



# Lonsdale AAC Network Group

*News & Information*

No matter how  
you communicate

.....

**your voice  
matters!**

What's in the  
**Newsletter**

Means, Reasons  
and Opportunities  
model... Learn more

Means

Reasons

Opportunities

Training offering with:  
**ALL Scotland**



Keeping you updated with  
everything AAC

Edition 3  
November  
2022



Merry Christmas



Happy New Year

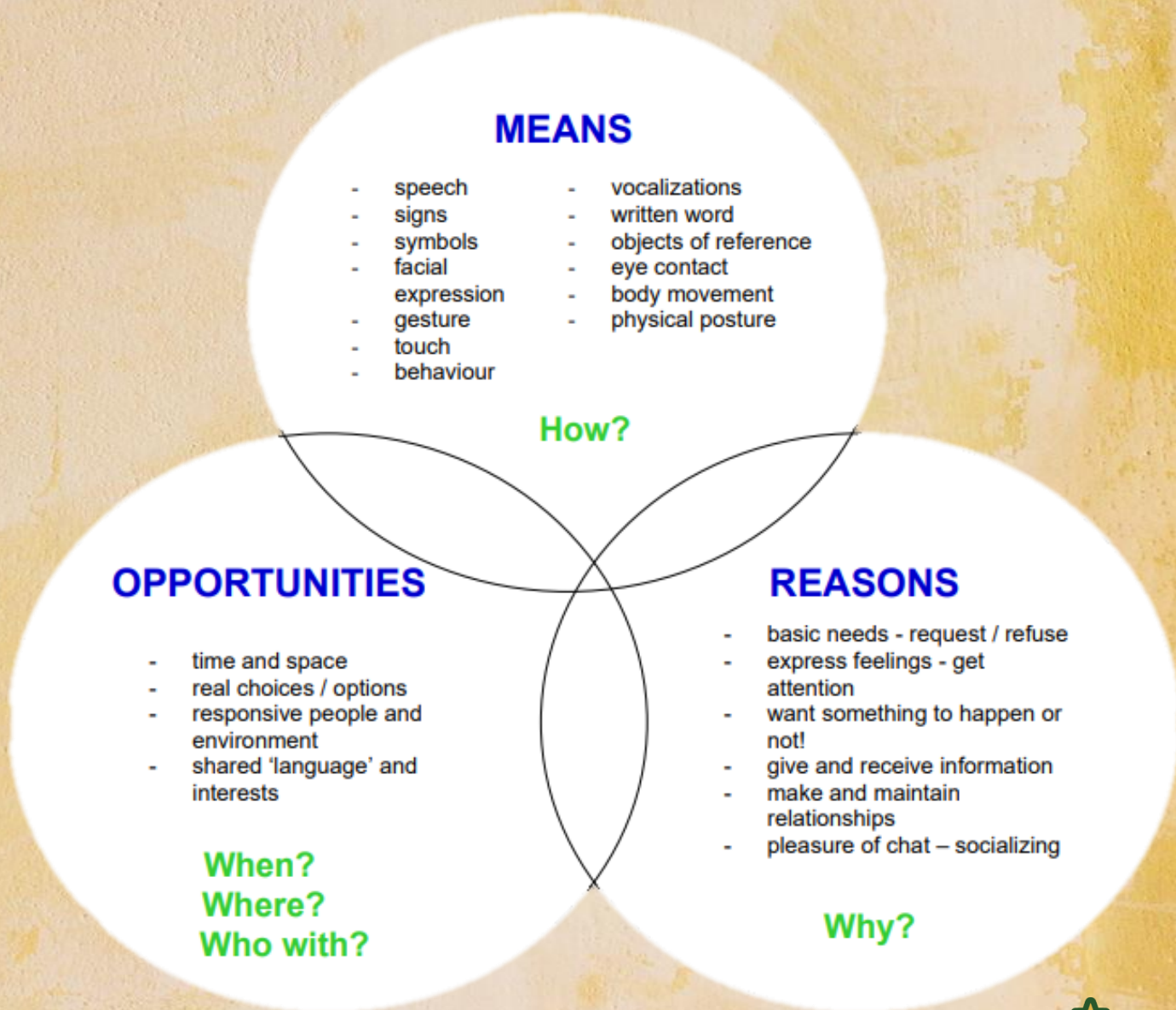




# AAC Knowledge & Understanding



What does *means*, *reasons* and *opportunities* mean?







## MEANS

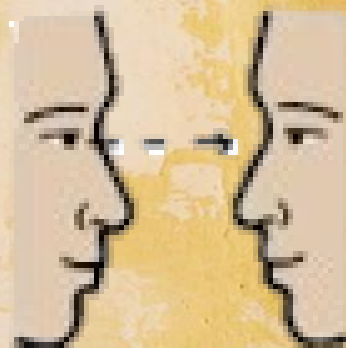


## To communicate

Communication can be verbal, for example, babbling, making noises, saying words and sentences or non-verbal, for example, crying, facial expressions, showing emotions, pointing, signs, gestures, pictures, symbols.

