



Feature Matching

Feature Matching

- Feature-matching in AAC assessment is an important component when identifying the most effective and efficient AAC system for AAC users
- Originally defined by Shane & Costello (1994), feature matching is a systematic process in which an AAC user's strengths and needs are matched to available AAC tools and strategies
- This includes both current and future needs (Gosnell et al., 2011)

What it involves

- The AAC team, including the speech-language pathologist, make clinical decisions related to an individual's AAC system
- In the feature-matching process, information is obtained related to an individual's speech, language, fine/gross motor, and cognitive abilities as well as information related to their social, cultural, and educational needs

Features to consider during the feature matching process include the following (Locast & Marx, 2016)

- Symbol Features
- Linguistic Features
- Voice Features
- Access Features
- Display/Editing Features
- Portability/Positioning Features
- Operational Feature

Using this chart for your own clinical practice

- This was created to guide clinicians in the AAC assessment process!
- Circle or highlight the recommended features on the furthest column
- Take notes on what you are recommending or what you are wanting to trial with the AAC user

Forbes AAC
181 Illinois Ave. South
Mansfield, OH 44905

phone 419.589.7688
fax 419.589.5146





Feature		Circle or Highlight the Recommended Feature
Symbols Features	Symbol Type	Photographs SymbolStix Picture Communication Symbols (PCS) Blissymbols Widgit Symbols PRC Unity Minspeak Text App-Specific: Combination of two or more: Other:
	Additional Features to Consider	Font Size/Color Symbol Colors Black/White High Contrast Other:

Notes

Linguistic Features	Organization and Layout	Activity Grid Display Taxonomic Grid Display Semantic-Syntactic Grid Display Pragmatic Organizational Dynamic Displays (PODD) Chronological Grid Display Visual Scene Display Keyboard (QWERTY, alphabetical) Other:
	Additional Features to Consider	Amount/Type of Pre-Created Pagesets Language Growth Availability Color coding system (e.g., Fitzgerald Key, Goosins, Crain, & Elder) Other:

Notes



Voice Features	Type of Voice	Digitized Synthesized Combination of both Other:
	Personalization	Language Age Gender Other:
	Additional Features to Consider	Type of Speaker (e.g., SoundPOD™) Volume Settings Other:

Notes

Access Features	Direct Selection	Touch: Visual Indicator Settings Delay, Dwell, or Release Time Auditory Feedback Other: Eye gaze: Visual Indicator Settings Dwell Selection Settings Auditory Feedback Other: Mouse Options: Type of Mouse Visual Indicator Settings Delay, Dwell, or Release Time Auditory Feedback Other:
	Direct Selection Additional Features to Consider	Word Prediction Keyguard Options Stylus Options Other:

Notes



	<p>Indirect Selection</p>	<p>Number of Switches: 1 Switch 2 Switches Switch Type: Wired Wireless Other: Type of Scanning: Auto Scan Inverse Step Scan Auditory Scan Other: Scanning Pattern: Linear Row-column Column-row Snake Block Other:</p>
	<p>Indirect Selection Additional Features to Consider</p>	<p>Scanning Settings: Delay Time Number of Scans Restart From Beginning/Restart From Same Spot Auditory Feedback Other: Indicator Options Recommendations: Visual Indicator Enlarge Cell Sound when moving Sound when selecting Other:</p>

Notes



Display/Editing Features	Display	Static Dynamic Size Number of Buttons Other:
	Message Display	Show/Hide Text Show/Hide Symbols Size of Text/Symbol Speak Each Word Other:
	Additional Features to Consider	Background Color Font Size/Color Border Color(s) Other:

Notes

Portability/ Positioning Features	Mounting Needs	Mounting Plate Floor Mount Table Mount Clamp Mount Other:
	Additional Features to Consider	Neck Strap Handle/Stand Harness Weight SGD Case Durability Other:

Notes



Operational Features	Features to Consider	Funding Warranty/Repair Coverage Technical Support Training Availability Power Source(s) XTNDR Battery Other:
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Other	Additional Features/ Information to Consider	Cultural Considerations Environmental Control Availability Referral for Other Services Multimodal Communication Considerations: Low-tech Communication Board Single-Message Switch Other:
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References

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- Gosnell, J., Costello, J., & Shane, H. (2011). Using a clinical approach to answer "what communication apps should we use?" *SIG 12 Perspectives on Augmentative and Alternative Communication*, 20(3), 87–96. <https://doi.org/10.1044/aac20.3.87>
- Locast, M. & Marx, A. (2016). AAC Feature Matching Overview [Presented at The American Academy for Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine AACPDMD Annual Meeting]. Accessed from: <https://www.aacpdm.org/UserFiles/file/IC2-Marx-22.pdf> (July, 2022).

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