



# Non-Electronic Communication Aids Service

## What are non-electronic communication aids?

Non-electronic communication aids are tools that can help someone express and understand language. They are one type of assistive technology called Augmentative and Alternative Communication – AAC for short.

Non-electronic communication aids may also be referred to as low-tech or paper-based communication aids. They may be laminated or made of durable, waterproof, tearproof paper.

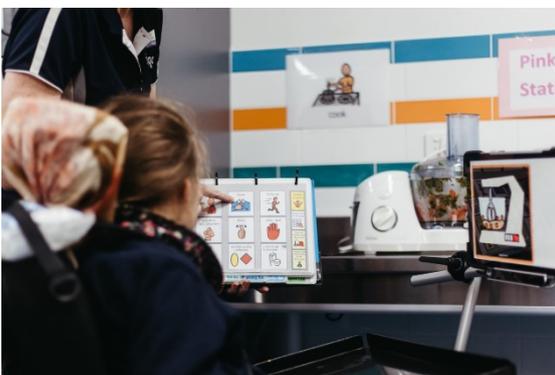
There are many different forms of non-electronic communication aids from robust, multi-level communication books that can be used across the day in a range of different situations, to activity-based books created to be used in certain situations.



## How can non-electronic communication aids can fit into your communication toolbox?

We are all multimodal communicators who use a range of ways (tools) to get our messages across to others. The concept of a communication toolbox is to build up and have access to lots of different ways to communicate to make sure we can say what we want, no matter what.

Non-electronic communication aids can be a great addition to someone's communication toolbox.



It is recommended that anyone with an electronic communication device has some form of non-electronic back up, that can be used along with the device, and as a temporary replacement if anything goes wrong with the device.

For example, if someone's device runs out of battery or is broken, a non-electronic aid can support communication and ensure they still have a way to communicate during when the electronic device is out of action.

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## What are PODD books?

**Pragmatic Organisation Dynamic Display (PODD)** books are a range of multi-level, symbol-based communication books. Designed by Speech Pathologist Gayle Porter, there are a selection of non-electronic PODD templates available to support people with a wide variety of communication, language, sensory and physical access needs. In addition to books for direct touch access, alternative access options include visual scanning, eye gaze and coded access. Vocabulary can be customized to ensure words that are relevant to the person are available.



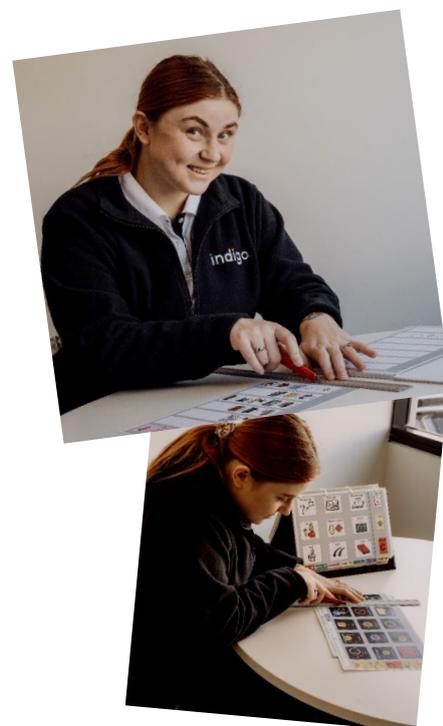
There are a range of non-electronic PODD templates available to support people at every stage of their communication journey. PODD books are available in both direct access and alternative access options, including visual scanning, eye gaze, and coded access.

Customising the vocabulary is an important step in building a PODD book. PODD books are developed with a pragmatic structure to allow efficient communication with the ability to add additional personal vocabulary relevant to the user.

## What non-electronic communication aids does Indigo offer?

Our team of Speech Pathologists and Allied Health Assistants can work with you to customise and develop a range of aids including:

- **PODD books:** Communication books to meet a range of communication and language needs, setup for direct touch or alternative access methods. Indigo can create customised PODD books. We have both direct access and alternative access templates available.
- **Multilevel communication books:** Indigo can create customised multilevel communication books containing both core vocabulary and fringe vocabulary.
- **Activity books:** These books contain activity specific vocabulary to be used during activities to facilitate communication. This can be specifically useful with messy play as they are laminated and easy to clean.
- **Core boards:** Indigo can print and laminate core boards in a range of sizes. Core boards are a single page board with core vocabulary. They can be set up on around the house / school to support communication.
- **Alphabet boards:** Indigo can make up customised alphabet boards suitable for people who have literacy skills. Boards can include ABC or Qwerty keyboards plus easily accessible key phrases important to the user.
- **Communication Passports:** A small booklet with a personal introduction to the user with useful information surrounding their communication needs, interests, and hobbies.



Further information is available on our website, including our low-tech referral forms and custom vocabulary requests.