

# Referral Criteria – Communication and Writing Aids Service (CWAS)

## Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC)

### PLEASE READ THROUGH CAREFULLY

CWAS' **Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC)** service provides support for both face to face and written communication for clients whose speech does not meet their everyday needs. As an Assistive Device Program (ADP) clinic, CWAS can authorize ADP funding when clinically recommended.

CWAS services the Toronto, Durham, York and Simcoe regions with the following exceptions:

**CLIENT LIVES IN TORONTO** and meets ALL of the following criteria:

- Can use fingers to point/press button
- Has a diagnosis of Developmental Disability or Intellectual Disability
- And/or is a current client of Surrey Place Developmental Disabilities Services

Consult Surrey Place's referral criteria

**CLIENT LIVES IN YORK OR SIMCOE** and

- Can use fingers to point/press buttons

Consult Children's Treatment Network's referral criteria

**In order to be eligible for CWAS' AAC Referral, the client must meet ALL of the following criteria:**

- Unable to speak or whose speech is unclear or limited
- Under the age of 19 (at the time of referral)
- Is working with or has access to speech language pathology consultation

**and ONE or MORE of the following:**

Client has significant vision needs

Client has difficulty using fingers to point/press buttons

Client is able to use fingers to point / press buttons

**AND**

Can independently and functionally use **10** symbols within or across word classes (e.g. verbs, nouns, adjectives, pronouns) on a communication system (i.e. board, book or device) to express at least 3 different topics (e.g. food, toys, places) with 2 or more partners

**OR**

Can use any combination of gestures and/or signs to express novel messages and whose receptive language is within normal limits

**If client DOES NOT meet any of the above CWAS' AAC referral criteria,** please refer to community speech-language services (e.g. preschool, school board)

Please use the referral form online at: [hollandbloorview.ca/referrals](http://hollandbloorview.ca/referrals)

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**Holland Bloorview**  
Kids Rehabilitation Hospital