

Approaches & Techniques

Communication Passports



Pictologue is able to create Personal Communication Passports for people who require this supportive aid, and Pictologue Therapy utilises this approach, where appropriate. This information sheet provides a brief summary of Communication Passports.

★ Background

Personal Communication Passports were invented in 1991 by Sally Millar at CALL Scotland (previously known as CALL Centre), University of Edinburgh, UK. Client Books and Personal Placemats are similar approaches.

★ Overview

Communication Passports are an attractive and useful way to present and share specific information about a person who is unable to introduce and speak for themselves. Passports facilitate communication with, and about, a person who has communication difficulties. Creating a Passport is a process of getting to know someone, working closely and collaboratively with those who live and work with them, and documenting key 'need to know' information in an accessible format. Passports are particularly beneficial in smoothing transitions, helping the person who has significant communication difficulties to be understood within a variety of settings and with different people.

Communication Passports aim to:

- be positive, simple and enjoyable to read
- be unique and personal (e.g. what would the person say about themselves?)
- describe how to communicate with the person
- describe how the person communicates and what support(s) they need to communicate to their potential
- draw together information from a variety of contexts
- facilitate successful interactions
- introduce key facts, skills, needs and preferences
- value everyone's perspective and contribution (e.g. family, carers and professionals)
- be relevant and kept up-to-date

Personal Communication Passports draw together core information from those who know the child, young person or adult who has communication difficulties. This will include:

- Biography - name, birthday, basic background
- Personality - likes, dislikes, character, favourite things, places and activities
- Care - self-help and physical needs (sometimes medication)
- Management - behaviour, allergies, health
- Communication - how the person communicates, what they like to talk about, how you need to talk with them and be a supportive communication partner
- Contacts - personal and professional (e.g. family, friends, pets, teacher, therapist, etc.)

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