

The Kent and Medway Communication and Assistive Technology (KM CAT) Service

Training Brochure 2021 - 2022



Our Training Offer

Kent and Medway Communication and Assistive Technology Service (KM CAT) is committed to providing relevant training for teaching staff, parents and carers and therapists who support children and young people (CYPs) who use Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) and Electronic Assistive Technology (EAT).

In this brochure you will find scheduled courses to be held on specific days and also E learning courses which you can access at any time.

We may have recommended a specific training for you, or you might be browsing this leaflet independently. If you have any questions about the courses and which course might be the most appropriate, then please contact us, details on page 13.

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Who is it for?

This course is suitable for education based staff and therapists who work with children and young people using Clicker 8. These students will typically have severe and complex communication difficulties, who may

already be using Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) or Assistive Technology (AT).



What is it about?

Clicker 8 is a software program which supports curriculum recording and promotes literacy development. It enables children and young people to make progress in an easy to navigate and motivating way. It can be used to plan appropriate, personalised resources. The course will explore how practitioners can use the features of the program, including how to quickly adapt and edit the different Clicker Sets available. Apply the different features to meet specific learners' needs. And navigate the access adaptations available including those for severe and complex students.

What will I get out of this?

Increase your understanding of how the different applications of Clicker can scaffold students' learning. You will have the opportunity to explore how to make your own Clicker Sets which meet individual students' needs. You will gain confidence in using Clicker within the classroom setting to have a positive impact on children's learning.

Times:

This course will be held remotely by video link and will run on 2 half day sessions
Starting at 09:30 until 13:00

Dates:

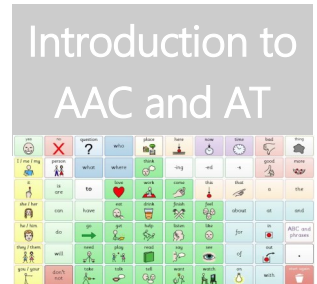
27/09/2021 and 11/10/2021
17/01/2022 and 31/01/2022
09/05/2022 and 23/05/2022

Costs:

£40 for KCC and Medway school staff
£100 to out of county staff and independent schools.

Who is this course for?

This course is suitable for Occupational and Speech and Language Therapists who are new to using Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) and Assistive Technology (AT) or anyone who would like a refresher. It is particularly relevant to those working with students with severe complex communication needs and physical disabilities.



What is it about?

This course will provide you with an opportunity to address how AAC and AT can be integrated into your working practice, to change student outcomes. The course includes; AAC and language development, general principles of using symbols, general principles for developing AAC and AT competencies, Low and light tech AAC, Alternative Access Methods, such as rollerball, switches, mouse, keyboard. Raise awareness of students who could benefit from AAC and AT, and laying the foundations for high tech AAC.

Course Overview:

Explain use of integrated frameworks used by Speech and Language Therapists, Occupational Therapists and Teachers. Demonstrate and discuss ways to introduce low and light tech devices and strategies for different levels of AAC and AT needs. Develop language skills and functions towards laying the foundations for high tech AAC devices. Look at how to develop the physical skills needed to control AT and increase independence.

Times:

The course will be held remotely by video link and will run on 2 half day sessions Starting at 09:30 until 13:00

Dates:

23/09/2021 and
07/10/2021
14/03/2022 and
28/03/2022

Costs:

£40 for KCC and Medway school staff
£100 to out of county staff and independent schools.



Proloquo2Go®

Who is this course for?

This course will teach you technical skills at your own pace. Each remote session will give you time to practise adapting and making your own resources.

This course would be particularly useful for teachers, therapists or parents who are supporting a child or young person who is using the Proloquo2Go app for voice output communication.

What is it about?

Proloquo2Go is an app used to enable students to communicate with symbols and text.

This course will explore a range of relevant features within this app including being able to promote progression and develop students skills and communication levels.

This app can be used for individuals or small groups of students with additional needs, so that they can join in with a wider range of curriculum activities and social opportunities.

What will I get out of this?

