

KidsChat

What children say about non-electronic communication aids

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***making it
happen***

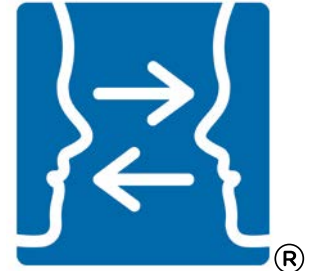
The logo for Scope Australia, featuring the word "scope" in a dark blue, lowercase sans-serif font. Above the letters "o", "p", and "e" are three small circles in blue, green, and red respectively, arranged in a slight arc.

scope




Communication & Inclusion Resource Centre

We offer information, advice, resources and services including:

- Communication access
- Communication aids
- Translating written information into Plain Language & Easy English
- Disability education
- Community inclusion - supporting community participation
- Key Word Sign - signs and gesture
- GoKids - advice and support on mobility devices for children
- Positive Behaviour Support
- Support Coordination.



Communication Aid Services in Victoria

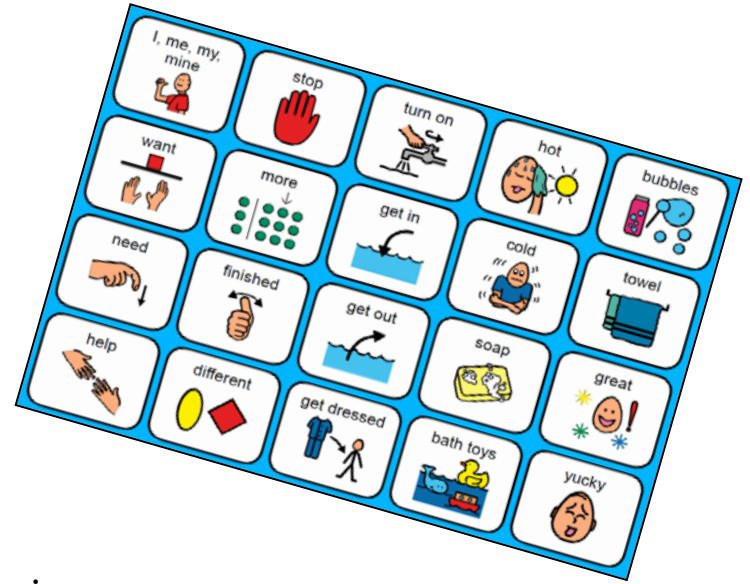
| | Children (0 - 18 years) | Adults (18+) |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Electronic AAC aids |  Aids and Equipment Program (A+EP) - Electronic Communication Devices Service (ECDS) | |
| Non-Electronic AAC aids |  |  Non-Electronic Communication Aid Service (NECAS) |

Communication Aid Services in Victoria

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| Electronic AAC aids |  <p>Aids and Equipment Program (A+EP) - Electronic Communication Devices Service (ECDS)</p> | |
| Non-Electronic AAC aids |  <p>Introducing Kids Chat <i>Non-electronic Communication Aid Scheme (NECAS) for children</i></p>  |  <p>Non-Electronic Communication Aid Service (NECAS)</p> |

Kids Chat

- A pilot program
- Provided non-electronic communication aids to children with complex communication needs
- 100 free customised communication aids were developed for children in Victoria
- Research grant through Speech Pathology Australia
- Kids Chat pilot funded by Westfield Shopping Centres



Communication aids

- Comprehensive expressive aids
 - ✓ Communication books (inc. PODD)
 - ✓ Spelling boards
- Targeted expressive aids
 - ✓ Aided Language Displays (ALDs)
 - ✓ Community Request Cards
 - ✓ Object Symbols
 - ✓ Choice making cards
 - ✓ Signing book
- Receptive aids (e.g. visual supports)
 - ✓ My Day Book
 - ✓ Calendars / Visual timetables
- Supports for communication partners
 - ✓ Book About Me
 - ✓ Personal Communication Dictionary
 - ✓ Chat book
 - ✓ Communication Passport



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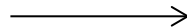
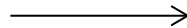


Research questions

- What were the number and types of communication aids requested?
- What were the benefits/limitations of the communication aids to the applicant of the aid?
- How efficient was the Kids Chat communication aids service?
- What were the benefits/limitations to the recipient from the child's point of view?
- How, when and where do children use their aids received through Kids Chat?

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Methods

- Application data analysis
- Telephone interviews with 20 applicants
- On-line satisfaction Survey Monkey
- Talking Mats interview with 5 recipients (children)

Talking Mats interviews with 5 recipients

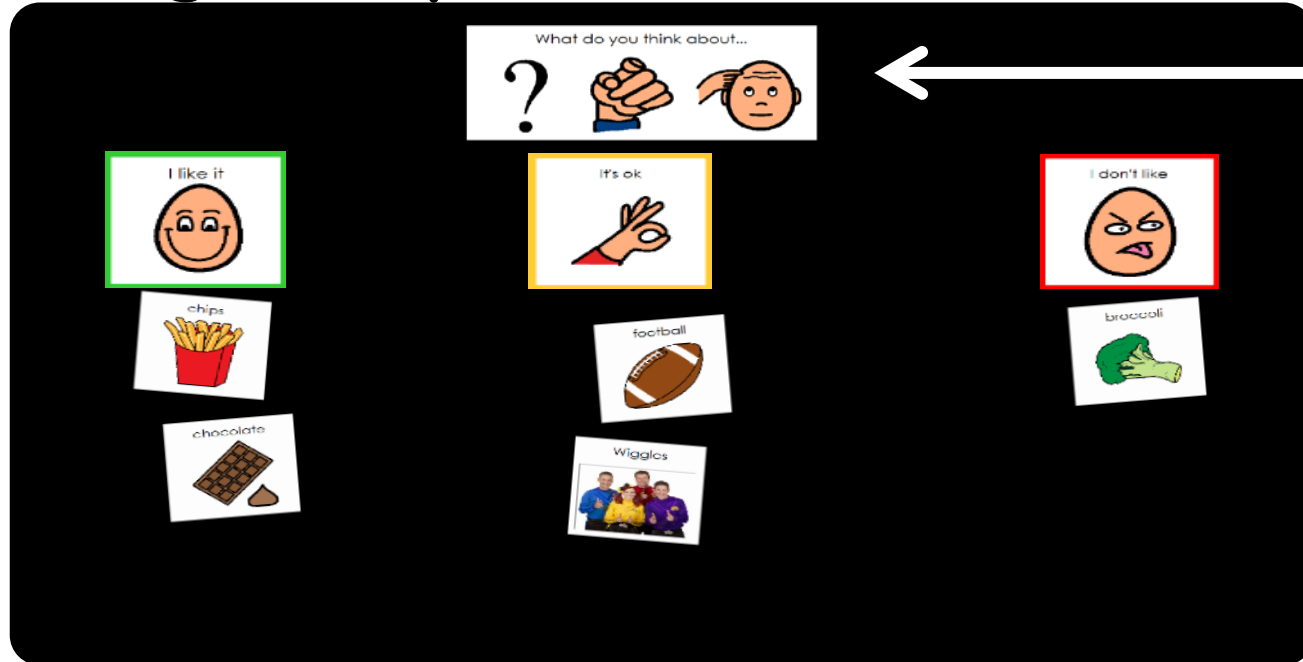
Selection Criteria

Child must:

- Have received a Kids Chat communication aid
- Be school age
- Have the ability to answer simple yes/no questions
- Have pre-existing communication skills to comment on their communication aid
- Be located within 1 hr drive of research centre
- Have demonstrated ability to complete a Talking Mat
- Complete a Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test (PPVT)
- Participate in a Talking Mats interview

