



# Speech and Language Therapy Christchurch

“From little things, big things grow...”

## AAC Assessment Process

### Team Meeting 1

This meeting is with the client’s team (family, therapy team/s, other stakeholders), to discuss the client’s communication strengths and needs. We can decide at this meeting what communication system could be trialled. A device (Ipad) preloaded with communication apps is available for loan, or communication apps can be loaded on family ipads if preferred, or for longer trials. If this is a straight forward assessment, we can select the apps to trial at this stage and leave the device with family for a few weeks. For more complex assessments we can set up and personalise trial systems for the client. Our team follows the SETT framework for assessments.

### Supplementary apps

Consider whether other assistive technology apps could also support the young person. We have successfully received funding for scheduling apps and social story apps in the past.

### Trial Reviews (by phone or zoom or in person)

Regular check ins at predetermined times to see how the trial is proceeding, and any barriers experienced. If the initial system trial has been successful the family make elect to not trial other apps.

### Team Meeting 2

This meeting is with the client’s team (family, therapy team/s, other stakeholders), to discuss trial outcomes and identify the system that has best met the client’s needs.

### Report Writing and On Line Application

Our team will write up an assessment report and submit this on line to the funder, and complete other process requirements.

### Funding Outcome

Once we have been advised of funding outcome we will advise the team by Email. Personalisation requests to be submitted by the team so the device can be set up for the client once collected.

### Device Delivery

If funding is approved, the device is sent to Talklink South for setup. They contact the assessor to advise when the device is ready for collection.

### Team Meeting 3

The family and therapy team meet for device handover. This meeting will help provide information on care maintenance, repairs, and training and other housekeeping. The client may then be discharged from Speech Language Therapy Christchurch back to their own therapy team. Additional help and training will be available if required.

## Recommendations

That the family has a separate device for modelling – a second hand ipad can be a good option for this. You can load the funded communication app on up to 5 devices.

Families should enrol with Talklink and complete their free on line training opportunities prior to the trial so they can best support their young person.

Alternatively a nice introduction to AAC is Daisy Clay: Simple AAC - AAC in the Cloud 2019 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KPdoSAHoEgw&t=10s>

## Meet the Team

Our team provides a neurodiverse friendly team and service.

- **Joanne Byrne**

*Jo is a specialist speech language therapist who has spent over twenty years working with children and young people with disabilities, neurodiverse children and young people, and those with complex communication needs. She is an expert in Augmentative Communication, both high and low tech, and works in a specialist school environment as well as private practice. Jo is CAT 1 accredited with the Ministry of Health. Jo is available during the day and evening for appointments on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday – and has limited appointments available on Saturday for working families.*

- **Kerry Heslop**

*Kerry is a specialist speech language therapist who has spent over twenty years working with children and young people with disabilities, neurodiverse children and young people, and those with complex communication needs. She is an expert in Augmentative Communication both high and low tech, and works in a specialist school environment as well as private practice. Kerry is CAT 1 accredited with the Ministry of Health.*

- **Michelle King**

*Michelle is a specialist speech language therapist who has spent over fifteen years working with children and young people with disabilities, neurodiverse children and young people, and those with complex communication needs. She is an expert in Augmentative Communication both high and low tech, and works in a specialist school environment. Michelle is CAT 1 and CAT 2 accredited with the Ministry of Health. Michelle is available for evening appointments, and school holiday appointments only.*

- **Occupational Therapist**

*Our OT may be required for more complex CAT 2 assessments, or where access is problematic.*

## Fees

We charge \$160.00 per hour per therapist for all work relating to the assessment and application process. There may be a travel cost for more remote clients.

Contact Jo if you would like to book in an AAC assessment, or have any questions.

## Speech and Language Therapy Christchurch

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