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Occupational Therapy

Specializing in AAC Augmentative and Alternative Communication.

Text based solutions for Complex Communication Needs.

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Supported Typing/Typing to Communicate Resources

These are some of the many resources available to help typers/spellers, family members, agency staff, school professionals and the larger community to recognize and understand Supported typing/typing to communicate/Facilitated communication training (FCT). the intelligence and potential in themselves/their children/students/clients/neighbors. I have read or watched every resource on this list and each one contributes to my understanding of Supported Typing and Presuming Competence. I draw from this list to help educate others through my work at STeP. I hope you find this list helpful too!

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Coordinator of STeP at Ablis

www.abilis.us/life-services/supported-typing

Presuming Competence:

<https://blog.theautismsite.greatergood.com/presume-competence/>

<https://speakforyourself.org/presuming-competence-practice/>

[The Least Dangerous Assumption A Challenge to Create a New Paradigm by Cheryl Jorgensen, Ph.D.](#)

<https://www.inclusionrevolution.com/least-dangerous-assumption/>

Books:

1. Communication Alternatives in Autism, Edlyn Pena
2. Leaders Around Me, edited by Edlyn Pena
3. Fall down 7 time get up 8, by Naoki Higashida
4. The reason I jump by Naoki Higashida
5. Autism and the Myth of the Person Alone, by Douglas Biklen
6. Communication Unbound, by Douglas Biklen,
7. Ido in Autismland. By Ido Kedar (RPM/typing to communicate)
8. Uniquely Human by Barry M. Prizant is consistently regarded as the best recent book on autism by people who do FC.
9. Real People, Regular Lives: Autism, Communication & Quality of Life, by Sally Young PhD
10. Being Heumann, by Judith Heumann
11. Contested Words, Contested Science, Doug Biklen.
12. May Tomorrow Be Awake, by Chris Martin
13. Underestimated (about S2C) by JB Handley

Movies/Videos:

- "Unlocked" (FL group doing FC - 6 min trailer) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F4WnOHmV3RE>
- iTYPE – video about the same FL group as above. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nZbfDgmD6nE>
- My Voice (FC) – 56 minute film. This is one of my favorite movies about FC. It covers the history, the controversy, the skepticism and the success. <https://vimeo.com/193191599>

- **Trailblazers Social Typing Group** from STeP – 4 minute video clip <https://youtu.be/p49Mbd03DN0>
- **Wretches and Jabberers** (FC) - trailer about Tracy Thresher and Larry Bissonnette <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-04aJq4KMfs> (the full movie is available at Kanopy.com)
- **Tim Chan** (FC) – At age 16 (11 minutes) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=279h9QJ9ptw&feature=youtu.be>
- **Grant Blasko** Typing Progression Sometimes Video <https://youtu.be/vknvztref5l>
- Grant Blasko - <https://communicationfirst.org/thoughts-from-an-autistic-aac-user-after-the-april-2022-meeting-of-the-interagency-autism-coordinating-committee/>
- **Jordyn Zimmerman**: Movie about her “This is Not About Me” <https://thisisnotaboutme.film/>
Trailer of the film <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kl2U9VA6l9g>
- Interview with Jordyn Zimmerman (36 minutes) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GjzqykUoDfs>
- Jordyn presenting at a BOE meeting: (15 mins) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qWHeS9mKQIQ>
- **SPELLERS** (trailer) <https://spellersthemovie.com/> (about letterboarders who use S2C)
- **Listen** – 5 minute video <https://communicationfirst.org/LISTEN/#movie>
- **Dan Bergmann** from CBS Sunday Morning Oct 2021 – Non-speaker graduated from Harvard (5 minutes) <https://www.cbsnews.com/video/dan-bergmann-on-his-autism-and-a-breakthrough-lesson>
- **Elizabeth Bonker**: Non-speaking valedictorian, gave commencement address at her college May 2022 <https://www.wesh.com/amp/article/rollins-graduation-speech/39938324> (channel 2 news clip). (Full speech by Elizabeth Bonkers) <https://www.npr.org/2022/05/12/1098506522/nonspeaking-valedictorian-autism-college-commencement-speech>
- **Hari Srinivasan’s** commencement Speech at Berkeley (May 2022) <https://youtu.be/OqYftABtT50> (Hari’s speech is between minutes 5-8 on the video).
- **Deej** – about DJ Savarese (FC)– trailer <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3x7wDqtsE3Y>
- **Autism is a World** (FC) – CNN presents about Sue Rubin <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fhNXUSuFt9w>
- **My Classic Life as an artist** (FC) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nRMOzwT4pKQ>
- **Hear Me Now by Chammi** - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W_lIOLrSsKU
- **Unspoken** (FC) – trailer <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=19yhdYVTL94>
The full film is available to purchase at <https://www.videoproject.com/Unspoken.html>
- **Crip Camp** – film about the Disability Rights Movement <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OFS8SpwioZ4>
- **April 2019 World Autism Day** – communication and technology (3 hrs) <http://webtv.un.org/live-now/watch/2019-world-autism-awareness-day-observance-theme-assistive-technologies-active-participation/6021777181001/?term=>

