

OARC Access Consultation Information for Clinicians



Overview of Services

Open Access Resource Centre provides specialized assessment and consultation services to support children with complex bodies or fine motor challenges in accessing Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC). Not all individuals access AAC using direct touch. OARC specializes in alternative access methods such as eye gaze, switches, and other tools that provide independent control over a communication device.

When a child receives equipment through OARC, we follow that child and provide ongoing troubleshooting support to home and school for as long as they are using device. Often this ends up with a relationship with OARC until they are 21, as they typically need a replacement device (or two) in that time! We are thrilled to be a part of the team ensuring your child has a voice and is heard! Our consultation team includes: Occupational Therapist, Speech-Language Pathologist, Assistive Technology Specialist

Purpose of the Consultation

An Alternative Access Consultation is designed to collaboratively explore the most appropriate AAC access method for the child. This process supports informed decision-making related to trialing, funding, and eventually acquiring an AAC system through Open Access Resource Centre.

Consultation Process

1. Information is collected using a Case History Form completed by the Speech-language Pathologist with input from family and other team members (occupational therapist, physical therapist, educational assistant, learning support teacher, etc)
2. A 90-minute in-person consultation is scheduled. This can occur on-site at our office or at a mutually agreed upon location.
 - a. At this consultation, we will assess positioning, access method suitability, and engagement.
 - b. We will provide training on basic equipment setup and troubleshooting.
 - c. *Please note we will not provide training about modeling AAC or software customizations at this consultation appointment*
3. If appropriate, a 10-week equipment trial will be provided.
 - d. During the trial, we ask that you please gather videos of the child and team engaging with the equipment provided on loan
 - e. We will check-in with you about halfway through the loan period to provide further consultation and troubleshooting support as needed
4. At the conclusion of the trial, if you are ready to complete a funding application for the child's own system, we will arrange another time to meet and discuss what should be included in the request. This may include wheelchair measurements, if mounting is required. This consultation may occur virtually, or in-person as determined by OARC staff.