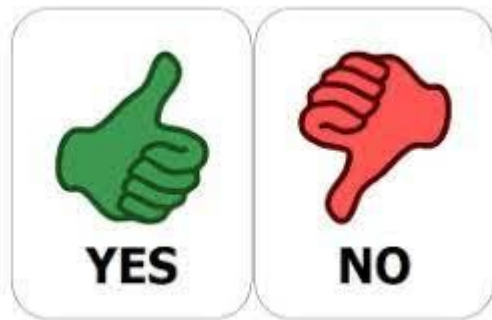


AAC COMMUNICATION



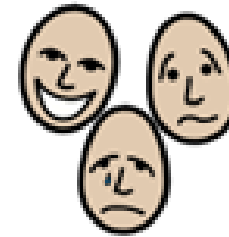
- AAC means all of the ways that someone **communicates besides talking**.
 - Augmentative means to **add** to someone's speech like signs or pictures.
 - Alternative means to be **used instead** of speech.
- People of all ages can use AAC, if they have trouble with speech or language skills.
- Some people use AAC throughout their life. Others may use AAC only for a short time, like when they have surgery and can't talk.



Different types of AAC

- There are a lot of different types of AAC.

- gestures and facial expressions
- writing
- drawing
- little objects resembling the real thing
- spelling words by pointing to letters
- pointing to photos, pictures, or written words
- high-tech options include things like using an appto communicate f.ex. on a tablet or phone
- using a computer with a “voice,” sometimes called a speech-generating device



FACIAL EXPRESSIONS

Multimodal communicators

- Many people who cannot speak but use AAC are multimodal communicators. This means **they have multiple ways to communicate** their messages. As well as AAC, they might use vocalizations, word approximations, and maybe some gesture and sign language. Many people show photos from their camera roll to add to what they are saying. All different methods of communication should be valued and respected. Different communication still tells us something!
- Even people with some spoken communication, may benefit from AAC. If speech is limited, AAC can help. It can give a person more words and language. They may communicate far more with AAC than they can with speech alone.

Communicating without speech

- Communicating without speech is difficult. People who do not speak are at a disadvantage in a speaking world. It can be confusing and frustrating when messages cannot be given effectively. This is frustrating for both the non-speaking person and their communication partner.
- When a person is not able to speak, others often make judgements about their competence, potential and ability to think and learn.
- **EVEN IF I CAN NOT TALK – IT DOESN'T MEAN I CAN NOT THINK!**

BENEFITS OF AAC

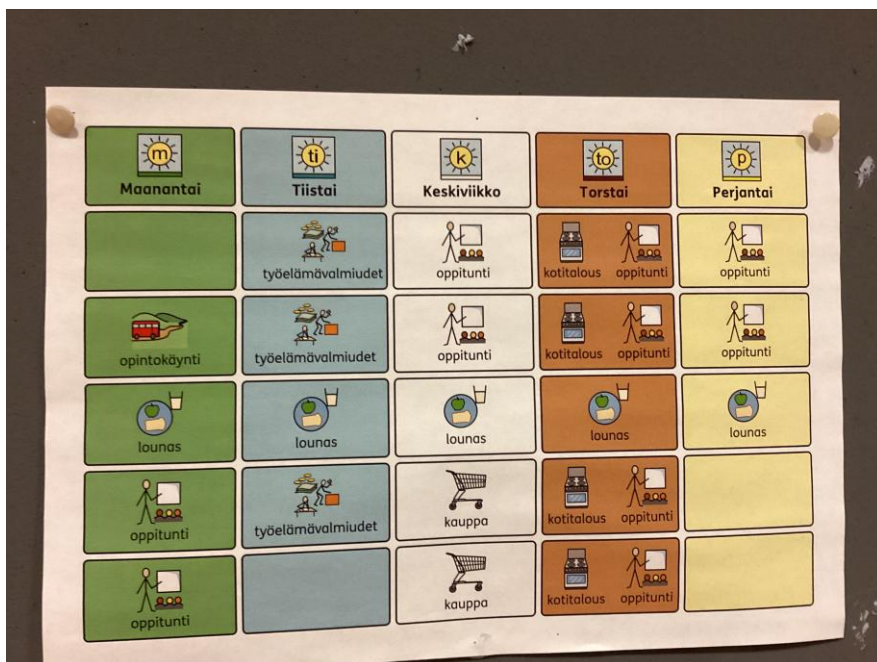
- becoming a subject not an object in one's own life
- increased autonomy and decision-making power over their own life
- increased independence
- stronger friendships and deeper relationships
- richer, more frequent social interactions
- deeper social roles: family member, friend, professional, student
- greater participation in their family lives and communities
- more respect from others
- improved information sharing with physicians or other health care personnel
- improved personal safety in a variety of care settings, such as hospitals or long-term facilities
- more employment and volunteer opportunities
- improved physical and mental health

HOW YOU MAY FEEL, IF YOU CAN'T COMMUNICATE?

