



Vibes of AAC

Poetry Slam

Book of Poems

*The poems in this book were presented at
ISAAC's Vibes of AAC Virtual Event 2024
Poetry Slam.*

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My experience with A.A.C.

Click, click, click my switch starts my device

Tic, tic, toc, top to bottom, left to right, red block

Scanning, selecting, expressing, not ever holding back,

my voice, my life, my vice!

by Nazareth Anthony Barragan Hernandez



I wouldn't change my Mexican Family for Nada

I inherited Anita's values, morals, strength, pride, and staying traditionally
Very entertaining, supportive, fun, understanding, compassionate, accepting, and
loving-unconditionally

What makes me, ME...Mia Mexican Familia ever growing exponentially

by Nazareth Anthony Barragan Hernandez

About the author

Nazareth A. Barragan was born prematurely, 6 months on July 22, 1984. I spent crucial months in an incubator at Children's Hospital of Los Angeles after I stopped breathing and was resuscitated on the fourth day. At nine months, my family and I faced the diagnosis of Cerebral Palsy, which significantly impacted my motor skills and speech. Despite the rocky start, I was able to have an amazing education supported by teachers that saw my potential. For 34 years, I have embraced AAC devices, transforming my life as an avid switch user. As a proud second-generation Mexican American and bilingual speaker, I work to dismantle communication barriers and empower others. Today, as a creative writer, content creator, guest speaker my future goals are to mentor young AAC users, I share my story to inspire those around me.

The sea comes crashing,
On a dark and lonely night,
It shares its story.

by Beth Moulam

About the author

Beth has had a lifelong passion is to empower augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) users to fulfil their own communication potential. She is a Paralympian representing Great Britain at the 2020 Tokyo Paralympics in boccia. In 2021 she graduated with a first-class degree in Social Policy, and is now completing a MRes in social policy focused on the provision of AAC. Beth is a Trustee of Communication Matters, the UK Chapter of ISAAC, Patron of 1 Voice, a UK charity for young AAC users and their families, and she sits on the NHS England specialised services AAC group. She is a motivational speaker, lectures in higher education, runs workshops and is a mentor for AAC users. In 2024 Beth was awarded an honorary PhD by Manchester Metropolitan University for her advocacy work. In 2024 Beth was nominated on the Disability Power 100 list (top UK disabled influencers) as the UK's Number 1 Grassroots and Community advocate.

Going To See My Love

To fly to you now
After weeks of screen speaking
Is a welcomed joy.

What I Want To Do With My Dissertation

I just want it done.
A weight will lift from my mind
And it can soar free.

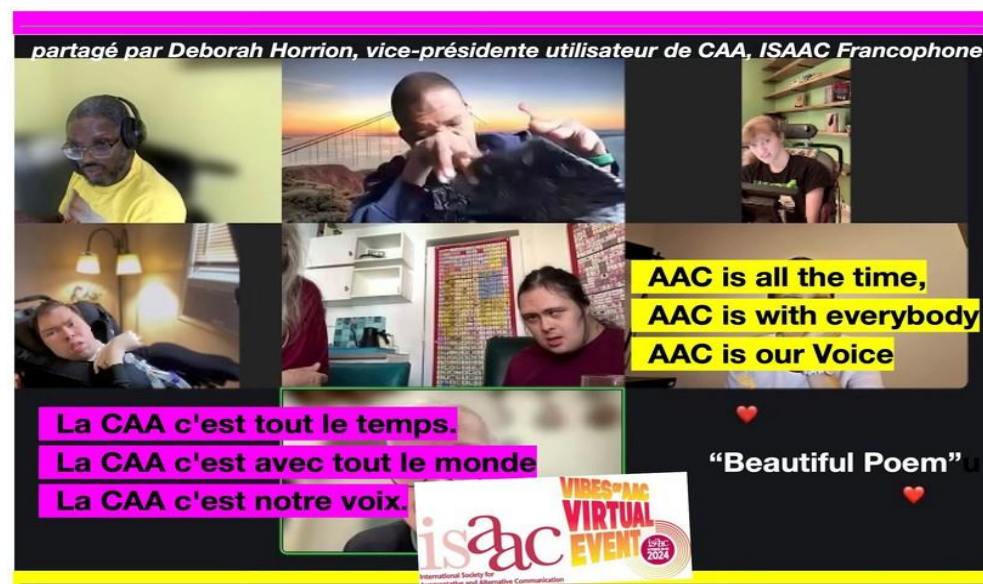
Untitled

I pray everyday
for guidance and direction
so I live in peace.

by Lateef McLeod

About the author

Lateef McLeod continues to build his career as a writer and a scholar. He earned a BA in English from UC Berkeley and an MFA in Creative Writing from Mills College. He also recently earned a Ph.D in the Anthropology and Social Change doctoral program at California Institute of Integral Studies in San Francisco. He has also been on the ISAAC Lead Committee since 2016, was chair of the committee from 2016 - 2020 and is the current chair of the committee. For an occupation he obtained a position as a community research associate at Oregon Health and Science University in their University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities.



