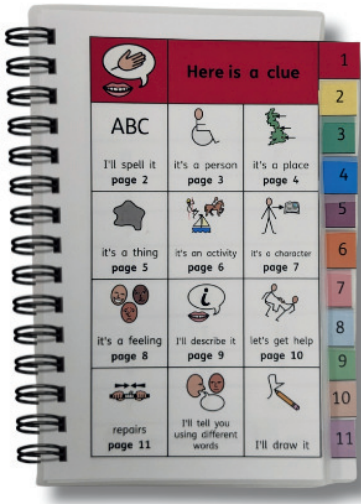


## Using a Clues Book



A Clues Book is an augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) tool designed to support someone's speech when they have difficulty being understood by others. The book adds to a person's speech and other communication strategies they might use when there is a breakdown like gestures, facial expressions, drawings etc.

A Clues Book does not contain every word that someone will want to say. Instead, it provides a means for giving clues so the listener, also called a communication partner, can make guesses to get conversation back-on-track.

### Tips for getting started

Using a Clues Book is a skill that needs teaching. You cannot hand it to someone and expect them to pick it up and use it immediately.

- Start by providing learning opportunities that are fun and motivating. Games where one person describes an object or picture to another are great for this. Hedbanz is a commercially available game or search for free "barrier game" ideas.
- Practice using the Clues Book in role play, creating situations like going to a restaurant, the doctor or library. Get peers or siblings involved to make it more fun!
- Support development of category knowledge to help the user give good clues. For example, if they like horse riding, teach using the [It's about an animal](#) and [It's a sport](#) sections to give clue. You can teach category knowledge through sorting and matching games.
- The listener should carry more of the load in the beginning. Point to clues in the book asking "Is it about a person?" or "Is it about a place?" etc.

### Impact on Speech

It is a common worry that using an AAC tool like a Clues Book could hold back someone's speech development. However, all the research suggests that far from holding speech back, the use of AAC can even encourage it! To learn more, follow the QR code to visit Tobii Dynavox's [Busting AAC Myths: AAC will keep a person from talking](#) information sheet.



## Tips for Communication Partners

A communication partner is the person on the other side of the conversation.

- Always show interest in what someone has to say.
- Look at the book together and chat about which clues could be used when you are not there to help others understand their speech.
- Be honest when you do not understand. If appropriate, offer to come back to it another time.
- Use the [Let's get help](#) section of the book to bring in support from people who are more familiar with the person's speech.

## Practical Tips

Make the book easy to use and carry. Consider whether it will go in a pocket, a folder or be worn on a lanyard. It was designed to print 2 pages on A4 paper to make an A5 book, but use printer options to make it smaller to suits the needs of the user.

Laminating the book will help to protect it. Matte pouches work better as glossy can reflect overhead lighting making it hard to see. Because of the use of tabs, the pages will need to be cut out before laminating and then cut out again after. Running the pages through the laminator a second time helps improve the seal around the tabs.

## Access

This Clues Book is designed to be used by pointing to symbols with a finger or similar. If the learner finds that difficult it can be used in different ways. Learn how in [Chapter 7 of Getting Started with Paper-Based Symbol Resources](#) or by following the QR code below.

## Other Tools to Help

When a conversation is about something that is not in the here-and-now it can help to have things to tune the listener in. Try using:

photos and videos

pen and paper for drawing

calendar

scrapbook of souvenir items

maps

catalogues or websites etc

If you think that the person you are supporting requires a wider range of language than provided in a Clues Book think about developing a robust communication book. Ace Centre's [Developing and Using a Communication Book](#) is one approach to consider.

The Clues Book was created using InPrint 3, a symbol-based software by Widgit. For more information visit [www.widgit.com](http://www.widgit.com)



For more information on Getting Started with Paper-Based Symbol Resources follow the QR code or go [acecentre.org.uk/ebooks-symbols](http://acecentre.org.uk/ebooks-symbols)