Can Do!* During November, I will post the booklet on ISAAC's website and send it to all subscribers to ACOLUG.



Communication Bill of Rights

All people with a disability of any extent or severity have a basic right to affect, through communication, the conditions of their existence. All people have the following specific communication rights in their daily interactions. These rights are summarized from the Communication Bill of Rights put forth in 1992 by the National Joint Committee for the Communication Needs of Persons with Severe Disabilities.

Each person has the right to

- request desired objects, actions, events and people
- refuse undesired objects, actions, or events
- express personal preferences and feelings
- be offered choices and alternatives
- reject offered choices
- request and receive another person's attention and interaction
- ask for and receive information about changes in routine and environment
- receive intervention to improve communication skills
- receive a response to any communication, whether or not the responder can fulfill the request
- have access to AAC (augmentative and alternative communication) and other AT (assistive technology) services and devices at all times



- have AAC and other AT devices that function properly at all times
- be in environments that promote one's communication as a full partner with other people, including peers
- be spoken to with respect and courtesy
- be spoken to directly and not be spoken for or talked about in the third person while present
- have clear, meaningful and culturally and linguistically appropriate communications

A full size poster summarizes the communication rights of individuals with disabilities. It is available for downloading at:

www.scopevic.org.au/index.php/cms/frontend/resource/id/68.

Responses came from more that 50 people.

Here is what a few subscribers to ACOLUG said:

- I can *“be in environments that promote one’s communication as a full partner with other people.”*
- *“I am sharing it in my graduate class at MS University! Thanks for passing this along.”*
- As a person who use AAC, *I will guest lecture in university courses.*



- Many posted the **Communication Bill of Rights** to FaceBook and asked friends to *Share It*. It is impossible to determine how many people the Communication Bill of Rights reached through this powerful social media.

In addition to posting on FaceBook, here is what a few graduate students said:

- To promote the communication bill of rights in my community, I will approach my building administration about including the *Bill of Rights* as part of our October Faculty Meetings and October Special Education Department Meeting. I feel that doing so will allow the faculty to be reminded of their roles and responsibilities with regard to ALL students, and ALL students with special needs.
- One thing I can do to promote the *Communication Bill of Rights* in the community is by sharing it with parents of my students who use AAC. This will help to inform parents of the rights their child with AAC is entitled to. By creating an awareness for the parents, this helps to create advocates for users of AAC in the community.
- With social media so prevalent in today's society, I think posting the *Communication Bill of Rights* on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter would be a great way of spreading



the news to a lot of people in a short amount of time. I currently have a FaceBook account and would be happy to do so.

- To promote the *Communication Bill of Rights*, I have posted it on my FaceBook page. I have also contacted my employer and was granted permission to email my coworkers the summary of the rights and the link you have provided where they can learn more.
- I decided to take a little time to talk with my class about AT and AAC. I then encouraged them to check out the AAC month webpage listed on ACOLUG. I posted the link to my teacher webpage ([here](#)) and encouraged my students to explore it. I don't have any students that use AAC, so I figured the next best thing I could do to help was to bring awareness.
- Because I did not know such a bill exist. I think that like myself, others may not know also. I am interest and eager to post the *Communication Bill of Rights* to others on my Facebook and Instagram. I am a firm believer in using social media networks to promote and bring awareness to others. I will use this information I have learned about the *Communication Bill of Rights* with my students by making sure my families are well informed of this bill. Also once I



become more knowledgeable I plan on forming informational plan-flits for my students and their families.

- I can use the *Bill of Rights* to make sure any of my students in the classroom are able to do all those things listed on the Bill of Rights to make sure they are being treated equally and getting the same opportunities as those who do not need AT or AAC devices. This is something I will definitely post in my room to advocate for those using AAC devices and to always remember their rights.

So,

What can YOU do to Promote the Communication Bill of Rights?

