

Speech-Language Pathologist Assessment for a Speech Device

Date of AAC Evaluation	06/01/2024
Evaluating Speech-Language Pathologist	Samantha L. Pathologist
Email Address of Evaluating Speech-Language Pathologist	fundingservices@ablenetinc.com

Demographic Information

Patient's Name	John Smith
Patient's Date of Birth	09/01/2021

Background Information

Patient's medical history	John's parents report that he was born full term without complications. He experienced 2 ear infections as an infant, but these were cleared with antibiotics. John met his physical developmental milestones in an expected fashion, but his family noted concerns about his ability to engage with people, imitate words, and follow directions.
Summary of speech therapy intervention	John was initially referred for a speech and language evaluation through early intervention by his pediatrician due to parent concerns related to his delayed communication and sensory processing. He has been receiving speech and occupational therapy (one hour per week each) in the home since the age of two. John also receives outpatient speech therapy services once per week for 30 minutes. His family was referred for an evaluation with a developmental pediatrician, where he was diagnosed with autism at 30 months old.
Current living environment	Home with family
Speech & Language ICD 10 Code & Description (Select all that apply)	F80.2 - Mixed Receptive-Expressive Language Disorder, F84.0 - Autistic Disorder

Current Device

Does the patient currently use a speech generating device?	No
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Current Communication Impairment and Limitation

Current Communication Impairment and Limitation

John uses some sounds and words intermittently, but primarily communicates by pointing and leading his family to what he wants. John will occasionally use single words to say what he wants to eat or shows he wants to watch, but this is inconsistent, and his vocabulary is limited. He will sometimes script from TV shows. He is not yet using verbs or combining words into novel phrases. His speech is not functional to meet his communication needs at this time.

Given the severity of the communication impairment as described above, does the patient require the use of a speech generating device (SGD) for functional communication?

Yes

Comprehensive Assessment

Does hearing status influence the patient's communication and/or the choice or use of a device?

No

Does the patient show adequate hearing abilities to effectively use a SGD?

Yes

Does vision status influence the patient's communication and/or the choice or use of a device?

No

Does the patient show adequate vision abilities to effectively use a SGD?

Yes

Functional Ambulation/Mobility

Independent Ambulation

Communication device to be used in the following positions:

Standing, Walking, or Seated

Cognitive Status

John demonstrates the necessary cognitive prerequisites for appropriate use of an SGD (e.g. simple cause and effect, object permanence and procedural memory for the operation of the device).

Comprehensive Assessment

Does the patient demonstrate the necessary cognitive abilities (i.e. attention, memory and problem-solving) skills to learn to use a SGD to achieve functional communication goals?

Yes

Does the patient's linguistic performance indicate the necessary language skills required to functionally communicate using a SGD?

Yes

Expressive Language Skills: Is the use of an SGD necessary for the patient to be able to adequately express ideas, thoughts, feelings or emergent information?

Yes

Receptive Language Skills: Is the patient able to adequately understand and has the potential to respond in conversation with the assistance of a SGD?

Yes

Describe the client's receptive vocabulary skills.

John is able to understand more words than he is able to express. His parents estimate that he is able to understand about 100 common words. John can understand simple, routine commands with gestural cues, common nouns, and can group some items together by category (e.g. animals, shapes, etc.).

Daily Communication Needs

Must be able to communicate about:

Personal Needs, Personal Information, Medical Needs, Social Interaction

Describe the types of messages that the client will need to communicate by using the device, giving examples of each.

It is anticipated that John will need to use the device for requesting items (get + Mickey), directing the actions of adults (Daddy + push), asking for help (help + open), and making comments (blue + car).

Where will the device be used:

Home, Community

With whom will the device be used to communicate with:

Family, Friends, Therapists, People in the Community

Trial Information

Trial Information

Trial Device 1

Device Name

Device Type

Other

Trial Device 1 Summary - Other

This device is significantly heavier than the QuickTalker Freestyle. John needs a device that is lightweight and easy to transport. This is also not an iOS-based device. John and his family are familiar with Apple products, and it would be easier for them to navigate an Apple iOS device. He trialed and was not successful in using this app to communicate. The trial with this device was unsuccessful and is being ruled out.

Trial Device 2

Device Name

Device Type

Other

Trial Device 2 Summary - Other

During the trial, John was somewhat successful in accessing buttons on the device. However, he was unsuccessful in using the communication apps on this device. When trialing these apps, he required maximal prompting support. This device was ruled out due to lack of offering the language features that best meet John's needs. This manufacturer also offers a limited warranty which would not provide John's family with the maximum device support available.

Describe how alternative natural communication methods, such as writing or sign language, are not adequate for daily functional communication needs.

John is a toddler; therefore writing is not a realistic expectation at this time. With prompting, he is able to imitate some signs intermittently (e.g. more, all done, milk) but he is not able to use signs independently to communicate in a functional way. His caregivers do not understand many signs, which would limit effective communication through this modality.

Describe how a mid-tech device is insufficient to meet the client's communication needs

A mid-tech device would limit John's access to a robust vocabulary and is not as easy to edit as his language skills grow. A mid-tech system is cumbersome to transport and requires significant adult assistance to fully access the range of vocabulary available.