Talking Mats interviews with 5 recipients

Talking Mats questions: Test Mat #1

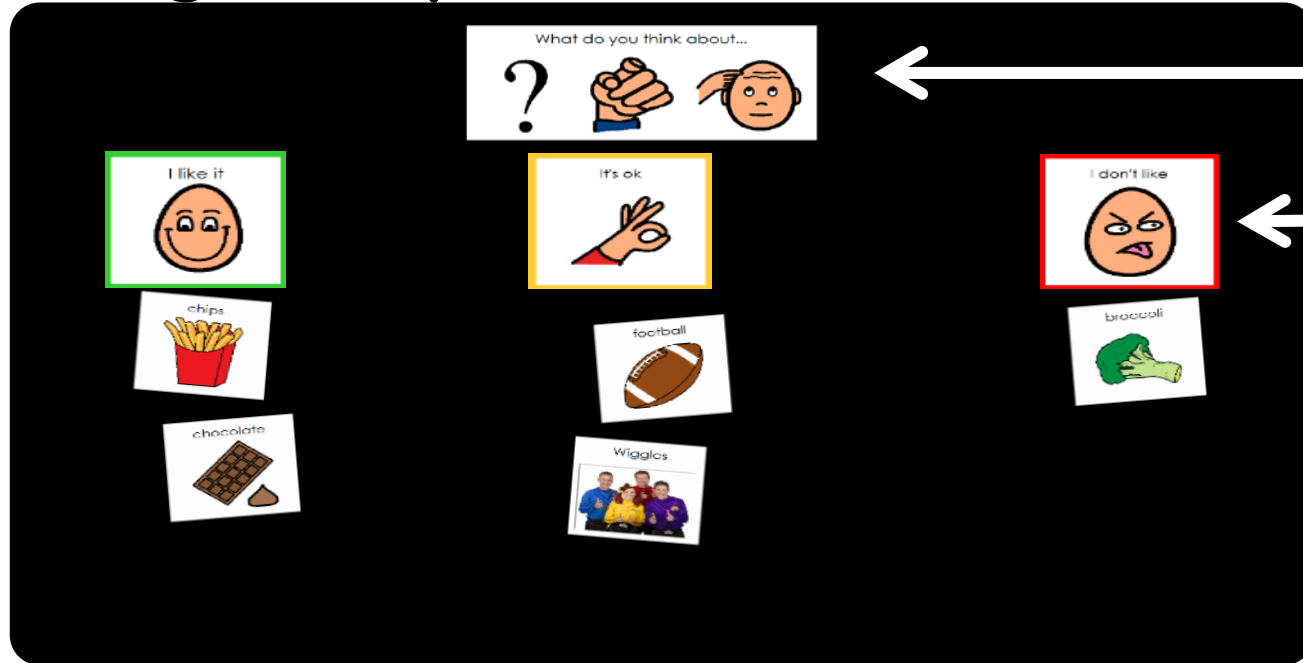


The image shows a digital interface for a Talking Mats interview. At the top, a white box contains the question "What do you think about..." followed by three icons: a question mark, a hand pointing, and a person's head. A large white arrow points from the right towards this box. Below the question box are three columns of response options, each with a facial expression icon and a topic card. The first column, labeled "I like it" with a smiling face, includes cards for "chips", "chocolate", and "Wiggles". The second column, labeled "It's ok" with a neutral hand gesture, includes a "football" card. The third column, labeled "I don't like" with a frowning face, includes a "broccoli" card.