- more social isolation and loneliness
- increased frustration and acting out -> aggressive behaviour
- greater vulnerability, especially when alone in a care setting
- feeling shut out of important decisions over their own life
- inability to show what they know or can learn

Picture communication

- -How we use pictures at school?
- -structuring our day, week



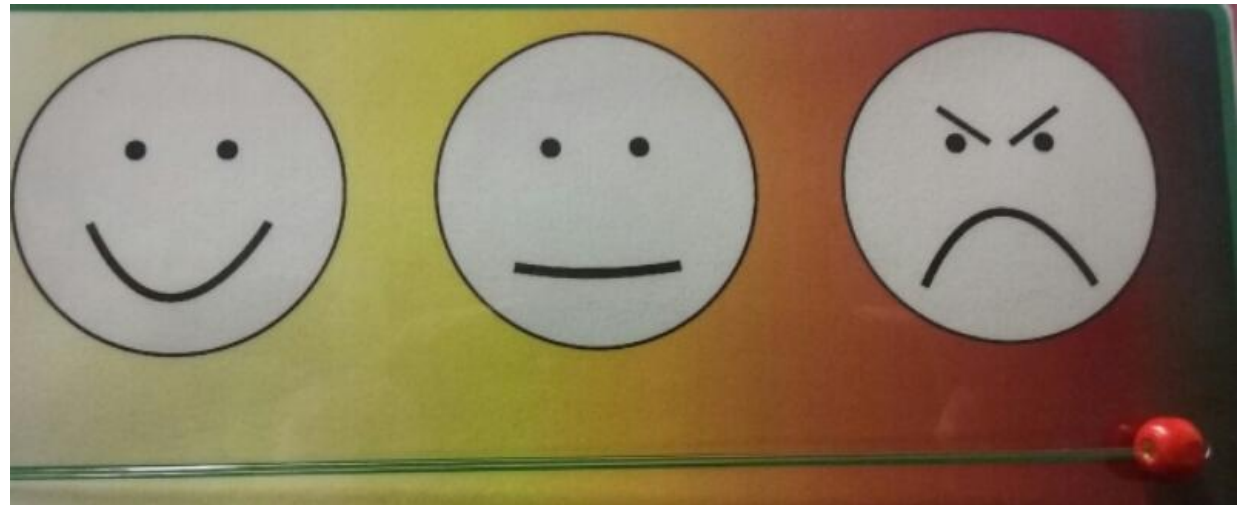
-months



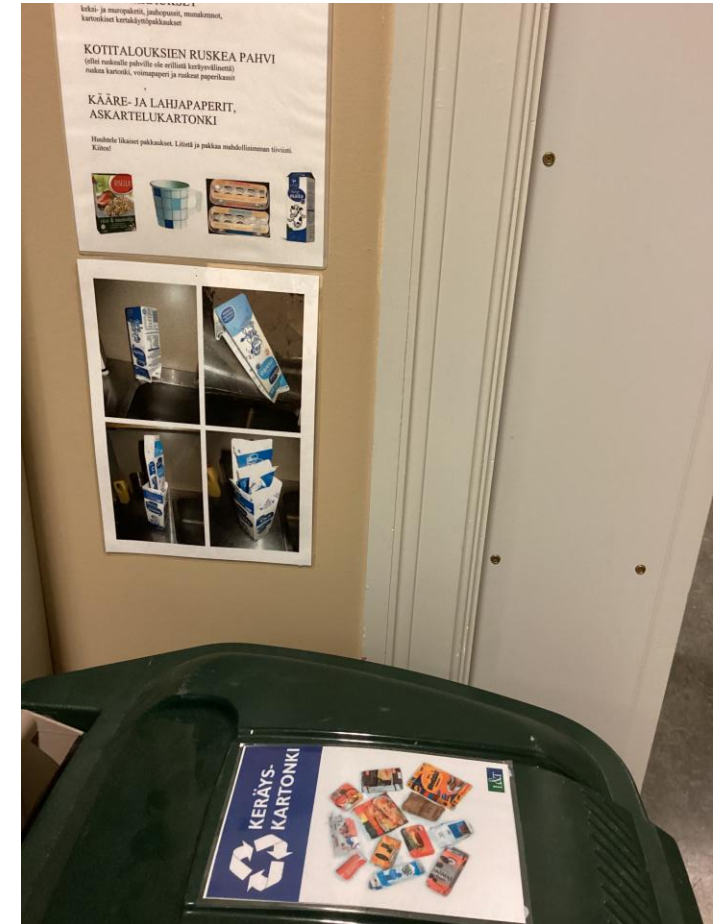
-communicating – answering questions with YES and NO symbols



