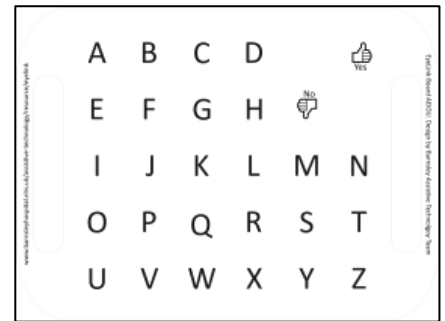


Eye link Communication boards

EyeLink is a partner supported communication method that allows an individual to communicate just through eye gaze. EyeLink is a simple and effective method of eye gaze communication which requires just an acetate or acrylic/Perspex sheet which is printed or engraved. EyeLink can be used with letters or symbols for communication.

An EyeLink consists of a transparent frame with letters or symbols on, positioned between the person with communication difficulties and their conversation partner (person they are communicating with). Messages are generated by eye pointing to the relevant location on the frame are recorded by the conversation partner.



The layout of an EyeLink Communication Board (AEIOU)

EyeLink is one method of using eye gaze, and there are other methods such as E-Tran and technology based eyegaze systems. In many cases we find EyeLink can provide a good additional method to using a technology based eyegaze system, but for some is also a preferable method of communication.

How to use Eyelink

An agreed method for the individual to indicate they are ready, finished and to indicate 'yes' and 'no' is recommended before introducing this method. The principle of EyeLink is simple;

1. The communication partner holds the board up in front of the client (normally with the letters in ABC order for the individual communicating).
2. The individual focuses their eyes on the target letter or symbol.
3. The communication partner moves the board until their eyes meet the eyes of the client and both people are looking at the same item.
4. The communication partner confirms with the client that they have correctly understood which item has been selected.
5. This letter or symbol is recorded, often by writing down.

We have a couple of videos that describe how to use an EyeLink board on our website: www.barnsleyhospital.nhs.uk/assistive-technology/resource/using-eye-pointing-for-communication-using-eyelink/



Oops and Finished!

It is important to have a way of saying that you have made a mistake and also that you have finished communicating. It is also helpful to have a way of indicating yes and no – this can allow for the communication partner to predict words being written, and the individual communicating to confirm the prediction. This prediction is a personal choice though and should be negotiated and agreed between the communication partners – some individuals may prefer a communication partner to predict words, and some may not.

Cleaning

The Perspex board can be cleaned with computer screen cleaning wipes or a damp cloth.