Topic Card

Talking Mats interviews with 5 recipients

Talking Mats questions: Test Mat #1

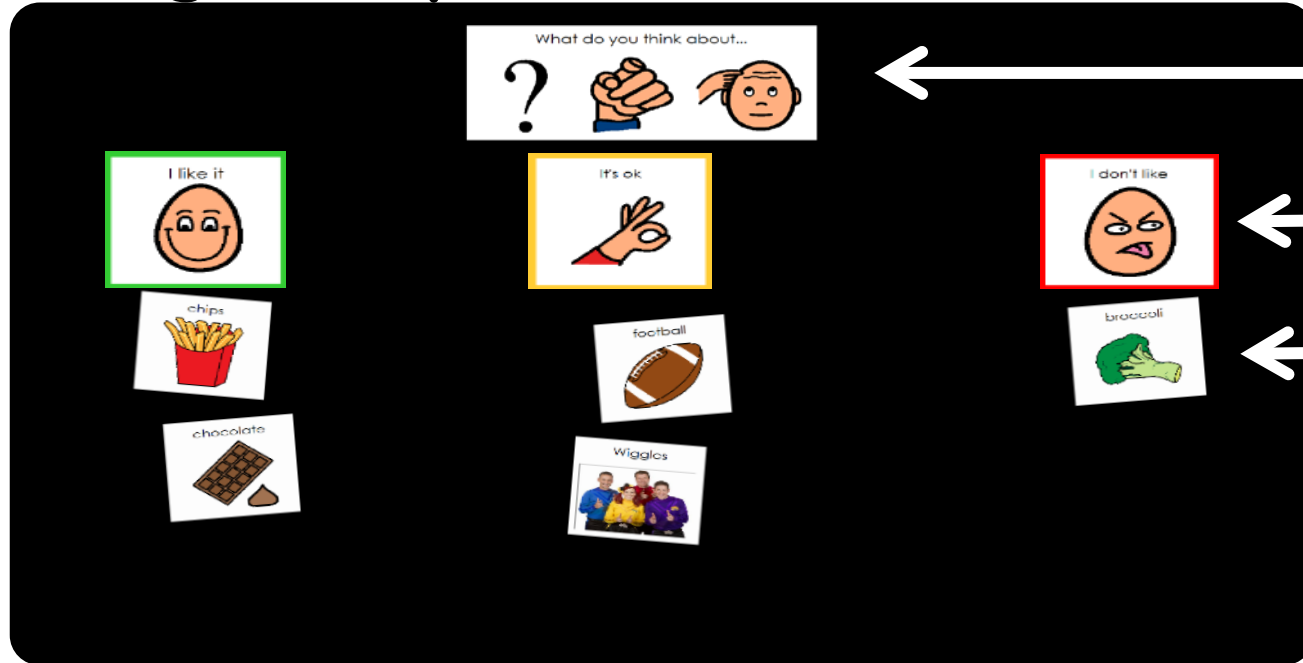


Topic Card

Top Scale

Talking Mats interviews with 5 recipients

Talking Mats questions: Test Mat #1



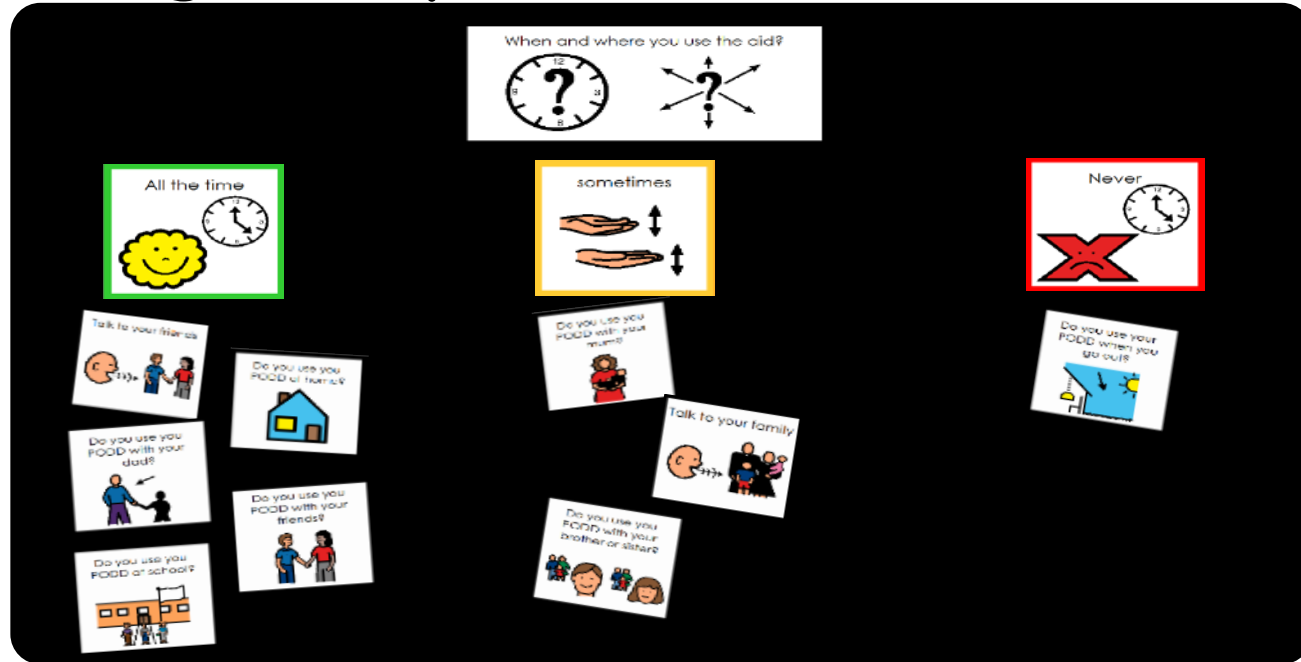
Topic Card

Top Scale

Topic Cards

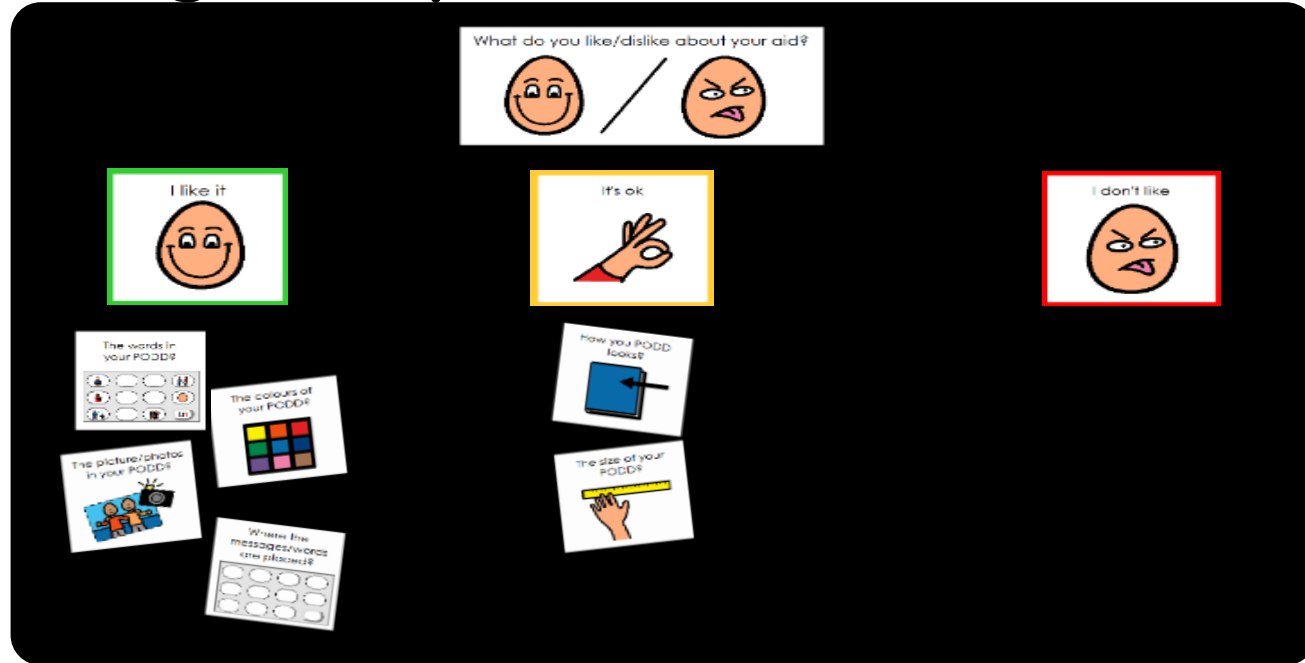
Talking Mats interviews with 5 recipients

Talking Mats questions



Talking Mats interviews with 5 recipients

Talking Mats questions



Talking Mats interviews with 5 recipients

Talking Mats questions

How the aid has helped you?

yes

sometimes

no

Tell people what you don't like?

Tell people what you think about something?

To ask a question?

To communicate better than before you had the PODD?

Talk to your friends

Tell people what you need

Tell people what you want

Talk to people when you are out?

Tell people what you like

Talking Mats interviews with 5 recipients



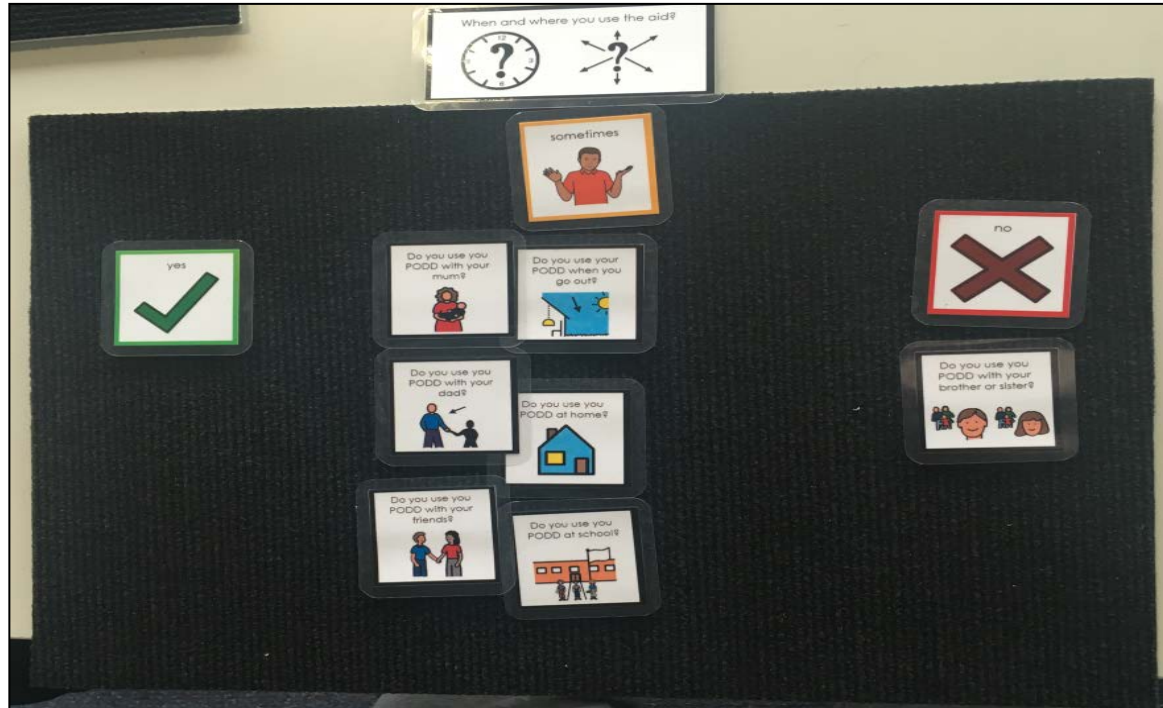
| | Age at interview | Primary diagnosis | Secondary diagnoses | PPVT Standard Score | Primary language | Communication method | Reason for PODD request through Kids Chat | Approx. time exposed to PODD prior to interview |
|------|------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Jim | 12 | ASD | ID | 65 | English | Speech (limited output). | Expand verbal output. | Since May 2016 |
| John | 18 | ASD | ID | 21 | Cantonese | No speech – prior to PODD, relied on visuals and adult interpretation to get message across. Currently learning to use COMPASS PODD electronic communication device app and 70 cell PODD book. | Provide robust communication system. | Since May 2016 |
| Eddy | 10 | DS | ASD, ID | 31 | Vietnamese | Unintelligible speech secondary to articulation errors and phonological processes. | Reduce communication breakdowns and expand vocabulary and language. | Since May 2016 |
| Jack | 14 | CP | Anxiety | 75 | English | Speech, limited breath support and requires AAC to support expression | Compensatory / alternative communication method. | 2-3 years |
| Isla | 11 | CP | - | 32 | English | Speech (limited output). | Expand verbal output | 4-6 years |

