

THE COMMUNICATION MENTORS' NETWORK OF NORTHCENTRAL PA

Our Supporters & Allies:

Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit

Community Services Group, Inc.

County Commissioners' Association of PA

Hope Enterprises, Inc.

Keystone Service Systems

Lycoming-Clinton Counties MH/MR

Northumberland County MH/MR

Northwestern Human Services,
Susquehanna Center

Parent to Parent Connections

Self-Determination Council of
Northumberland County

Shared Supports, Inc.

Snack & Chat

SUNCOM Industries, Inc.

United Cerebral Palsy / Avenues

The ARC of Northumberland County



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NETWORK OF NORTHCENTRAL PA

119 Memorial Acres, Sunbury, PA 17801

Phone: 1-570-286-7694

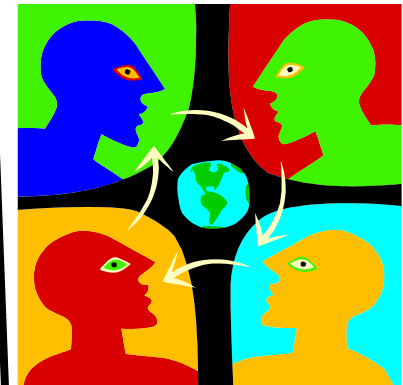
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www.communicationmentors.org

(A project of Networks for Training and Development, Inc.)

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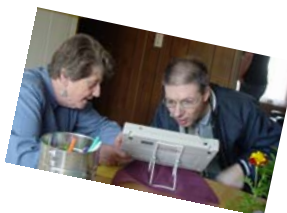


supporting effective
communication for
everyone.....

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The "Communication Crisis"

A well-known and well documented problem plaguing a large majority of people with disabilities is the issue of decreased functional communication skills. For some, this means a general difficulty being understood by those outside of primary family members and familiar others. This leads to decreased opportunities for choice-making, decision-making, relationship building, community access, and health / safety concerns. For others, this is much more serious.... virtually no recognized means of expressing basic wants, needs, choices, complaints, concerns, pain, or joy.



What we can offer...

- * Assessments with people who have limited or unrecognized communication methods to explore possible systems and strategies to be more fully expressive.
- * Recommendations of devices, supports, adaptations, & accommodations for people in need of upgrading their current communication systems, techniques, & strategies.
- * Group and individualized training in current trends and options in augmentative and alternative communication (AAC).
- * Assistance to teams in finding ways to make communication a more common and natural part of the person's life, increasing choice, and opportunities for community involvement.



We have much first-hand experience in the power of combining a belief in competence, a healthy skepticism of what previous labels actually mean about a person, and thinking through what support might actually be supportive. Add to this a gradually growing knowledge-base of the available technology and systems which might be used to help people more fully communicate. Story after story of change and empowerment has come from this commitment to communication and this, in turn, has committed us further to believing that:



- * everyone already communicates,
- * often we as supporters and loved ones don't "hear" or fully respect what is communicated,
- * we all can learn better how to more fully support everyone's communication, and
- * people can find other systems and / or technology to enhance, supplement, or provide alternative



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