Additional Comments

John required consistent prompting to attend to adults modeling the use of a communication board for making choices of what he wanted to eat. Hand under hand cueing was utilized to connect pointing with receiving the food that was selected on the picture board. He understood the concept of cause and effect, but he was not motivated to use the communication board.

Trial Device 3 - Recommended Device

Trial Start Date

05/01/2024

Trial End Date

05/31/2024

Trial Device 3 - Recommended Device

Trial outcomes and explanation as to why the QuickTalker Freestyle is recommended

The QuickTalker Freestyle has been used at home, in the speech clinic, and in the community. At the beginning of the trial, John required maximal prompting to engage with the device. He required hand under hand cueing to attend to the device and select icons on the screen. He required consistent repetition of models within various routines to learn cause and effect. By the end of the trial, John required minimal cueing to navigate the home page of the device. He knows to push the word "open" when he wants his family to open a door. With verbal reminders and a pointing cue, he is able to push "more" when he is requesting additional snack. He requires an adult to navigate to the food page and a verbal cue so that he can make a choice of what he wants to eat. He is able to use his device to greet his therapists by name with a verbal cue and pointing prompt.

Device Model

QuickTalker Freestyle Mini

Do you need AbleNet accessories?

Yes

Can the client navigate to different pages?

Yes

If yes, describe the level of cueing required, if applicable

John is emerging in his ability to navigate to vocabulary pages. He benefits from adult assistance (verbal cue, hand under hand) to access pages like foods, toys, etc.

Can the client use the device to express multi-word combinations?

Yes

If yes, describe the level of cueing required, if applicable

John is still learning how to create multi-word utterances. He requires verbal, pointing, and hand under hand cues to link words together on the device.

Provide specific examples of the messages the client created on the trial device.

John was able to communicate "open," "more" and use the names of people (Mommy, Daddy, therapists), etc. on the device with minimal cueing. He was able to label and request items (foods, animals, etc.) with adult models and hand under hand cueing.

Describe how the client used the device to communicate wants/needs in non-structured circumstances.

John and his family were able to use the device during daily routines (e.g. diaper changes, snack time, etc.). He was able to follow the command of "go get your talker" to engage with his caregivers during these routines. With adult support, he can make a choice of what he'd like to eat and follow along with the sequence of steps and materials needed for diaper changes (e.g. open, wipes, new diaper, pants, etc.). During play, he showed interest in his parents' modeling the names of toys and selected items with hand under hand cueing.

Does the client require additional supports or modifications when using the device?

Yes

Trial Device 3 - Recommended Device

If yes, please describe:

John needs a keyguard to assist with direct selection of icons on the screen.

Describe the size and layout of the AAC app's grid

The grid on the app has 6 columns and 6 rows. There is a message bar at the top of the screen. The app includes a navigation bar on the side for quick access to key functions.

Prognosis Using the Above Outlined Device

John's verbal language skills are insufficient to meet his communication needs at this time. He requires the use of a high-tech SGD to express his wants, needs, and ideas with his family. The device provides an alternative method for him to communicate basic needs like hunger, express when he's in pain, and share in social interactions with his family. Based on his progress during the trial period and the consistency of family carryover, the prognosis for successful use is judged to be good to excellent.

Goals

Goal 1

Language functions

1 - Language functions

John will use total/multi-modal communication to express a variety of functions (e.g. greeting, requesting, rejecting, asking a question, etc.) within daily interactions in 8 out of 10 opportunities across 3 consecutive data collections, with cues fading to independence.

Goal 2

Language functions

2 - Language functions

John will imitate two-word phrases on the SGD following an initial model in 8 out of 10 opportunities across 3 consecutive data collections, with cues fading to independence.

Goal 3

Other

3 - Other

John will use the SGD to gain the attention of an adult in 8 out of 10 opportunities across 3 consecutive data collections, with cues fading to independence.

Treatment Plan and Training Schedule

John will continue to receive one hour of home-based speech therapy every week, focusing on continued implementation of the SGD. He will also receive one 30-minute session of outpatient speech therapy per week, where the device will also be utilized. John's therapists and family will work together to maximize the functional use of the device across multiple settings. The SLP will include family training during every in-home speech therapy session and will provide specific activities with opportunities for John's family to practice using the SGD. His therapists and family will collaborate to ensure ongoing support and troubleshooting as the device is implemented into daily routines.

Speech-Language Pathologist Signature

The recipient will be the sole user of the QuickTalker Freestyle.

The QuickTalker Freestyle (HCPCS code E2510) is a dedicated and custom configured speech-generating device that is only usable for communication purposes. The software used by AbleNet ensures the device is only usable for communication with the prescribed speech application. The user is unable to unlock the device without the assistance of ableCARE, the AbleNet Product Success Team, and approval from the treating speech language pathologist.

A copy of this evaluation and recommendation has been forwarded to the member's treating provider for review and completion of DME order.

I am not an employee of, nor do I have, a financial relationship with AbleNet Inc., the QuickTalker Freestyle speech device supplier.

Date	06/01/2024
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Name	Samantha L. Pathologist
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Credentials	Licensed Speech Therapist, CCC-SLP
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Signature	
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Sample

Do you want a co-signer?	No
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