Talking Mats interviews with 5 recipients

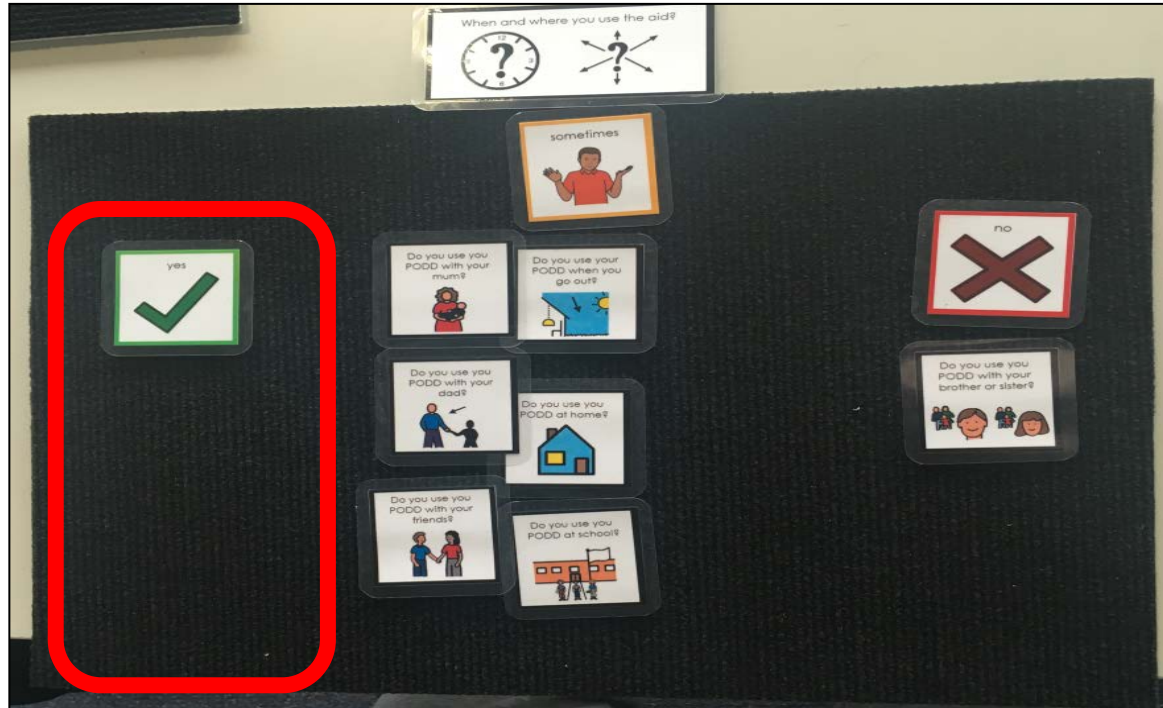
Results

- Children generally responded positively to their Kids Chat aid
- All children used their PODDs exclusively at school (not at home)
- Each case study needed to be considered and interpreted individually

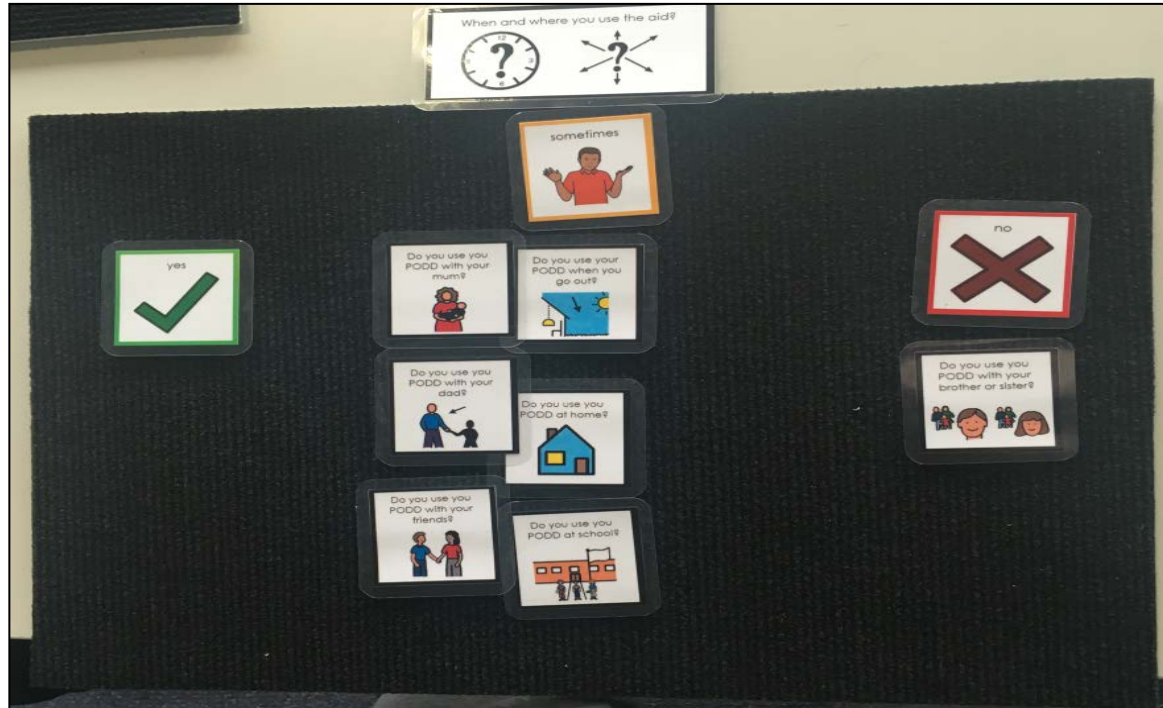
Talking Mats interviews with 5 recipients: Results



