



OARC Access Consultation Information for Families



What is an Alternative Access Assessment?

This assessment explores whether your child may be able to use adapted tools or their eyes to access communication tools on the screen. Eye gaze systems track where a person is looking and allow them to select messages, symbols, or activities. Other tools we might consider are switches (buttons), a joystick, or a stylus if we are unable to use our finger to touch the screen.

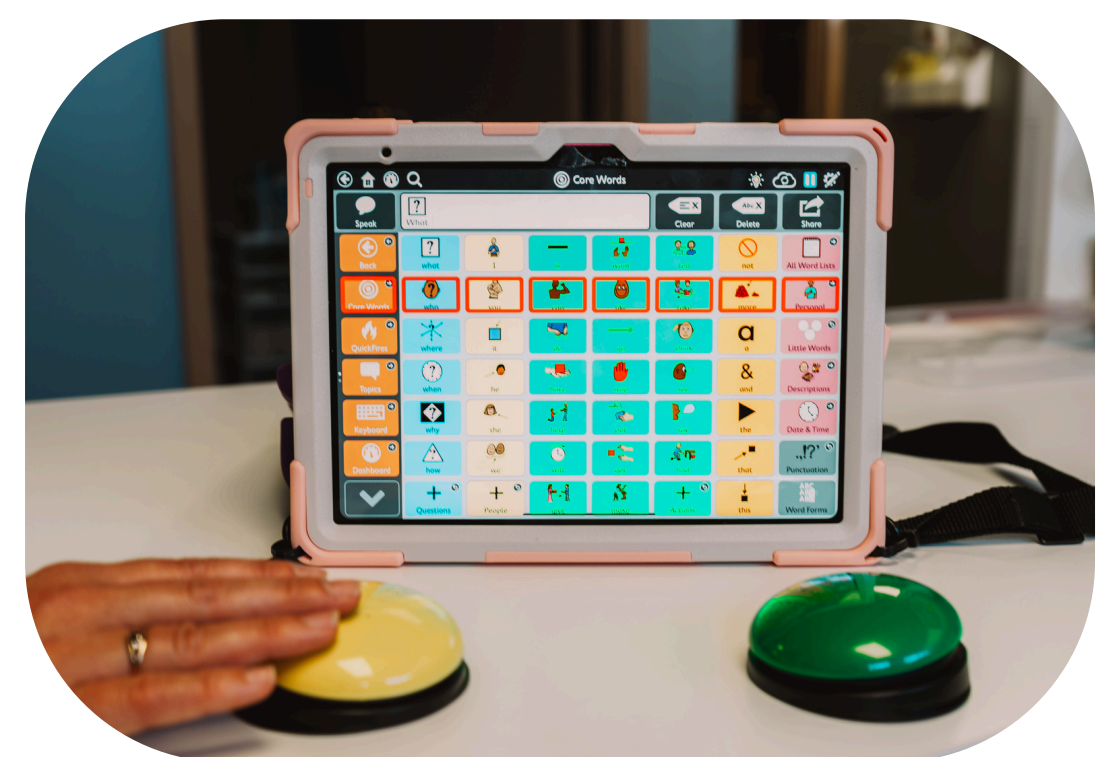


What will Happen at the Consultation?

1. OARC team members (Speech-language Pathologist, Occupational Therapist, Assistive Technology Specialist) will meet with you, your child, and your child's team. The consultation lasts approximately 90 minutes.
2. We will bring necessary technology and equipment with us to the appointment. Your child may begin with fun activities (music, games, simple choices) on a device. We will try different tools to see how your child engages with this equipment.
3. OARC Consultants may adjust seating, screen position, and settings. Your child's responses (looks, smiles, sounds, movements) are carefully observed.
4. We will provide you with information about how to set up and use the equipment and will make recommendations on what to work on with your child.

Important to Know

- There are many possible access methods and our job is to work together to determine what the best method will be for your child.
 - Sometimes we have to try more than one method to find out what will work best.
- Progress in using augmentative and alternative communication varies depending on individual factors
- Your input plays a key role in your child's success! We want to hear about what motivates your child, how your child communicates, and they communicate with you and others!



Next Steps

After our consultation, a 10-week equipment trial may be provided.

We will show you how to use the equipment and how to teach your child how to use it.

We are here for support if you have questions or concerns.

Decisions about what the best system is for your child will be made collaboratively

OARC will then find funding, purchase and set up equipment and provide training and ongoing support to you and your child's team members to ensure your child has a voice and is heard!

Feel free to reach out to us at (204) 949-2430 or oarc@oarc.ca with questions - we are here to help!