

Article from **RERC on Communication Enhancement eNews**

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January 13, 2005

**Announcing.....**

Want to know what's new in our world? Check out what we've recently published, posted, produced, and participated in.

**Publications Hot Off the Press**

The partners and staff of the AAC-RERC have been busy spreading the word through journal and newsletter. Here's a list of some of our recent publications. Check the [Pubs & Presentations](#) section our website for a complete bibliography.

- [Gareth's Story](#) (Success Stories 2004: Consumer Perspectives, NCDDR, J. Light, )
- [Tracy's Story](#) (Success Stories 2004: Consumer Perspectives, NCDDR, D. McNaughton)
- [First Person: Literacy Opens Doors in Communication](#) (AT Journal, J. Hemphill & J. Schwartz)
- [AAC-RERC Writers Brigade: An innovative project to employ writers who use AAC technology](#) (AT Journal, J. Schwartz)
- Listener attitudes toward speech supplementation strategies used by survivors of TBI. (*Journal of Medical Speech Language Pathology*, 12,163-166., L. Hanson, D. Beukelman, S. Fager, C. Ullman)
- Intervention Decision-making for Persons with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis. (*ASHA Leader*, 9, 4-5., D. Beukelman, L. Ball & G. Pattee)
- Enhancing the appeal of AAC technologies for young children: Lessons from the toy manufacturers. (*Augmentative and Alternative Communication*. 20, 137-149. Light, J., Drager, K., & Nemser, J.)

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**New Products on our Website**

Our website is constantly changing. Visit often to see what's new.

- [AAC Webcasts](#) begin February 1. Check the "Dissemination through Participation" section below for the schedule. Follow the links on our website for more information.
- The recently updated [Medicare](#) pages are now complete. This section contains the most recent guidelines information.
- A new [clinical pathway for swallowing](#) associated with ALS is available. We've made PDFs for all three clinical pathways available in two sizes - 11 x 17 and 8.5 x 11.
- In addition to English and Spanish versions, our [brochure](#) has now been translated into **Portuguese**. All versions are available for download from our website.

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**Postings from ACOLUG**

Can telework work for me? What are contextual scenes? What goes on at the ISAAC international conference?

Have you ever thought about these questions? Felt like discussing them? Through the Augmentative Communication On-Line Users Group (ACOLUG), you can.

ACOLUG is a LISTSERV created to exchange ideas, information, and experiences on augmentative communication with people from all over the world. By using e-mail, people who use augmentative communication and their friends and families discuss issues related to augmentative communication, such as equipment, funding, learning techniques and supports. Recently, ACOLUG discussions revolved around:

- Telework to Improve Employment Outcomes for AAC Users (September 13)
- Contextual Scenes for Beginning Communicators (October 12)
- Contextual Scenes for Adults with Aphasia (October 24)

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- Partners at ISAAC Conference (November 8)
  - Social Networks (November 23)
  - New Medicare Webpage (December 6)
  - Improving Interface Performance Efficiency between AAC and IT Systems (December 20)

The AAC-RERC provides support to ACOLUG. All you need to join is internet access and an email address. To out, visit [ACOLUG](#) on the web.

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### **Dissemination through Participation**

#### **AAC Webcasts**

Beginning February 1, 2005, the AAC-RERC will be sponsoring **webcasts** on various AAC and communication-topics. We've lined up a number of topics for 2005, including:

- Supporting successful transition for individuals who use AAC (David McNaughton, available February 1, 2005)
- AAC Interventions to Maximize Language Development for Young Children (Janice Light, available May 1, 2005)
- AAC and Aphasia: A Review of Visual Scenes Display Project (David Beukelman, available August 1, 2005)
- An Overview of the Health-based Funding Programs that Cover SGDs (Lew Golinker, available November 1, 2005)

To view the webcasts, go to the [AAC-RERC website](#) and follow the links for Webcasts. The first webcast sched

#### **Supporting Successful Transition for Individuals who use AAC**

**Presenter:** David McNaughton, Professor in Charge, Graduate Program in Special Education, Penn State Univ

**Availability:** February 1, 2005

**Webcast Description:** This presentation will provide information on major barriers and important supports to successful transitions for individuals who use AAC. Case examples provided by individuals who use AAC will be to illustrate transition strategies that promote positive outcomes for individuals who use AAC.

Participants in this seminar will be able to

- Describe valued transition outcomes for individuals who use AAC
- Identify major barriers to successful transitions for individuals who use AAC
- Identify important supports to successful transitions for individuals who use AAC
- Describe transition strategies that promote positive outcomes for individuals who use AAC.

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#### **Success Stories 2004**

Recently, the AAC-RERC submitted entries for a publication by the National Center for Dissemination of Disability Research (NCDDR) highlighting consumer successes. *Success Stories 2004: Consumer Perspectives* is now available in hard copy. This publication comprises a variety of stories as told by people whose lives have been positively affected by NIDRR-supported projects. The AAC-RERC is pleased to champion Gareth and Tracy's stories.

[Success Stories 2004: Consumer Perspectives](#) is available for viewing online or can be downloaded for printing PDF. For an alternate format, contact NCDDR online at [www.ncddr.org](http://www.ncddr.org) or by phone at 800-266-1832.

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