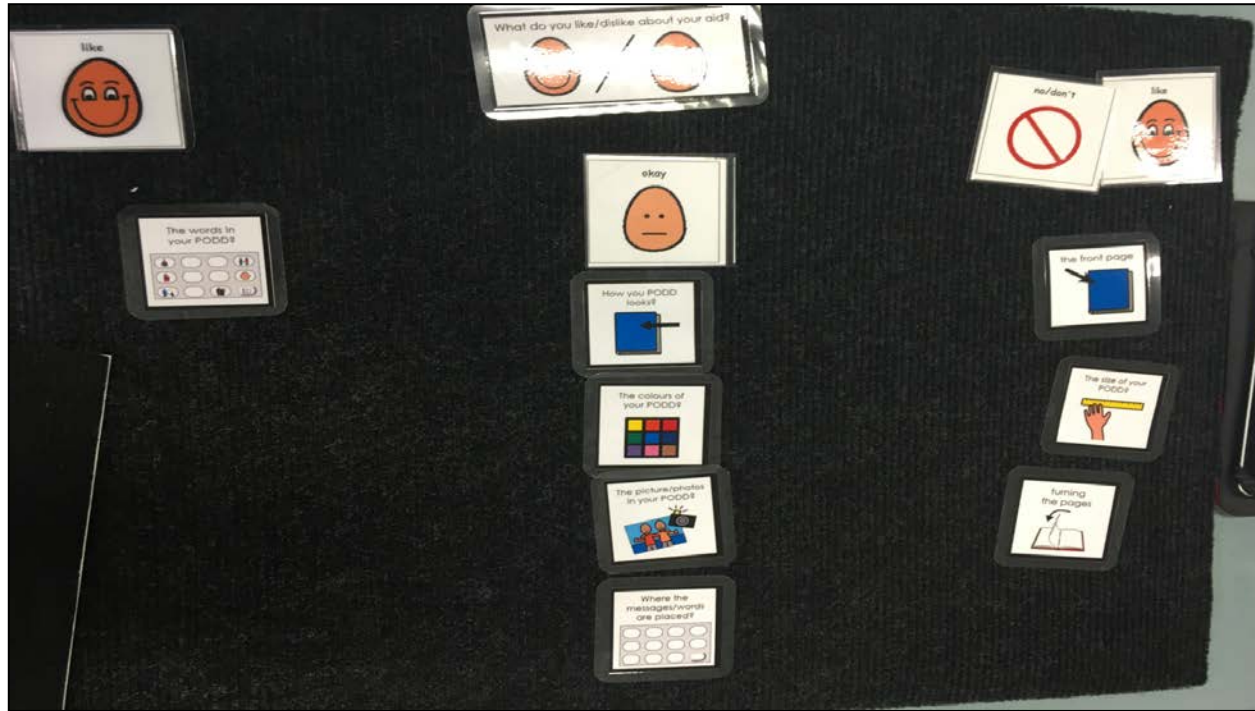
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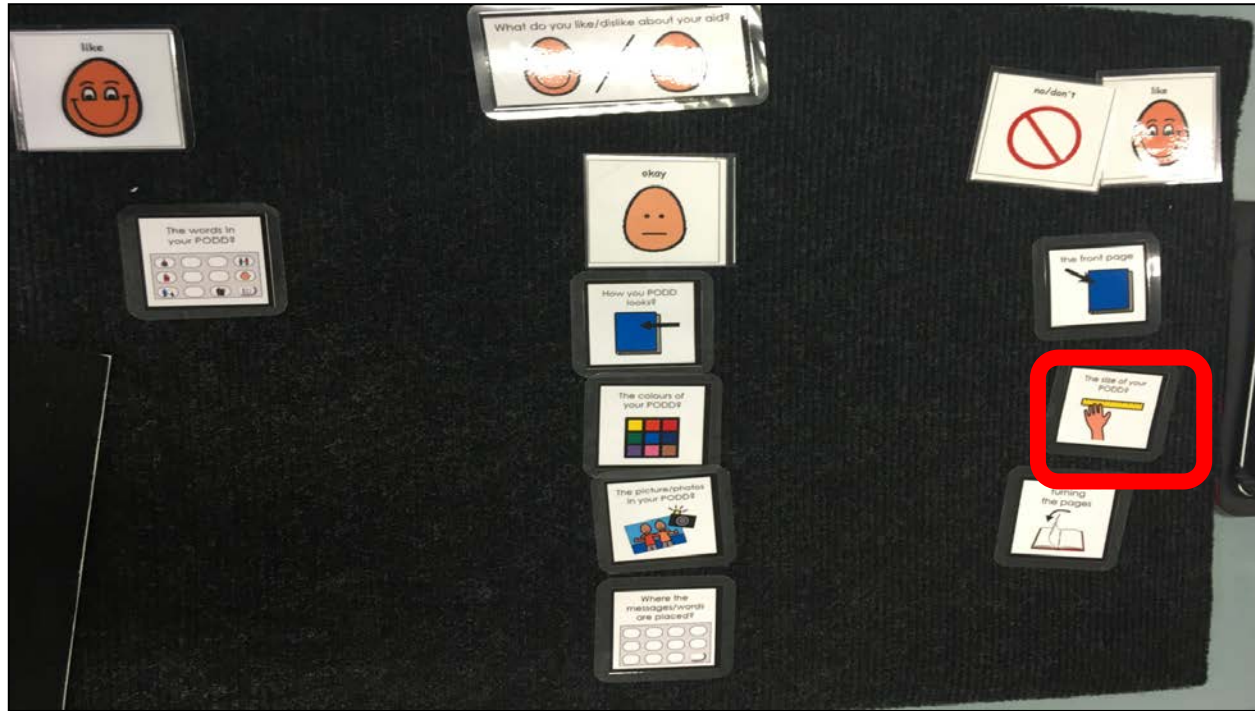
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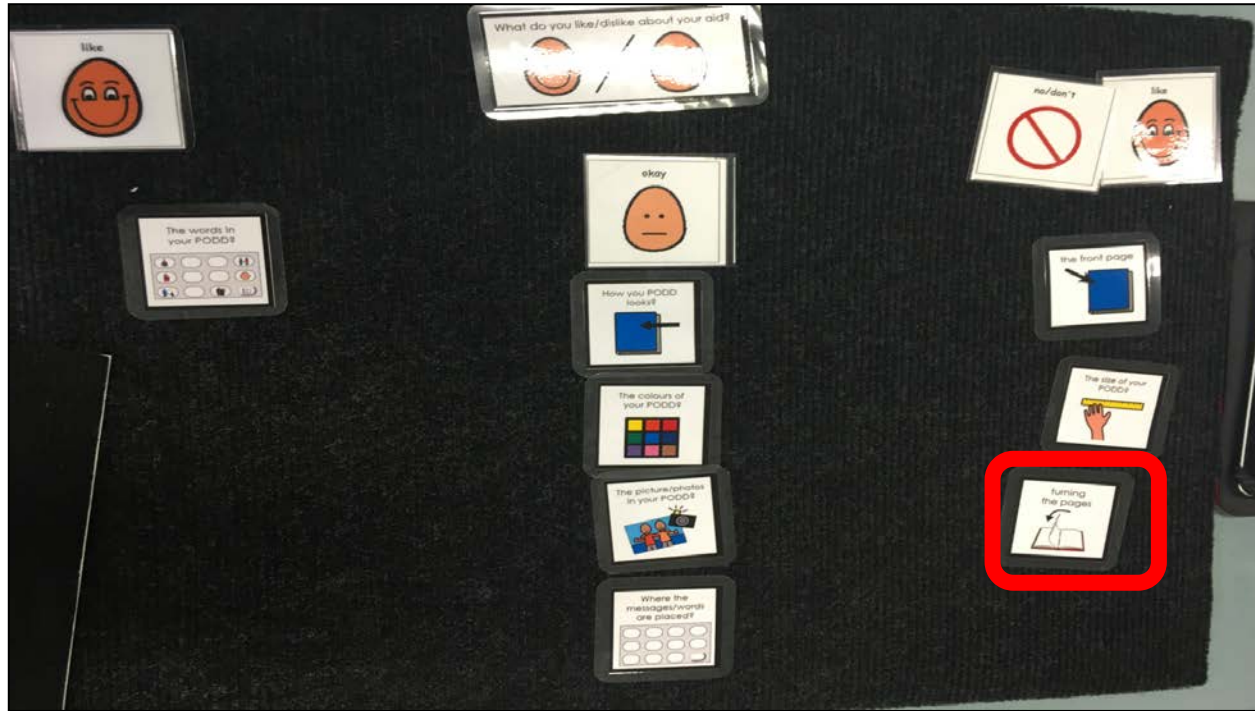
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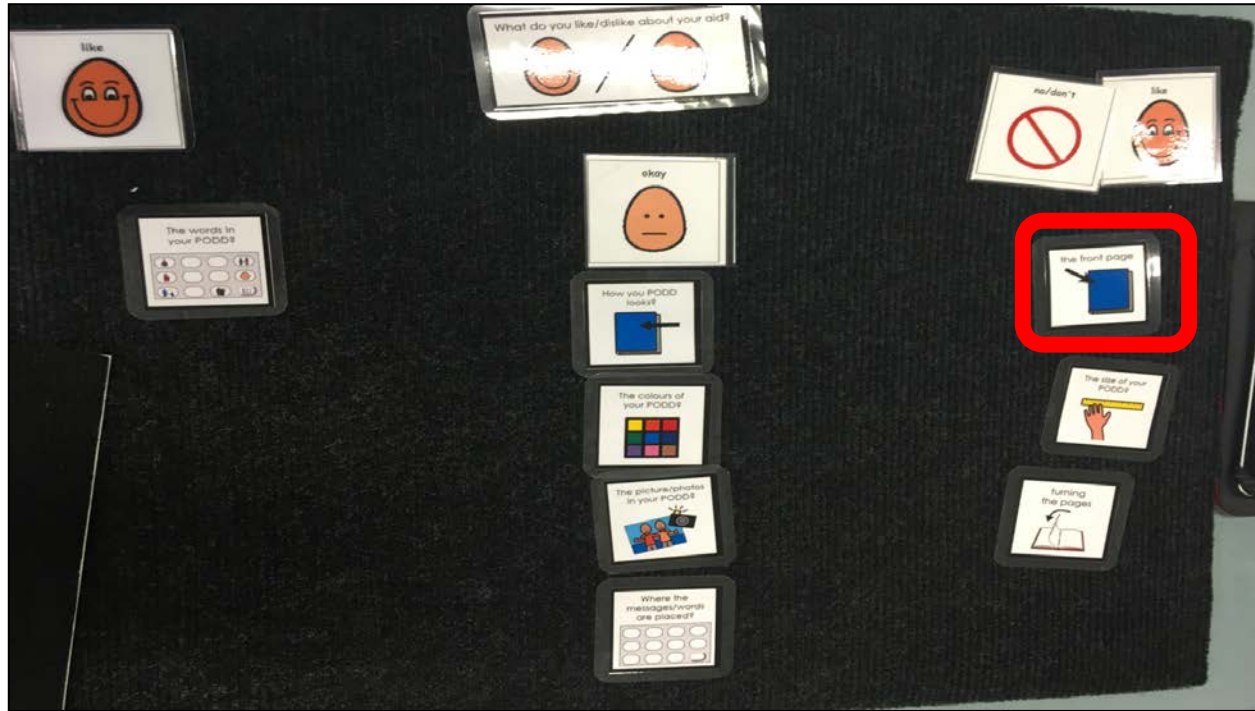
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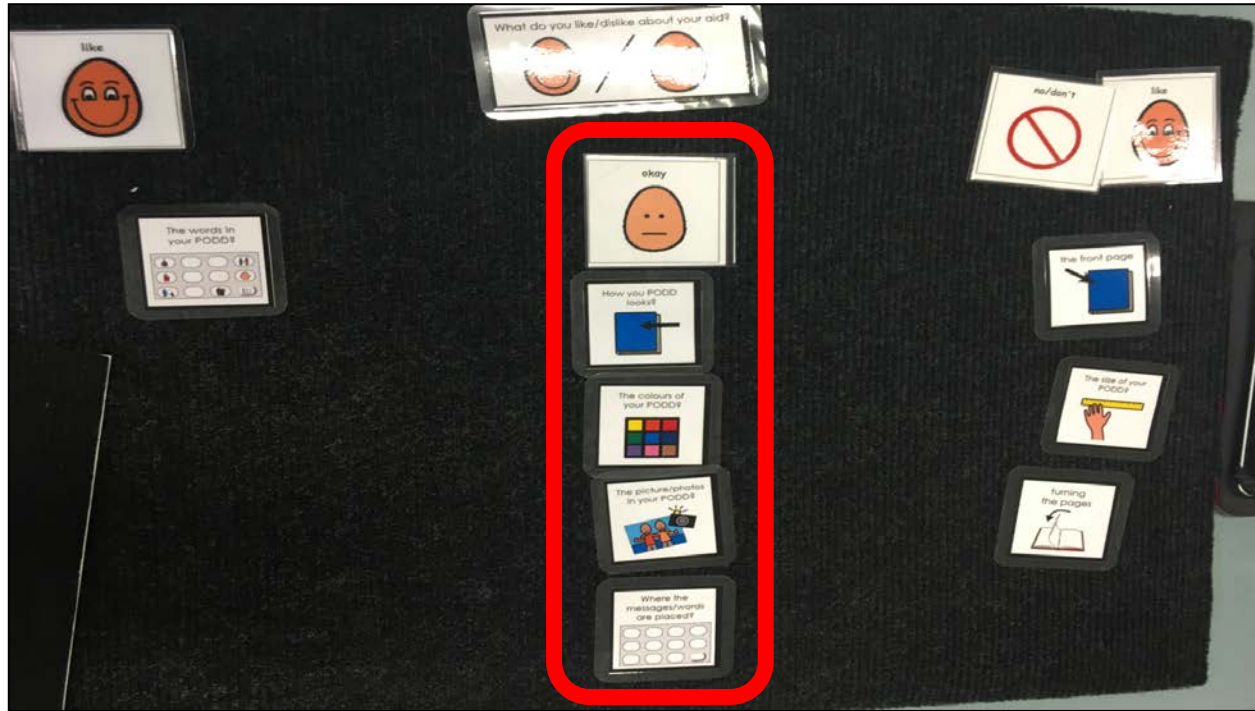
