What young people using AAC need to be informed about their health

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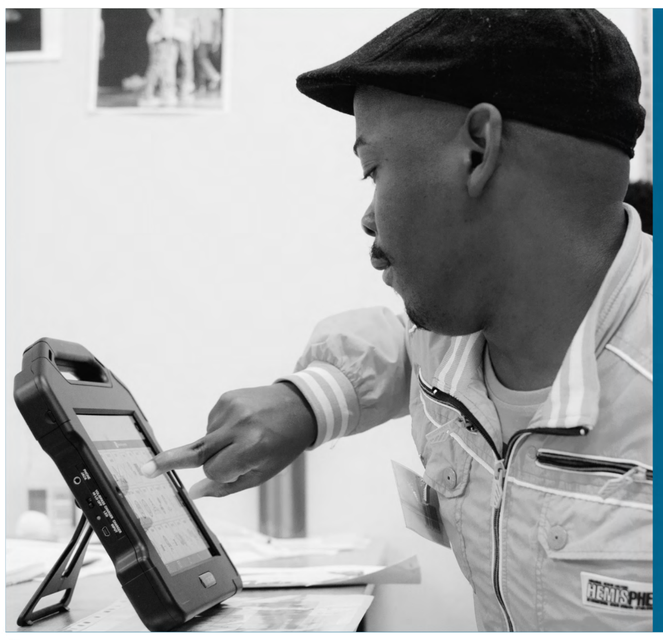


Why did we do this study?

We all have a right to get information to help us look after our health.
Getting such information is hard for people who use AAC.
It was especially hard for them during the COVID-19 pandemic.

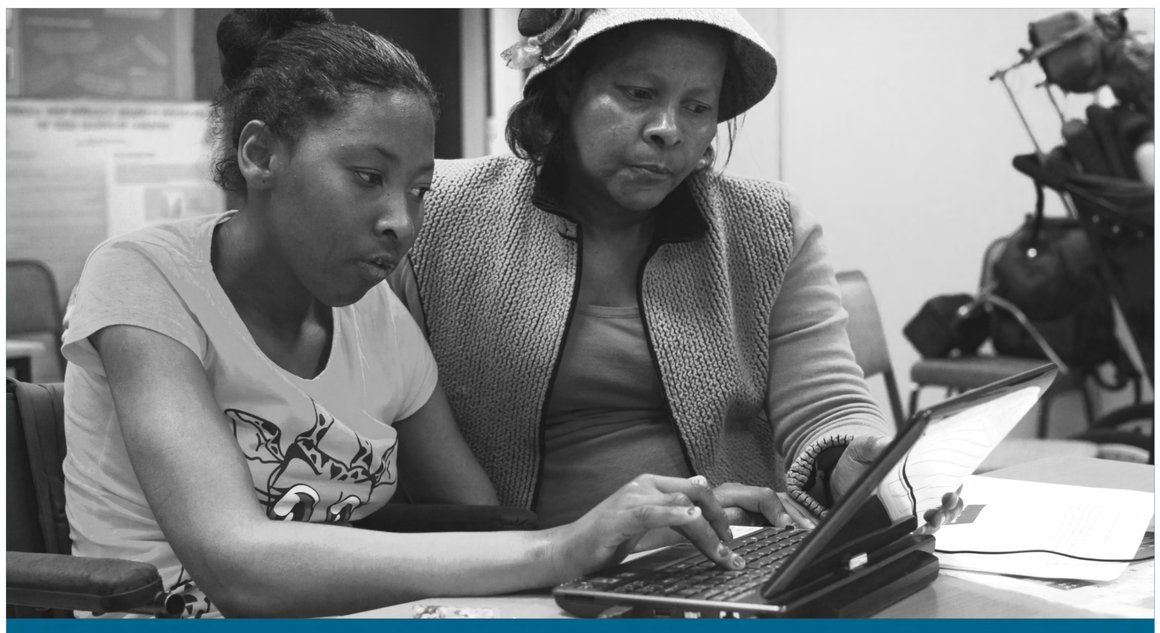
The goal of this project was to find out from therapists:

- what information persons who use AAC may need about their health and the pandemic
- how they can get this information

How did we do this study?

15 therapists who work in South Africa gave ideas.
They typed answers to the researchers' questions.

Scan to download the full article



What did we find?

