



Communication Board Systems in Playgrounds.

IASLT Statement
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The Universal Declaration of Communication Rights recognises that communication is the most fundamental of human capacities, and the opportunity to communicate is a basic human right. Communication takes many different forms. Everybody has the potential to communicate and all forms of communication are equally recognised and valued. Speech and language therapists (SLT's) have a key role in promoting the human right of all people to express their thoughts, wishes, goals and feelings through their preferred mode of communication. SLTs are the key specialists who can support people with communication difficulties to achieve their full potential.

IASLT welcomes the level of support received nationally from the public and various County Councils – in response to proposals to install communication boards in playgrounds. IASLT welcomes such developments. Communication board systems developed and used appropriately within a playground will enable children express their choices and preferences and to participate actively within play.

For communication board systems to be beneficial for individuals, they need to be set up in a structured and systematic format informed by full knowledge of communication, communication modes and of language development. In developing these communication board systems, the expertise of a speech and language therapist is fundamental to addressing the many considerations and questions which arise. Communication boards must be developed collaboratively with Speech and Language Therapists as experts and key stakeholders in communication. Consultation with service users as core stakeholders is also a key requirement.

The IASLT is committed to playing its part in ensuring that the voices of people who have communication disorders are heard in our society and to creating a society that is accessible for people with communication difficulties. The most effective way to achieve this is by ensuring that speech and language therapists are recognised as key specialists and included in all aspects of planning and design of communication systems and more specifically in this instance in the development of communication boards for playgrounds.