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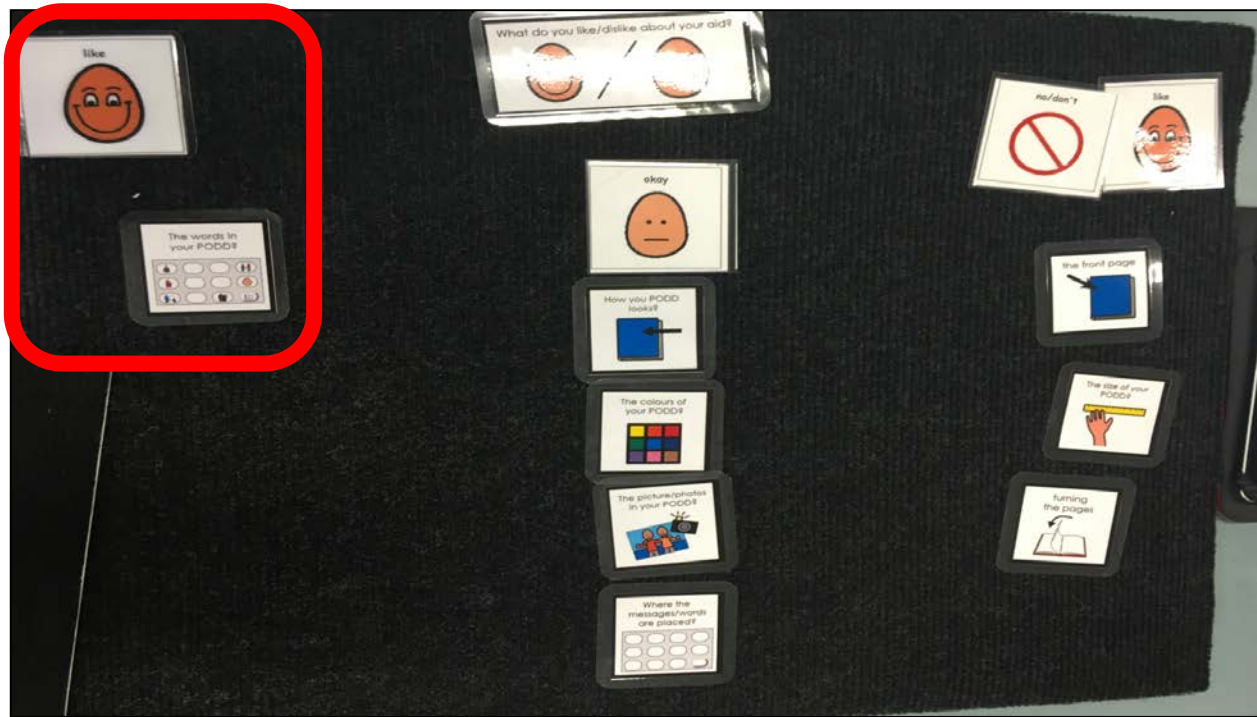
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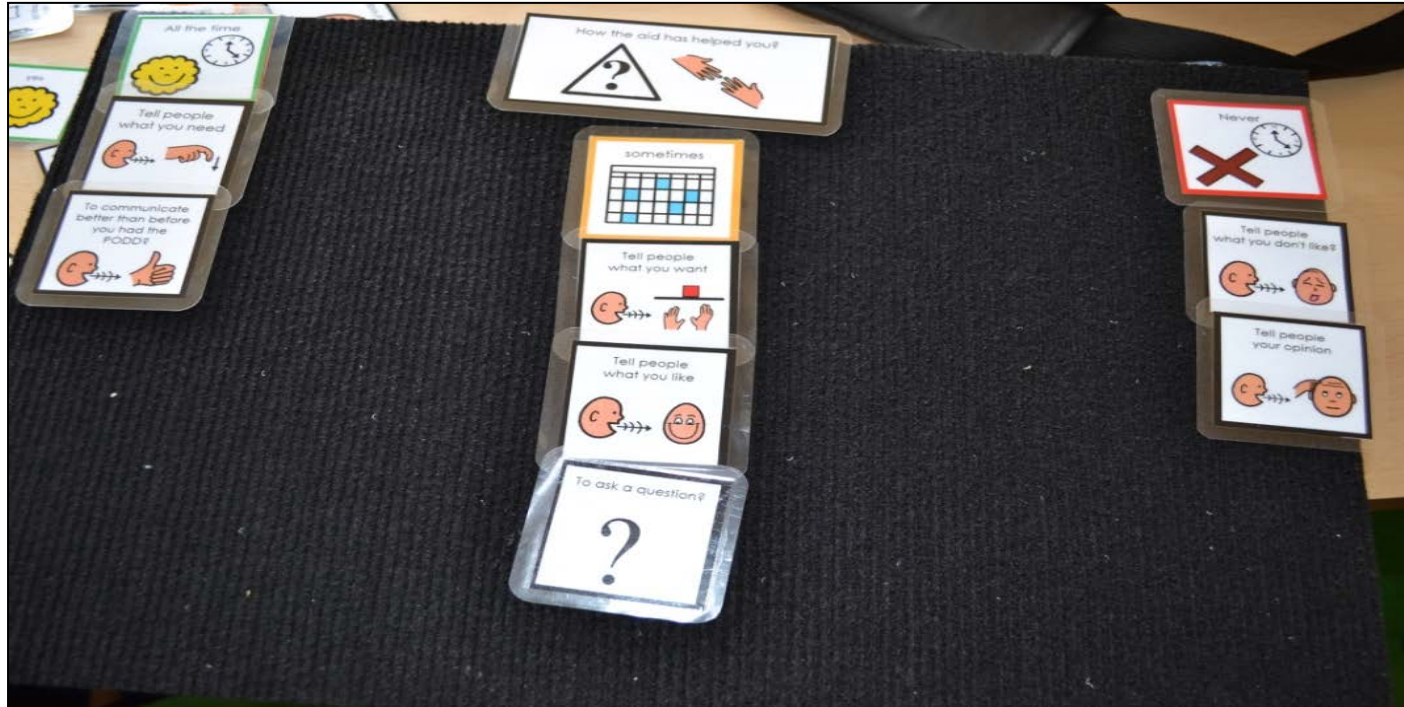
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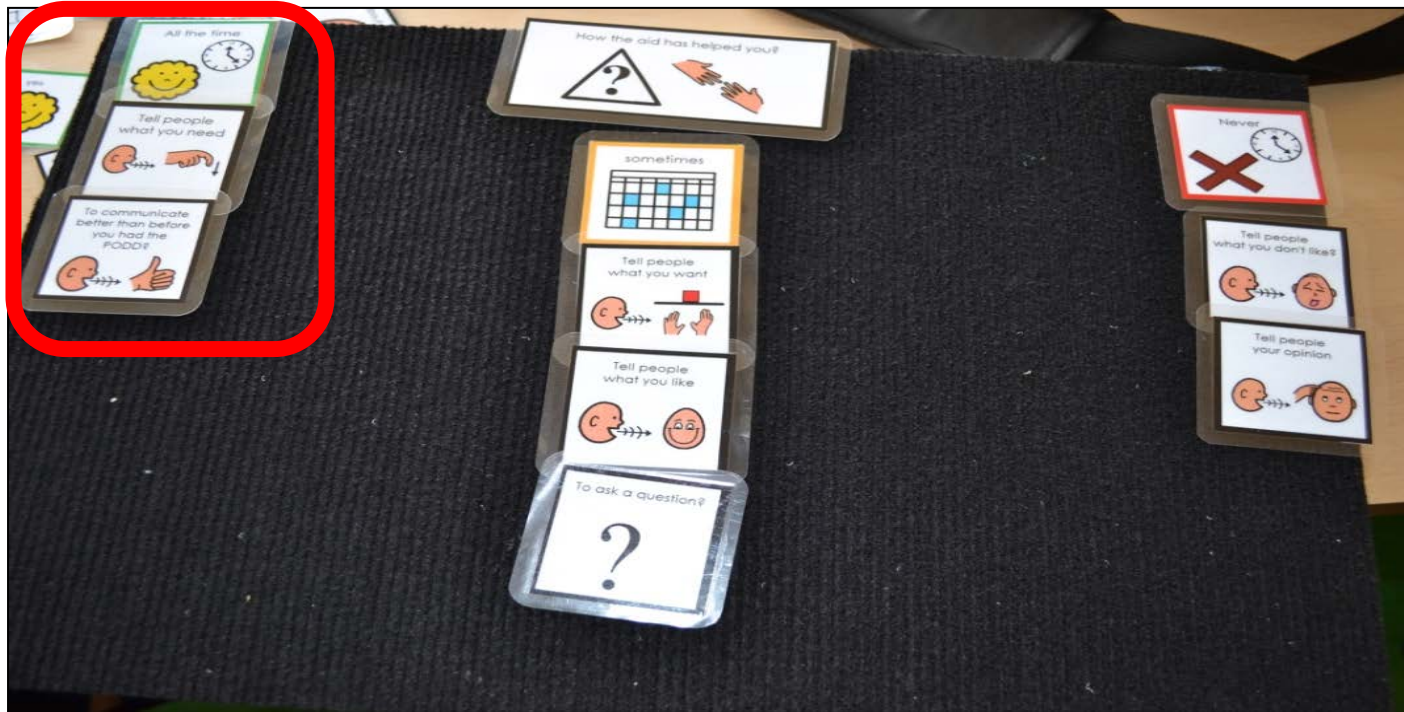
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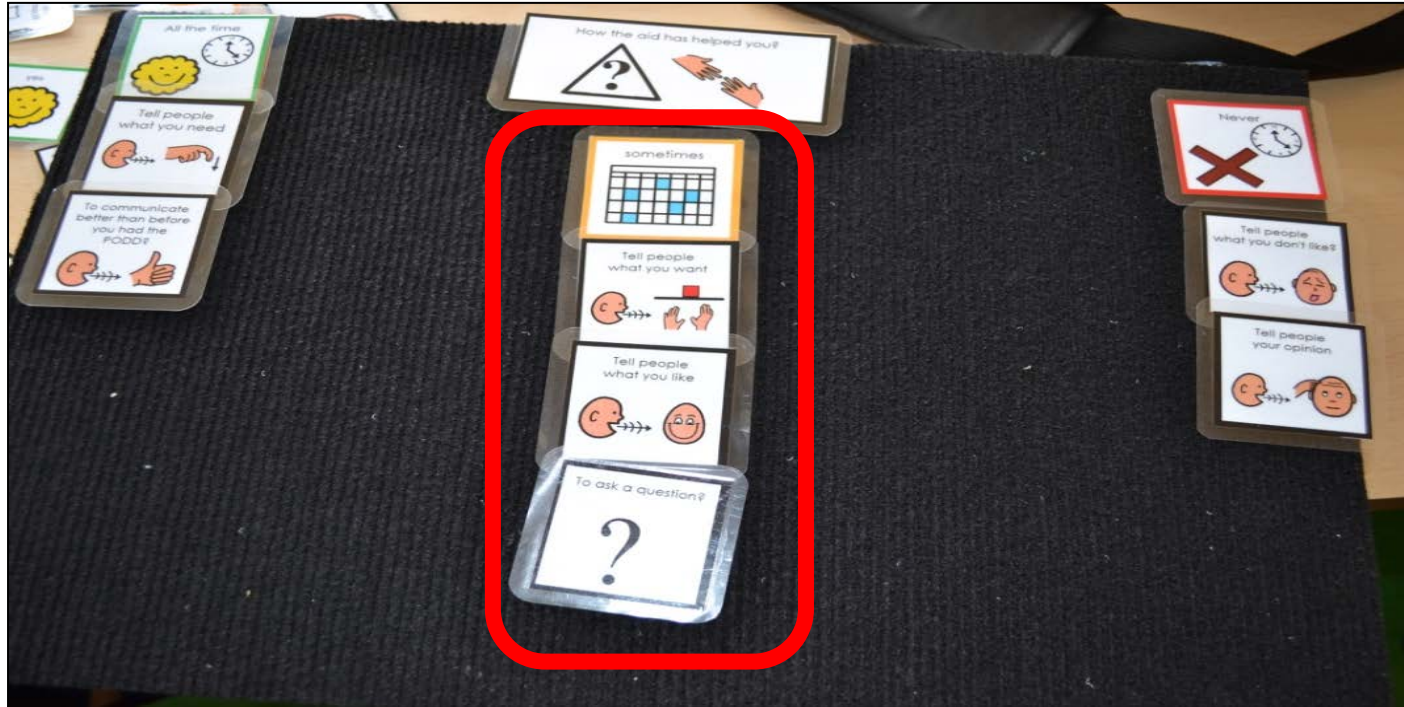