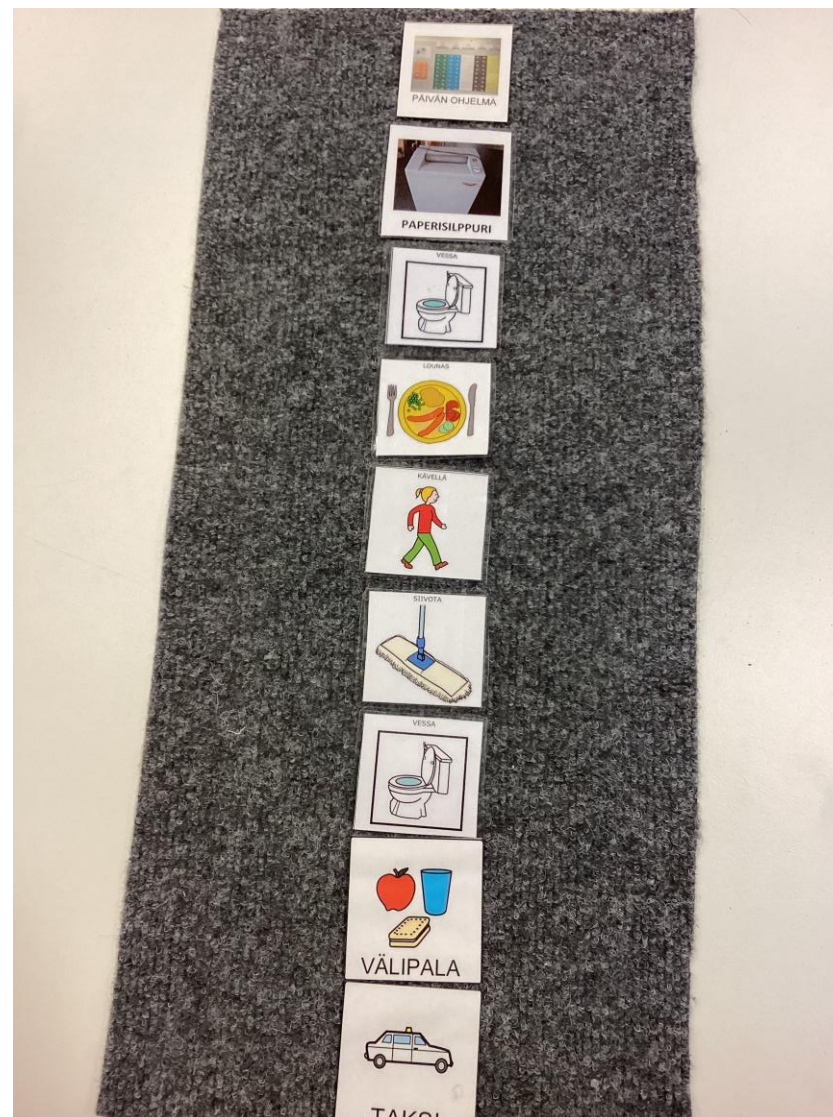
-learning to know and tell about feelings with pictures



-helping to understand our learning environment



-for orientation



-instructions at work



249 VAATEHUOLTO

MUUN MUASSA:

- LAKANAT
- TYYNYLIINAT
- PYYHKEET
- PEITOT
- POIKKILAKANAT
- YHTEISKÄYTÖSSÄ
OLEVAT VAATTEET

ATEHUOLTO

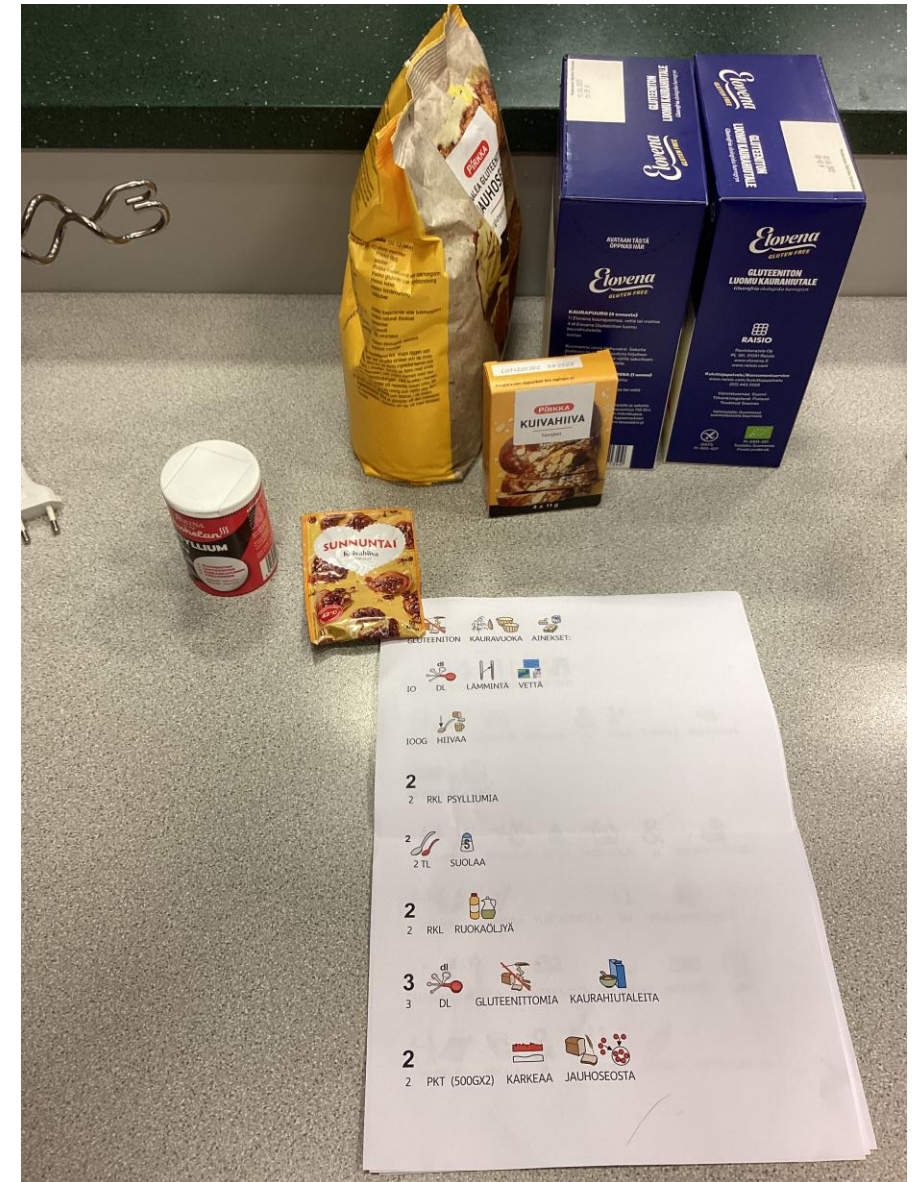


OTA TUOTE HYLLYSTÄ

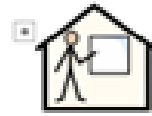


LAITAKÄRRYLLE

-instructing everyday skills



-as a social story



At school you are



in a classroom.



You don't



disturb

other



students.

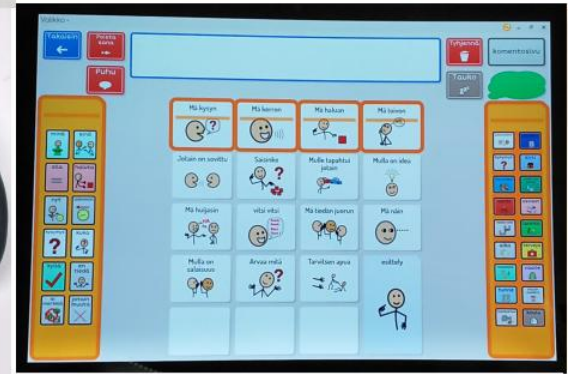
– can also been quickly drawn with “stick people”



Helping us instructing students:
having pictures with us all the time



Students having their own helping device:



PROXEMICS

- How you arrange your classroom
 - does it support communication or
 - does it prevent it
 - how far are you from others
 - can you see each other when you communicate





MORE INFORMATION:

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Augmentative_and_alternative_communication
- <https://www.asha.org/public/speech/disorders/aac/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SNsdeS8VKg4>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XPujJrsQGjw>
- <https://sclera.be/en/vzw/home>

AAC Task for January

* Make a day programme for someone or for some environment like supported living with pictures

Or

* Make pictures for some environment like kitchen

* Take a picture of the completed task and send it to our Teams channel by January 20, 2025. You can find visual materials at the following link:

[AAC Symbols and shared resources - ARASAAC](https://www.sclera.be/en/vzw/home)
<https://www.sclera.be/en/vzw/home>



Next steps for WP 5



In January, we will have the next webinar about **learning difficulties**.



The expert will be Elina Johansson, a special education teacher from Luovi Vocational College.



We will send the webinar invitation at the beginning of January once we confirm the date with Elina.



In February (19th-28th), Mari and Riina will come to Moshi, and we will have the WP5 on-site session.



We will send you the detailed schedule and content at the beginning of January.



Merry Christmas and Happy
New Year to everyone!