You will increase your confidence at using this app, able to make changes to a pre made vocabulary package. Improve your understanding of how to make resources that support learning and communication. Increase your awareness of the published online resources and paper based materials that can be used as additional resources.

Please have a USB or Memory Stick with you on the day.

Times:

The course will be held remotely by video link and will run on 2 half day sessions Starting at 09:30 until 13:00

Dates:

08/11/2021 and
22/11/2021
06/06/2022 and
20/06/2022

Costs:

£40 for KCC and Medway school staff
£100 to out of county staff and independent schools.

Who is this course for?

This course will teach you technical skills at your own pace. Each remote session will give you time to practice adapting and making your own resources. This course would be particularly useful for teachers, therapists or parents who are supporting a child or young person who is using an Alternative and Augmentative Communication system (AAC).



What is it about?

The Grid 3 is a piece of software used to enable students to communicate with symbols and text. Students can use it to control a computer to use text, email and to play music and videos.

This course will explore a range of relevant features in this software. These are fun as well as being able to promote progression and develop students skills and communication levels. This software can be used for individuals or small groups of students with additional needs, so that they can join in with a wider range of curriculum activities and social opportunities.

What will I get out of this?

At the end of the course you will, Increase your confidence at using this software to make changes to a pre-made resource or package. Improve your understanding of how to make resources that support learning and communication. Increase your awareness of the published online grids and paper based materials that can be used as additional resources.

Please bring a USB or Memory Stick with you on the day.

Times:

The course will be held remotely by video link and will run on 2 half day sessions Starting at 09:30 until 13:00

Dates:

04/11/2021 and 18/11/2021
03/02/2022 and 25/02/2022
10/06/2022 and 24/06/2022

Costs:

£40 for KCC and Medway school staff
£100 to out of county staff and independent schools.

Who is this course for?

This online course is suitable for Therapists, Teachers, Teaching and Therapy Assistants, Social Care Workers, Advocates and anyone who supports children, young people and adults across health, social work, residential and education settings.



What is it about?

Talking Mats Limited is a social enterprise whose vision is to improve the lives of people with communication difficulties and those close to them, by increasing their capacity to communicate effectively about things that matter to them.

Talking Mats is a person centred approach allowing individuals to express their views, thoughts and feelings. This approach allows people with and without communication difficulties to express themselves on a range of topics important to them. Talking Mats give everyone a voice and an opportunity to influence decisions about their lives.

What will I get out of this?

At the end of the course you will have learnt the skills to carry out Talking Mat sessions with people who you support. Have the opportunity to learn from others and think creatively about how to use Talking Mats in your own setting. You will receive a Talking Mat Foundation Certificate and an E-book about using Talking Mats. To buy Talking Mat resources at a reduced price.

How to Book:

Please contact us directly to express your interest in attending. One of the trainers will then contact you to discuss details and potential dates

Cost:

The cost for the online course is £125

What we offer:

We are able to offer training that can be delivered in your setting, to a group of interested staff and parents. All of our bespoke training is focused on enabling others to use technology to support special educational need. We can offer:

- Any of our courses can be delivered in your school or setting, as a package for your whole staff.
- Tailored sessions delivered remotely or in your school or setting specifically designed for your requirements.
- Tailored sessions for specific software and hardware that you may not have available in school but you are considering buying and evaluating.

Bespoke Training Courses

GRID 3



Proloquo2Go®



Clicker 8



Courses available:

Please contact us to discuss any possible training needs. We are able to deliver bespoke packages. Courses that have been delivered in the past have included, Clicker 8, Communicate: In Print, Apps, Prolouquo2GO, AAC Little and often, Focus on Eye Gaze.

The benefits of our bespoke training:

Bespoke training is a cost effective way of training a large group of people with mixed abilities at your convenience.

The courses are delivered by our multi disciplinary team of practising professionals who also support a case load of highly complex children and young people in Kent and Medway.

