



Welcome to the AGOSCI Listserve

This discussion list has been established to provide a forum for sharing ideas and information related AGOSCI's areas of interest.

What is AGOSCI?

Established in 1981, AGOSCI is an inclusive group interested in enhancing the participation of all people with complex communication needs. AGOSCI also aims to build the capacity of society to achieve our vision.

Our vision is that people with complex communication needs participate fully in all aspects of life.

AGOSCI's membership includes individuals with complex communication needs, family and community members, teachers, speech pathologists and other professionals. You do not have to be a member to join in on the list discussion. If you are interested in becoming a member please visit <http://www.agosci.org.au/members.htm>

Complex Communication Needs? What are they?

Complex Communication Needs is defined as the difficulty communicating using speech alone. People with CCN include those with Cerebral Palsy, Autism, Stroke, Intellectual Disability, sensory impairments and degenerative conditions such as Motor Neurone Disease.

Topics associated with complex communication needs may include:

- Augmentative and Alternative Communication
- Speech Generating Devices
- Sign and Gesture systems including Key Word Sign
- Mealtime assistance/dysphagia
- Saliva control
- Personal experiences

AGOSCI LISTSERVE- GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATION

The AGOSCI Community is based on trust, honest communication, and respect for each other. The AGOSCI list is a vehicle dedicated to promoting collaboration, best practice, and a respect for inquiry among its members. Communication among participants in the list is conducted in a manner that demonstrates respect for each individual member and acknowledgement of differing viewpoints. Communications on the AGOSCI list are expected to demonstrate typical e-mail protocols including the following expectations.

LIST CONDUCT

- Consider confidentiality at all times. Identifying information regarding individuals should not be posted.
- Keep your posting relevant to the topic/purpose of the list. Writing a descriptive subject header allows members to identify messages that may or may not apply or be of interest.
- Consider whether your response should go to the list or the author of the posting. Remember, using 'Reply' will reply to all subscribers of the list. If you wish to reply to the author of a particular posting, you will need to reply directly to their email address (in the header section of the email).
- Include your "signature" at the bottom of your messages—your signature/footer should include your full name, email address and any other contact information you wish to share. This will allow list members to contact you directly if required, rather than reply to the entire list.
- Be respectful of others' different opinions—Electronic lists bring people together from around the country and the world. Don't assume that everyone shares the same views or background. The richness of discussion and debate comes from these different viewpoints and backgrounds. Lack of respect causes individuals to be hesitant to submit messages to the list and that richness can be lost.
- Writing in all CAPITALIZED letters on electronic lists is considered to be shouting at someone.
- When reacting to someone else's message, address the ideas, not the person—Angry, sarcastic or antagonistic messages will not be tolerated. Be courteous. Never include obscenities in your messages. Be sure to take time to explain what you mean as quickly written messages may be easily misunderstood and may be misinterpreted.

RULES ABOUT POSTING

- Please do not post attachments such as documents or photographs. Include this information in the body of the post or provide a link to the content.
- The posting of professional development events outside of AGOSCI events is not permitted. Please contact your local state AGOSCI rep for information about how to advertise other events in your state.
- The posting of job vacancies is permitted as long as the position relates to working with people with complex communication needs.
- Commercial advertisements are not acceptable on the AGOSCI list. Vendors will identify themselves in posts where they have a commercial interest.

Your adherence to these protocols is greatly appreciated as are your contributions to the professional discussion on this list.

An individual who does not follow these rules of participation may be asked in private, by the list moderator, to apologize, may have their future postings screened for appropriate content by the list moderator, or, if a problem situation is deemed to be significant enough, may be asked by the AGOSCI Leadership Team to leave the list or be removed from the list by the moderator.

The AGOSCI List rules are located at <http://www.agosci.org.au/list.htm>
Contact information for AGOSCI Executive can be found
<http://www.agosci.org.au/contacts.htm>

Thank you for your involvement in the AGOSCI listserv.