It is important for all adults in the child's environment to be aware of the child's preferred method of communication whether it is verbal and/or non-verbal. If you are not sure, please speak to your speech and language therapist for advice.

It is important that the child has access to an environment that supports their communication method; for example, staff that are trained in Makaton sign language or the Picture Exchange Communication System (PECs) and/or symbols around the classroom.



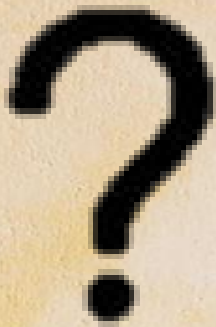




## REASONS

### To communicate

We all need a reason to communicate. The first reasons young children usually communicate are being hungry, tired or happy or feeling poorly. Later, they learn to communicate to convey a range of intentions, for example, to make requests, reject, comment or share an interest.

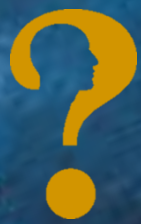


They could do this nonverbally and/or verbally, for example by shaking the head and by saying, "No!"

Adults can provide lots of reasons to help their child communicate by creating little obstacles and then waiting and looking expectantly for the child to indicate what they need or want: for example by, placing favourite toys out of reach, giving the child a paintbrush but no paints, giving them half of an orange/biscuit or by not filling the glass to the top with milk/water.







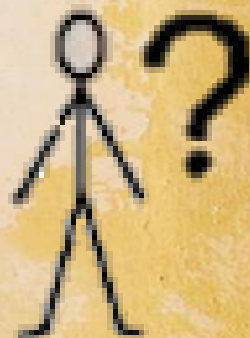
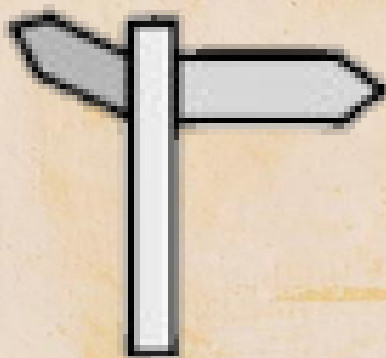
# OPPORTUNITIES To communicate



The child needs opportunities to communicate with others in order to develop their communication skills. It is important that adults give the child time to respond to and to initiate interaction.

Where possible, try to ensure that others, such as siblings or close peers, do not communicate for the child. Peers may often interpret what a child wants, for example, they may approach the adult to say, 'He wants a drink', which then means that the child's opportunity to communicate has been taken away.

Children need access to adults and peers who understand their method of communication and will respond at the correct level.







# AAC news & information



## Free Resources

### About the webinar

- The webinar runs from **16:00-16:30 (UK time zone)**;
- The workshop part lasts about **20 minutes**;
- There will be **5-10 minutes** after this for **questions and answers**.

It's almost December so pull on your best Christmas jumper and join Ian Bean for this light-hearted look at some of the best, free, festive resources for young people with severe, complex, and profound additional support needs.

Ian will share Christmas themed interactive websites and free resources for switch, touch, mouse and eye gaze users and along the way, show how they can be used to build access skills and support communication.

This webinar is perfect for anyone working with young people in special education, particularly those young people who access learning and communication with technology. Ian will also talk about how games can contribute to the development of access skills. A valuable handout will be available for all participants.

<https://www.callscotland.org.uk/professional-learning/webinars/WEB225/>





# About us – The AAC team



## MEET THE TEAM



Lindsey Swaine – AAC Specialist Technician  
Monday to Friday 8.50am – 3.35pm – term time  
Email: lswaine@lonsdale.herts.sch.uk  
Telephone: 01438726999



Carla Bartlett – AAC Specialist Technician  
Monday and Tuesday 8.50am – 3.35pm – term time  
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Telephone: 01438726999

If you experience  
any technical  
problems or  
require any AAC  
support please  
get in touch!

As a team we aim to provide a high level of support to meet each pupil's Alternative and Augmented Communication (AAC) needs.



### **We are responsible for:**

#### **Assessments;**

Access to technology, hardware for VOCAs (Voice Output Communication Aids), mounting solutions for VOCAs.

#### **Specialist Support for;**

Technical support for VOCA, technical support for mounting solutions, specialist software.

#### **Training – VOCA hardware, access and mounting solution;**

For all school staff, for families and carers.

#### **Programming, editing, upgrading and updating;**

All AAC, this includes both paper base and power base.

#### **Equipment;**

Funded by Education or Health –

this will be supported by the AAC Support Team.

