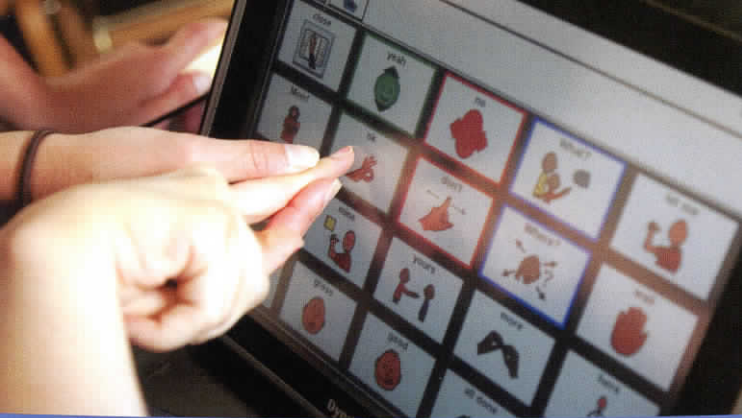


Providence
Neurodevelopmental
Center for Children

**Augmentative
and Alternative
Communication Clinic**



Providence Augmentative and Alternative Communication Clinic provides comprehensive, state-of-the-art evaluation and treatment for children whose speech or expressive language is either severely or profoundly impaired.

Providence St. Vincent Medical Center: 503-216-2339

Providence Child Center: 503-215-2233

Providence Newberg Medical Center: 503-537-3546

www.providence.org/childcenter

What is augmentative and alternative communication?

Augmentative and alternative communication (also known as AAC or Aug Com) is a mode of communication used by individuals who are unable to verbally express themselves.

How do I know if my child should be seen in your clinic?

Your child could benefit from our services if he or she:

- Becomes frustrated because his or her words or attempts at communication are not understood
- Is hard to understand or offers unintelligible speech, has shown little or no progress in speech therapy
- Has been diagnosed with a medical condition known to impact speech, such as cerebral palsy, apraxia of speech or Rett syndrome

Who will see my child during the visit?

A speech-language pathologist will lead a multidisciplinary team to determine the best way for your child to communicate. The team may include a physical therapist and occupational therapist.

How will this team determine the best communication system for my child?

Our therapists will evaluate your child's cognitive level (thinking, memory, problem solving), emotional level, motor skills development, ability to understand language, and ability to produce intelligible speech. Using this information, the therapists will work with you and your family to choose the type of communication system or device that is most useful for your child.

What types of communication systems are available?

Communication strategies and systems include sign language, pictures, communication books, voice output devices, electronic devices and computerized speech-generating devices. Your therapists will discuss specific recommendations for your child based on his or her specific abilities.

Will the therapists work with my child's school?

Yes. The therapists will work with you, your child's other care providers and schools to provide the most appropriate and comprehensive communication system. This collaboration ensures that your child can communicate in all areas of his or her life.

Will this help my child talk?

If your child has the potential to talk, AAC may encourage your child to try to talk or use word approximations. It will not stop your child from talking.

Every child is different, and each family will have a different experience with the systems and strategies. Most importantly, it may give your child increased independence and improved communication.

How do I schedule an appointment?

A prescription is required for our services. Please speak with your child's physician if you are interested in augmentative and alternative communication. If your child is already seeing a physical, occupational or speech therapist, that therapist can help you by obtaining a prescription from your child's physician.

Once you have the prescription, please call 503-215-2233 to schedule an appointment.

Will my insurance pay for the treatment and the device?

Contact your insurance company to find out if your coverage includes these services. Please refer to the insurance information that was included in the packet you received from our clinic. Your therapist will assist if you have additional questions.