AAC is all the time,
AAC is with everybody
AAC is our Voice.

La CAA c'est tout le temps,
La CAA c'est avec tout le monde
La CAA c'est notre Voix.

by Deborah Putzeys

About the author

My name is Deborah, I'm 50 and I live in Belgium. I have cerebral palsy. I share my life with my husband Philippe and an amazing assistance dog named “Ju”. Together, Philippe and I teach dancing wheelchair. I’m also very involved in the accessibility of public places in my commune. As vice-president of ISAAC Francophone, I am passionate about Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC), a field that is close to my heart for many years. My aim is to give everyone the opportunity to express themselves and become actor in their own lives. AAC is about existing, vibrating, shouting and screaming to be heard!

I love AAC
Radical change to my life
Freedom of speech. Yeah

by Jamie Preece

Camp Days

AVA Camp is my home
Bus ride to Lake Geneva
Chris is my new friend
Dan Price was the best manager of the camp
Funny memories
Great late night discussions
How many student speech therapists helped at the camp over the years
I went to camp for 13 years
John was the camp director
Kids came from all over the United States
Michael E was a great mentor
Ooo that just KC with the girls again
Played power chair soccer
Questions about how Jon and Sarah did things were always asked
Really good or really bad meals were eaten
Sharon started helping with camp in 04
The campers loved to have talk time
University professor was always changing Version of the camp still go on today
Where are all of my friends who I met at camp today I wonder X-rays weren't
needed surprisingly
You might have went to AVA camp yourself I would love to hear from you Zzzz I
always slept great when I got home

by Mike Hipple

About the author

My name is Mike Hipple. I have been using AAC for 25 years now. I live in Appleton, Wisconsin, United States. I have a membership in ISAAC/USSAAC. Community is important to me that is why I am a member and I wanted to write a poem. I enjoy watching baseball and cop shows in my free time. I love reading. I have a question. I self-published a children's book about starting school. Would ISAAC be interested in publishing my book?



Spork fork fork spork fork
My house my house. Cheesecake. Quilt.
Fork spork fork. Chopsticks.

by Ian Ninomiya

About the author

Ian Ninomiya is a 31-year-old male with Down syndrome, autism, very limited vocal ability, and a multifaceted language disability. He has been using Proloquo2Go for 16 years and navigates his AAC very well but does not communicate grammatically. He loves using his high tech AAC, but he is a multimodal communicator who also uses posters, books, advertisements, manual signs, objects, gestures, facial expressions, and whatever else strikes his fancy in order to communicate.

It is a vibe. It is a movement.
The ISAAC Vibes of AAC Conference is hip, it's cool.
So many cool cat AAC users.

by Patrick Regan

About the author

Patrick Regan is a longtime AAC user who lives in Alaska. He is the President- Elect of USSAAC, and a member of ISAAC's LEAD Committee. Patrick is also President and Coordinator of Activities and Events for Bridging Communities Through Alternative Communication (BCTAC), an adult outreach program of The Bridge School and is a mentor for The Bridge School's Self-Determination Program.

The Crows' Warning

A murder gathers.
Winged shadows in autumn's fog.
Their calls haunt the night.

Flower Power

Joyful flowers dance.
Petals sway on gentle winds
Aroma revives my soul.

Dolls

Antique creepy dolls.
Eyes staring from sealed boxes.
I collect them all.

by Chelsea Hagen

About the author

Chelsea lives on a beautiful acreage in rural Alberta, Canada.

Chelsea is a writer, AAC Defender, mentor, and an artisan. She uses ‘two switch head control’ to communicate, write, and create her art. Chelsea calls her art, ‘Noggin Art by Chelsea.’ She enjoys using her noggin to create amazing stories, poems, and crafts. Her most favorite is writing, and she wants to make it her full-time career. Chelsea has had her writing published in a poetry book, blogs, and magazines. She has written two short films; one film was shown at the Toronto ISAAC Conference. She is also a Canadian board member for ISAAC Canada, and a Lead member for ISAAC International Chat site. Every year she mentors young AAC communicators at the University of Alberta’s AAC camp. Chelsea has begun her BA English at the Athabasca University. She is also currently working on getting her children’s illustrated book published. She also wants to continue to share her life experiences as a savvy communicator and advocate for all AAC communicators.



*Thank you to all the poets who shared their poems in
this book and at the Vibes of AAC
Virtual Event 2024 Poetry Slam.*

*Your voice, your creativity and your sense of
community enrich us all.*