Recent Presentations:

- Communication First posting of **Jordyn Zimmerman's presentation, "SLPs as AAC Gatekeepers: Reimagining, Challenging, and Pushing Our Assumptions"** at the recent ASHA annual conference. It's very powerful. This is the link for her presentation: https://communicationfirst.org/slps-as-aac-gatekeepers/?fbclid=IwAR3lqF5cVO6IXvAL0ZKOpw9TicnXYJqY0N4b0xX9pswH7-T8UEJbo8_1k_M
- **Edlyn Pena's public comment to the IACC** is especially noteworthy in terms of offering support of FC, RPM and S2C. **video link of Day 2 conference:** <https://videocast.nih.gov/watch=44690>
Edlyn's video presentation is from 14:54 to 19:44. approximately 5 min
Here is a link to all of the written public comments and Edlyn's comments are on p14: https://iacc.hhs.gov/meetings/iacc-meetings/2022/full-committee-meeting/april13-14/public_comments.pdf?ver=7
- **Kristie Patten, Vice Dean and Professor of the Department of Occupational Therapy** at NYU – key note speaker at OT Association April 1st, 2022. Her lecture is "Finding our Strength" she appears 13 min

into the link and talks about being wrong about typers/spellers and how OT's need to change their mind and understand this more. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IhPr4Dm8Y74>.

Wellspring Guild and other Webinars:

Our Voices our Stories - From Feb 20, 2019 08:03 4 typers from VT including Tracy Thresher – each being facilitated by a different person.

https://zoom.us/recording/share/saPW2NgywTDgbww3GglapjIKyVz8cr3xOVcluHrBl_uwlumekTziMw

Mapping Out your path to Independence: Interview with Tracey Thresher, Harvey and Pascal.

[https://zoom.us/recording/play/plGtD9DBsL0f28AkZ2ImSso0p-](https://zoom.us/recording/play/plGtD9DBsL0f28AkZ2ImSso0p-3j_a3bC7v6KYE7Q_bxxvvrVYxUJMA4jldBIUjr?continueMode=true&startTime=1541001612000&autoplay=true)

[3j_a3bC7v6KYE7Q_bxxvvrVYxUJMA4jldBIUjr?continueMode=true&startTime=1541001612000&autoplay=true](https://zoom.us/recording/play/plGtD9DBsL0f28AkZ2ImSso0p-3j_a3bC7v6KYE7Q_bxxvvrVYxUJMA4jldBIUjr?continueMode=true&startTime=1541001612000&autoplay=true)

Life During Covid – From Feb 22, 2022 – 3 typers Scott Brodie, Kris Medina and Tracy Thresher

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/play/KZxDIC_lgcU4dqpEmHHM3rwCpWua-](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/play/KZxDIC_lgcU4dqpEmHHM3rwCpWua-TsAfrqCM4mY71sK8LZIBWofAg_JJN63zkA9gpyTIS43XfzBGRd.a1BE46RGIG0wM32M?startTime=1645725548000)

[TsAfrqCM4mY71sK8LZIBWofAg_JJN63zkA9gpyTIS43XfzBGRd.a1BE46RGIG0wM32M?startTime=1645725548000](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/play/KZxDIC_lgcU4dqpEmHHM3rwCpWua-TsAfrqCM4mY71sK8LZIBWofAg_JJN63zkA9gpyTIS43XfzBGRd.a1BE46RGIG0wM32M?startTime=1645725548000)

4-part webinar on inclusive schools run by Dr. Julie Causton and Dr. Kristie Prett-Frontczak

of <https://www.inclusiveschooling.com/> . It was fantastic, and they have worked with several school districts on their transformation. AND their vision of inclusive schools definitely includes spellers and typers. (They featured a young man who spells as a guest expert speaker in their 4th webinar!) and they are working with Darlene Hanson on a book about how to better include spellers and typers in inclusive classrooms. They could be a good resource for you if you are looking for allies!

