



## Info Rx

# Complex Communication

Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) includes all forms of communication (other than oral speech) that are used to express thoughts, needs, wants, and ideas. This includes a range of communication such as signing, the use of pictures or communication boards, and speech-generating devices.

**Borrow these books from the FCRC or check your local library!**

### **Adaptive Play for Special Need Children: Strategies to Enhance Communication and Learning**

*Caroline Ramsey Musselwhite*

This book provides ideas for adaptive play for parents and professionals as well as providing strategies for selecting, making, and adapting play materials for special needs children.

### **Speaking up and spelling it out: personal essays on augmentative and alternative communication**

*Melanie Fried-Oken and Hank A. Bersani*

Twenty-eight diverse individuals who use AAC, from teens to senior citizens, give first-person accounts of how living with AAC has affected them, what using AAC is about, and what works (and doesn't work) for them as they face the daily challenges of communication. These touching and humorous stories give insight into how to improve communication supports for AAC users, from AAC users themselves.

### **Transition strategies for adolescents & young adults who use AAC**

*David B. McNaughton and David R. Beukelman*

Combining the best research-based practices from diverse fields – including special education, vocational rehabilitation, and communication disorders – this essential resource covers every aspect of transition planning for young adults with a wide range of disabilities.



## Rules

*Cynthia Lord*

This is the story of a twelve-year-old girl who wants a normal life while living with her brother who has autism and a family that revolves around his disability. She's spent years trying to teach David the rules – from "a peach is not a funny-looking apple" to "keep your pants on in public!" – in order to head off his embarrassing behaviours.

## Out of my Mind

*Sharon Draper*

Melody Brooks is a disabled, eleven-year-old girl diagnosed with cerebral palsy. She can't talk, walk, or write. However, she has a photographic memory. No one knows her talent, because she can't communicate. The words are stuck in her head. She was tagged as "severely brain-damaged and profoundly retarded" when she was five years old. Later she gets a Medi-Talker and is finally able to talk.

Need more information?

## Child Health Information Specialist

 403-955-7745  [ChildHealthInfo@ahs.ca](mailto:ChildHealthInfo@ahs.ca)

 [fcr.c.ahs.ca/rx/communication/](http://fcr.c.ahs.ca/rx/communication/)

### Family & Community Resource Centre

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Alberta Children's Hospital  
2888 Shaganappi Trail NW, Calgary, AB, T3B 6A8

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