How to Book:

Please contact us directly and we will send you a bespoke application form which will help you map out the training course that is right for your staff and setting. The price will be worked out based on your needs. The costs of Bespoke Training Courses are in order to cover our overheads in meeting your needs.

KM CAT currently have six E Learning modules and all courses are **FREE**. To access them you will need to go to:

<https://www.theeducationpeople.org>.

Or search 'Education People' in your web browser. You will need to set up an account with The Education People and use the course code information to access the course. The E Learning is best accessed using Google chrome.

When you have completed the course, you will be asked to complete an evaluation form. It is really helpful if you could take a few minutes to complete the evaluation as this helps us to improve and develop existing courses and design new ones.

If you have any difficulty accessing the courses, you can contact The KM CAT Service or the hosts of the courses, The Education People on: cpd@theeducationpeople.org.

ASD and VOCAs. What are the factors for success?

We know children with ASD are often motivated by technology. It is often felt that a high-tech communication aid might succeed where low-tech communication charts or books might have failed. How do we know which children are likely to succeed with using a VOCA?

This online presentation will share the 'Factors for Success' that we have identified. It is intended that professionals will then be able to assess an individual student against these factors, to inform making a referral to KM CAT (or other regional AAC Assessment Hub), and what support needs to be in place before a referral can be made.

Code: [EL 19/014](#)

Duration: [45 minutes](#)

What our delegates have said: "A great course to gain more information about VOCAs and how they can be beneficial for children with ASD." Helen Laurent, Wyvern School

Why teach literacy to non-verbal children and young people

Teaching literacy to non-verbal children and young people is a useful introduction for all teaching staff including Teaching Assistants and Teachers.

You will gain a deeper understanding of the challenges faced when teaching literacy to non-verbal children and young people. Using evidence based research and practice, you will understand how literacy learning is possible for these children. Including why it is fundamentally important for them to develop independence.

Code: [KMCAT06](#)

Duration: [One hour](#)

What our delegates have said: “I found this very interesting and relevant. The way the course is displayed is very interactive.”

Louisa Sargent, The Wyvern School

Beyond Requesting: Extending the Communication of Children and Young People with ASD

PECS is a great way to begin communication for children with ASD. This course shows you how to move on from requesting, to other communicative functions, such as ‘describing’ or ‘asking questions’.

Code: [EL 19/006](#)

Duration: [45 minutes](#)

What our delegates have said: “I enjoyed this course, it helped me understand the different stages of developing communication” St Joseph Catholic School

Eye-Gaze Technology: What you need to know

This module will explore the difference between 'eye-pointing' and 'eye-gaze technology'. Including an understanding of the functional vision needed to access eye-gaze technology. You will learn about the difference between eye-gaze technology for leisure activities eye-gaze technology as an access method for communication.

Code: [EL 19/013](#)

Duration: [45 minutes](#)

What our delegates have said: "I really Liked this course, Very **informative**" Natasha Mannering, Tunstall

When Handwriting or Communication is a Challenge: Exploring Alternatives Using Assistive Technology

This course would be useful for Community Occupational Therapists and Education Staff, to increase knowledge of Assistive Technology.

The module is divided in to 3 parts,

Part 1 – First Steps in Supporting Alternative Recording

Introductory principles and strategies for supporting someone with handwriting and recording difficulties.

Part 2 – Alternative Access and Recording Methods

more complex access needs, including using alternative mouse control and other more bespoke solutions.

Part 3 – Developing Switch Skills

The How, When and Why of introducing and progressing switch skill use and development.

You can work through all 3 parts of the Module. Alternatively, you may want to focus on a specific module.

Code: [KMCAT06](#)

Duration: [One hour](#)

Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC): Little and Often

AAC: Little and Often is a useful introduction to Augmentative and Alternative Communication for all teaching staff and allied health professionals. The course will give an overview of the different types of AAC, and how to implement AAC with children and young people throughout the day, in a variety of activities.

Code: [EL 17/024](#)

Duration: [45 minutes](#)

What our delegates have said: "[Very informative and good strategies](#)" Kent Portage

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