Communication Scrapbook

Developing a communication scrapbook

What is a communication scrapbook?

A communication scrapbook is designed to contain very personalised words that the person may use to support their communication. The words in the book will be less frequently used day-to-day words and words of low predictability. A communication scrapbook can be useful to support communication out of context. For example, when the person has unclear speech and is communicating about a topic not related to what is happening now, not related to things in their immediate environment, or less familiar to the listener. It is also a great way to get the person and their family involved in creating their own book. Once the person has a means of getting the word across, it cues the listener in to better predict the other words or the rest of the sentence.

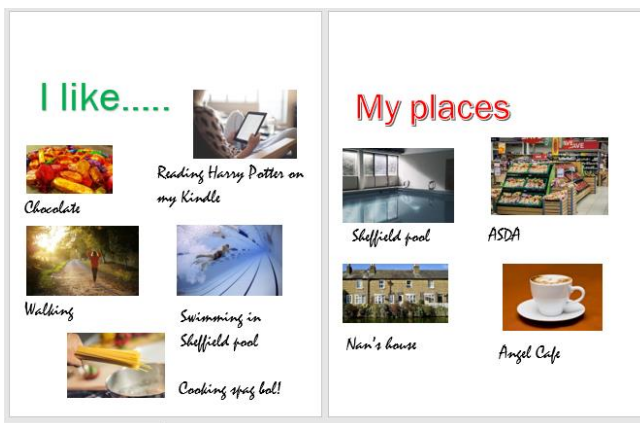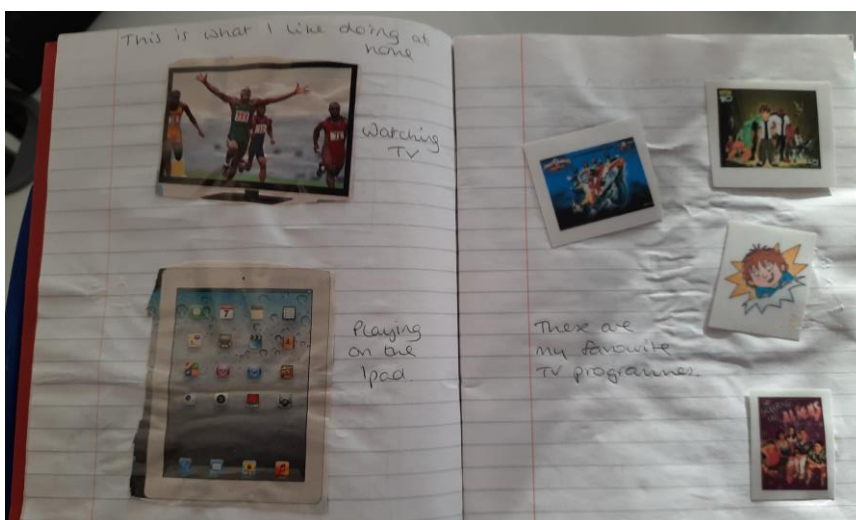*Figure 1. An example book created in Microsoft Word*

Figure 2. An example book created using magazine clippings and photos in a notepad

Vocabulary to include

High frequency words such as pronouns (e.g. 'me', 'you', 'them') and commonly used verbs (e.g. 'eat', 'go', 'want') are not needed as the person may be able to get this part of the message across. High predictability words are also not needed as these can often be worked out from the context.

Low predictability and low frequency words include the following:

- People's names - Close family names are highly predictable but other people who are only known to the person in one environment are not predictable to people in another environment. For example, a neighbour's name may be predictable to the family but not to the teacher or friend.
- Place names – These are often not predictable except to people from that area.
- Vocabulary which is of specific interest to the person but which others may not be familiar with, such as computer games, TV programmes and characters, pop bands, football teams/players, car names, specific food items, memories.

For example: If the child says, *"I got the Spyro the Dragon game for Christmas from David."*

"I" and "got" are high frequency words.

"Christmas" – if the sentence is said on the first week in January, this word is highly predictable.

"David" may be high frequency if he is the person's brother.

"Spyro the Dragon" is not predictable or high frequency but could be communicated by a page of PlayStation games.

Tips for making the book

Organising the vocabulary

- The person using the book should be involved in choosing the pictures for it as it needs to be words they want to communicate.
- Pictures can be from catalogues, websites, google images, sweet wrappers, photos, cinema ticket clippings.
- Write little notes next to the pictures to help others see the context, as agreed with the person who will be using the book (for example – "my older sister – lives in Leeds – goes to Leeds Uni" or "Showcase Cinema – my favourite").
- Words should be organised into categories as makes sense to the person using it.
- A contents page may be helpful depending on the number of pages.

Customise!
Anything to encourage ownership and to distinguish the book cover from other books they may use - stickers, wrapping paper, buying a decorated book cover.

Digital options
There are a range of apps and web resources which can also be used to gather photos for making a digital scrapbook. For example, the person may choose to take photos of personalised words and save them in a folder or an app on their phone. Some books can also be shared and printed out.

Resources

A few suggested resources can be found below. Please note that the Barnsley Assistive Technology Team may not have first-hand experience of all these resources and some are given just as an indication of what is available. Searching 'scrapbooks' was found to list further options in the google play store and in the apple app store.

https://www.ability-world.com	This website sells lots of patterned book covers in a range of sizes.
https://www.apple.com/uk/clips/	Free app for creating videos in Apple devices from photos and video library. Can customise the content with captions, stickers and labels. Requires iOS 15 or later.
https://www.assistiveware.com/products/pictello	An app for creating visual social stories and schedules in apple devices. Currently £17.99. Requires 11.4 or later.
https://bookcreator.com/	Software which can be used for creating digital portfolios and about me books, from photos, drawings, audio clips and videos. Available in iOS 13 + or as a web-based app on other devices. You can create 1 book for free in the iPad app.
https://www.smilebox.com/maker/scrapbook-maker/	Free online scrapbooking software with templates to get you started. These can be shared and printed at home.