People who use AAC need information about COVID-19.
They also need information about other health topics. For example:

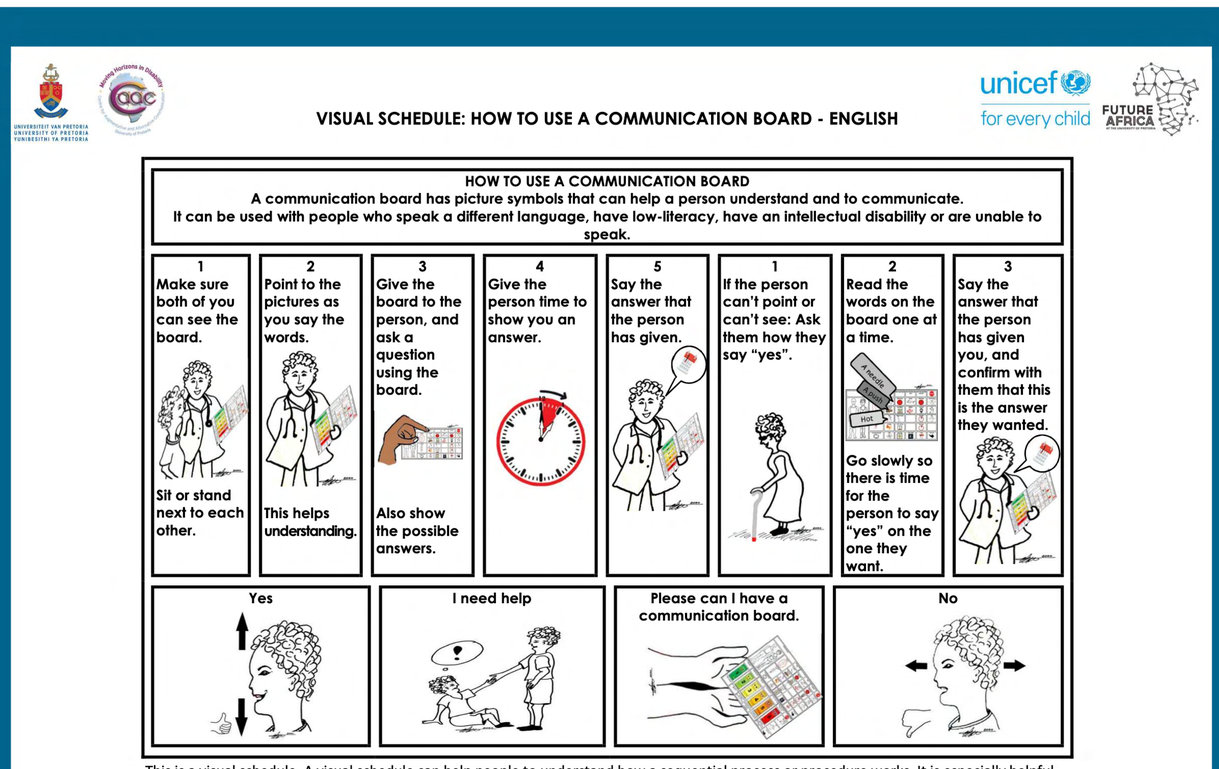
- going to the hospital
- how to take an X-ray
- how to explain Cerebral Palsy

It will help them if they have access to resources. For example:

- communication boards in different languages
- videos about health procedures

What does this mean?

We developed resources for people who use AAC.
They can use these resources to be informed about their health.



VISUAL SCHEDULE: HOW TO USE A COMMUNICATION BOARD - ENGLISH

HOW TO USE A COMMUNICATION BOARD
A communication board has picture symbols that can help a person understand and to communicate. It can be used with people who speak a different language, have low-literacy, have an intellectual disability or are unable to speak.

1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3
Make sure both of you can see the board. Sit or stand next to each other.	Point to the pictures as you say the words. This helps understanding.	Give the board to the person, and ask a question using the board. Also show the possible answers.	Give the person time to show you an answer.	Say the answer that the person has given.	If the person can't point or can't see: Ask them how they say "yes".	Read the words on the board one at a time. Go slowly so there is time for the person to say "yes" on the one they want.	Say the answer that the person has given you, and confirm with them that this is the answer they wanted.

Yes | I need help | Please can I have a communication board. | No

This is a visual schedule. A visual schedule can help people to understand how a sequential process or procedure works. It is especially helpful for people with intellectual disabilities or autism, to help them understand what to do next or what will happen next. When a person is able to anticipate what will happen next, it can decrease their anxiety and increase their independence. To use the visual schedule, sit with the person before starting the activity and explain the procedure to them step by step, pointing to the pictures as you explain. During the procedure, before each step, show the person the picture. When that step is completed, show them that you are moving on to the next step by pointing to the next picture.

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A communication board from this project

What can we do to help?

Scan to download the communication boards and social stories from the CAAC website. Share communication boards and social stories with people with disabilities in South Africa.

Scan to access the communication boards and social stories

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