

An investigation into the factors that lead to the abandonment or inconsistent use of Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) systems from the perspective of Speech and Language Therapists (SLTs).

Introduction and Purpose of Study

A significant amount of SLT's time is spent working with children to implement AAC systems. These AAC systems are sometimes abandoned or used inconsistently. There are a number of studies that focus on the factors that impact this from a parent perspective. Research from the SLT's perspective is limited. This study aims to explore the perspectives of SLTs working in the Republic of Ireland.

Can I take part?

All SLTs working with children who use AAC in the Republic of Ireland can take part.

What will I have to do?

Participants who are interested in taking part in the study are asked to anonymously complete an online survey. It should take approximately 10-15 minutes to complete the survey.

Do I have to take part?

No. It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. You can stop taking part in the study at any time, without giving a reason.

What are the possible disadvantages/ risks of taking part in this study?

There are no substantial disadvantages/ risks to taking part in this study. Completing the survey will take 10-15 minutes from your day.

What are the possible benefits of taking part in this study?

You may not receive direct benefit from taking part but the study should provide valuable information about factors leading to AAC abandonment. This may inform future SLT practice in the area of AAC.

What if there is a problem?

If you are concerned about your participation in the study and would like to speak with someone, please contact Caoimhe Loftus at cloftus2@sheffield.ac.uk

What will happen to the information that I give?

The data from all completed surveys will be held securely and in line with data protection regulations. All data will be deleted once the dissertation is completed.

Will my taking part in this study be kept confidential?

Yes, all information that you provide as part of the study will be held confidentially. Your rights will be protected in line with data protection law. Identifying information will not be shared outside of the research team and will not appear in any documents or the final report.

Who is organising the research?

This post graduate research project is being carried out by Caoimhe Loftus and is being supervised by Dr. Stuart Cunningham.

What will happen to the results of the research study?

Data from completed surveys will be analysed and available to a range of people including lecturers, students, health professionals and researchers through a written report, and possibly presentations and journal publications. It will not be possible to identify individual participants from these reports or publications.

Who has reviewed the study?

The Division of Health Sciences School, Faculty of Medicine, Health and Dentistry has granted ethical approval for the study.

Where can I get further information about this study?

You can get more information by contacting Caoimhe Loftus (cloftus2@sheffield.ac.uk) or Dr. Stuart Cunningham (s.cunningham@sheffield.ac.uk) for more information.

What happens next?

If you wish to take part in the study, please follow the link below to access the survey.

https://qfreeaccountssjc1.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5jThf7VLdSZ02ii