

Using photographs and symbols to communicate at Curnow

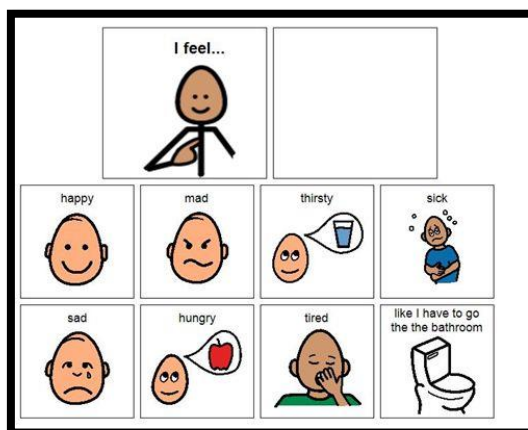


The use of photographs and symbols is integral to our communication offer at Curnow and during their time in school the learners at Curnow will be exposed to these in many different forms and situations. They are the most prevalent form of AAC found within school and the most versatile. Much of our work in school is reliant on them, from behavioural systems to learning resources, schedules to chat boards and more. There is a clear sequence of learning, though some learners will be able to skip stages and will be able to use hybrid systems as they will encounter a range within their environment.

In school we primarily use the PCS symbol set that can be found on the whole school system, if the symbol is not available adults can use a photograph or supplement with another symbol set.

PCS[®]

Around the school you will see symbol boards for a wide range of learning, from core boards that allow students to express their feelings to chat boards used at lunch times to encourage interaction.



Many of the students at Curnow will have a communication book, some students will have a high tech device to access symbols and photographs. These are provided by the Cornwall Alternative and Augmentative Communication Assessment Team (CAACAT).



Teachers use the 'means, reasons and opportunities' model to develop materials to maximise communication opportunities across the school day.

Here are some useful sources of information regarding low and high tech communication aids –

<https://cborgoassistivetech.weebly.com/high-tech-communication-tools.html> gives information about different methods and uses for aids.

<https://theautismhelper.com/what-is-aac/>