



## Communication Support for 0-25s with Complex Needs

Delivered by AAC & Me, a specialist  
teaching-led AAC consultancy



Elklan courses are externally quality assured and accredited through OCN London

A practical course for staff supporting children and young people with complex needs, focusing on recognising early communication, building interaction and developing communication skills. Accredited at levels 2 and 3.

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## Communication Support for 0-25s with Complex Needs

This evidence-informed course provides practitioners with theoretical knowledge and practical skills to support pupils with profound and multiple learning needs. Teaching methods include practical activities, videos and group discussion.

The course is delivered through blended e-learning, with four sessions taught in person and four completed online, each lasting two hours, supported by e-learning tasks.

### What does this course teach?

#### 1. What is communication?

- Development from pre-intentional to intentional communication
- Identifying a pupil's communication stage

#### 2. Creating a communication-friendly setting

- Features of communication-friendly environments for pupils with complex needs and PMLD
- Best practice using Objects of Reference

#### 3. Pre-intentional communication

- Recognising pre-intentional communication
- Appropriate adult-pupil interaction
- Encouraging exploratory learning and early thinking

#### 4. Anticipating the event

- Recognising when a pupil anticipates events
- Importance of clear routines and Joint Attention
- Encouraging exploratory learning and early thinking

#### 5. Intentional communication

- Assessing Means, Reasons and Opportunities
- Encouraging intentional communication and choice-making

#### 6. Exploratory learning and language

- How symbolic understanding develops
- Access to appropriate exploratory learning

#### 7. Total Communication

- Principles of Total Communication
- Best practice using signs and symbols
- Communication Passports
- Supporting different message types
- Importance of non-verbal communication

#### 8. Linking it all together

- Creating a group poster summarising learning



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