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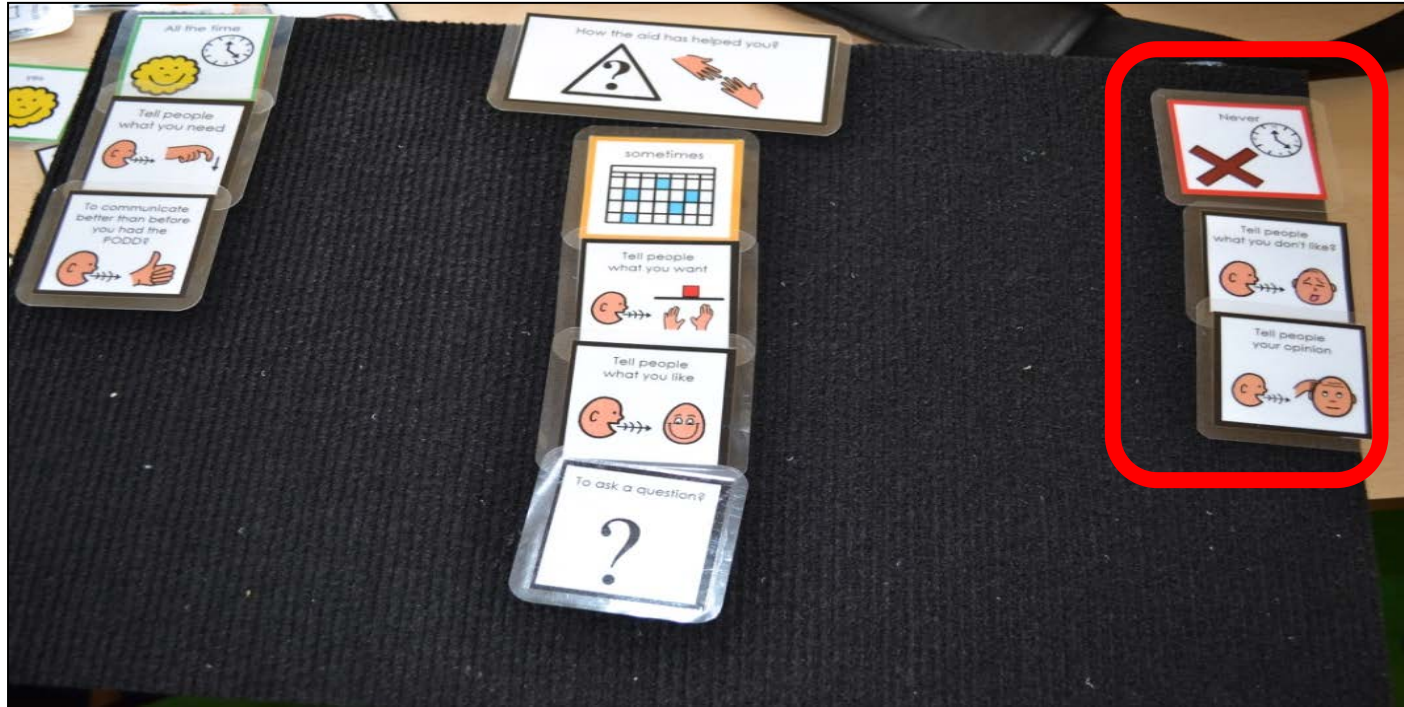
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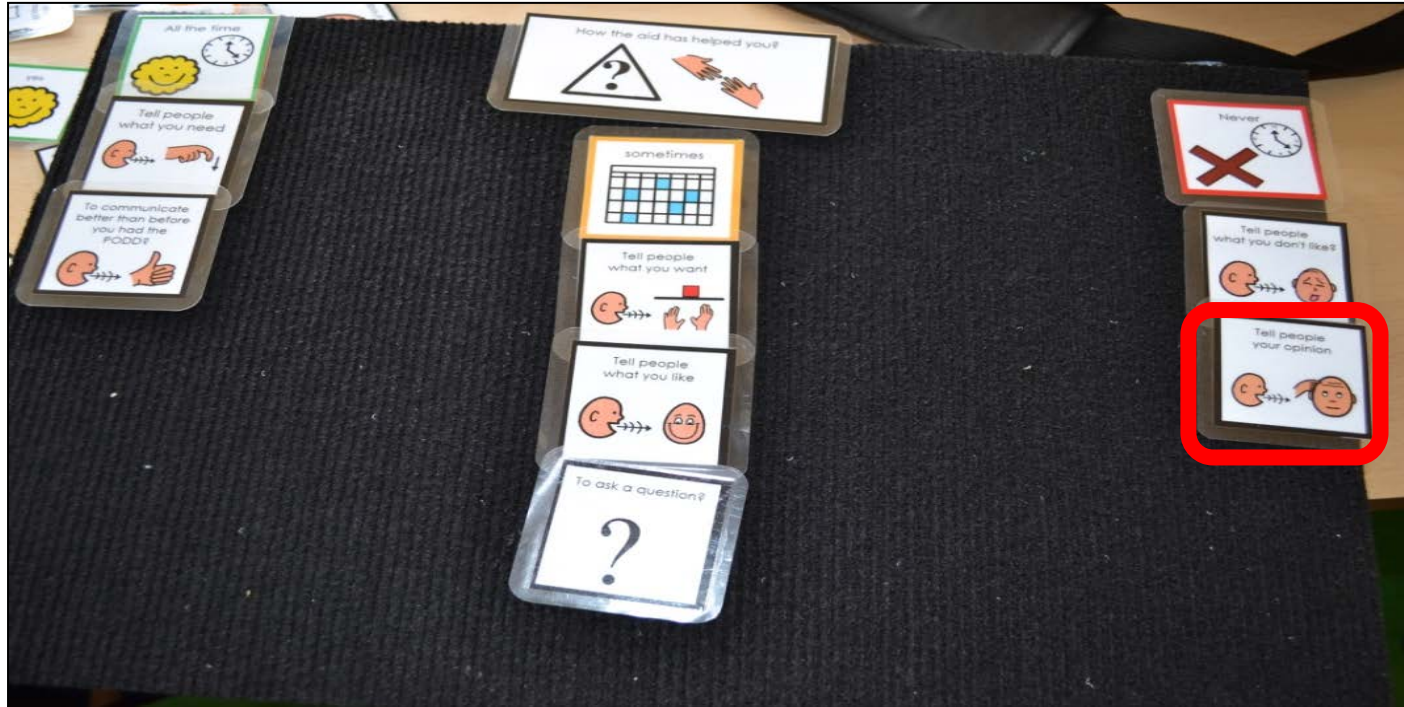
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Talking Mats interviews with 5 recipients

Discussion points

Limitations

- Length of time to complete interview
- Restricted sample
- Children new to comprehensive aids
- PPVT results
- Talking Mats requires pre-requisite skills

Where to from here?

- 360° view
- Talking Mats is a useful tool
- Long term follow-up

Where to from here?



- Recent funding from The Bowness Family Foundation

ndis

- NDIS and non-NDIS participants are eligible

Kids Chat

- Apply online:
[www.scopeaust.org.au/
service/kidschat/](http://www.scopeaust.org.au/service/kidschat/)

Contact details

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