Research:

American Journal of Occupational Therapy: Finding Our Strengths: Recognizing Professional Bias and Interrogating Systems

Kristie K. Patten

[AJOT076603_proof.pdf \(silverchair.com\)](#)

Here is a link to an extensive collection of research on FC and RPM. United for Communication Choice: Compiled peer-reviewed research that supports the use of these AAC teaching [methodologies here \(PDF\) \(v5\)](#). <https://unitedforcommunicationchoice.org/research/>

[UCC Research Compilation](#) is a good place to start for these types of questions. Here's a direct link to Section 4 (Autism-Specific Literature) of the compilation: <https://unitedforcommunicationchoice.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/UCC-Supportive-Research-Compilation-Version-6-012221.pdf>

Disabilities Study Quarterly: The Voices of Typers: Examining the Educational Experiences of Individuals Who Use Facilitated Communication <https://dsq-sds.org/article/view/6981/5811>

Frontiers: Perspective: Presuming Autistic Communication Competence and Reframing Facilitated Communication; by Heyworth, Chan and Lawson

<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpsyg.2022.864991/full>

Hidden Communicative Competence: Case Study Evidence Using Eye-Tracking and Video Analysis; by Grayson, Emerson, Howard-Jones, O'Neil. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/21527449/>

Jaswal, V. K., Wayne, A. & Golino, H. (2020). Eye-tracking reveals agency in assisted autistic communication. *Scientific Reports*, 10, 7882. <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-020-64553-9>

Vikram Jaswal's lab's website: www.jaswallab.org, and here's a [link](#) to an interview he did about this topic for Thinking Person's Guide to Autism a few months ago. Eye-tracking study in 2020, demonstrating communicative agency in a group of nonspeaking autistic letterboard users.

Autistic Self Advocacy Network, The ARC, TASH, The National Disability Rights Network) urged ASHA to withdraw these position statements [here](#).

Amazing resource on Movement and autism. 300 pages of peer reviewed journal research articles. [Autism: The Movement Perspective | Frontiers Research Topic \(frontiersin.org\)](#)

Rebuttal to ASHA statement:

<https://unitedforcommunicationchoice.org/quick-facts/>

<https://unitedforcommunicationchoice.org/ethical-violations-in-study-relied-upon-by-asha-committee/1175/>

<https://unitedforcommunicationchoice.org/national-coalition-opposes-ashas-attempts-to-restrict-communication-choice/950/>

Some legal references:

<https://unitedforcommunicationchoice.org/law/>

Additional Articles:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/05/17/opinion/my-disability-roadmap-adulthood.html>

<https://www.cbsnews.com/losangeles/news/man-with-autism-to-become-first-nonverbal-graduate-of-ucla/>

<https://06880danwoog.com/2022/07/12/wynston-browne-autism-does-speak/>

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/benjamin-alexander-silenced-by-autism-a-young-man-finds-his-voice/><https://news.tulane.edu/pr/autistic-and-nonverbal-ben-alexander-graduates-tulane>

Barry M Prizant to Nonspeaking CommUnity Consortium

July 23, 2018

As many of you know, ASHA has put out for feedback two position statements, essentially forbidding SLPs from using any practices based on principles of FC/RPM. There has been spirited exchange on the ASHA Autism Community Page, which unfortunately, can only be accessed by ASHA members, so I thought I'd share one exchange I was engaged in. When an SLP/BCBA who is "anti-FC/RPM" challenged me to take sides ("yea" or "nay") on the ASHA statements, I responded by asking her questions I thought were "more meaningful", and hopefully would lead to some self-reflection:

1. Do you believe that research has documented motor and movement disturbances that may hinder an individual's ability to access various communication displays and devices for many non-speaking or minimally speaking people with neurodevelopmental challenges?
- 2. Do you believe that many non-speaking people are far more intelligent and socially aware than one might surmise when observing their limited communication ability and social "presentation" based on neurotypical "standards" of interpretation?**
3. Do you believe that the "fit" between a non-speaking or minimally speaking person and the methods of support and access to different communication options is highly individualized, depending on the unique characteristics of each person? That is, that what may "work" for one individual may not "work" for another?

4. Do you believe that a person initially receiving support can then go on to communicate with greater independence and autonomy with practice and experience? As I noted, I and so many others have observed this first hand in non-speaking individuals we know.

5. Do you believe access to a variety of communication supports with appropriate safeguards is a human right? This is a core feature of the United Nations statement on Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities. If you believe this, limiting access to communication support is a violation of a person's human rights, a theme presented at the United Nations 2017 conference on World Autism Awareness Day, a conference I participated in.

6. Do you believe that the decision to forbid any practice, without clear evidence that it is primarily harmful when practiced with appropriate safeguards, should be made on the basis of research designed primarily to question the legitimacy of the practice, and without consideration 1) of other research with contrary findings, 2) of clinical and educational data, and 3) input from self-advocates, families and other stakeholders? If so, that is a violation of the definition and spirit of EBP (evidence based practice as defined by ASHA and the APA).

I then argued that rather than debate the issue simply from an "anti- vs. pro" position, one's responses to these questions should underlie any reasonable conclusions.