

Brodie's communication journey!

Brodie Shaw

Jenna OBrien¹

¹ Jenna O'Brien Speech Pathology

Short Abstract

This presentation explores the communication journey of Brodie Shaw, an AAC user, from her perspective, from primary school to adulthood, including moving into her own home and building her team of supports around her. It highlights the evolution of communication strategies and tools Brodie has used over the years, the challenges faced in various educational settings, and the crucial role AAC plays in fostering identity and self-expression.

Brodie will share personal insights on the impact of AAC in building relationships, navigating social environments, and achieving life goals. This journey emphasises the importance of individualised AAC support and advocacy in empowering users to lead fulfilling lives. Hearing directly from AAC users is essential for therapists, parents, and others involved in supporting individuals with communication disabilities.

The presentation will be delivered through video content, providing a creative and unique format that authentically represents Brodie's voice. Brodie is excited to engage with the audience to observe their reactions. We believe AGOSCI provides a vital platform for listening to and sharing the lived experiences of AAC users, fostering greater understanding and advocacy within the community.

Long Abstract

This presentation explores the communication journey of Brodie Shaw, an AAC user, from primary school to adulthood. It provides an in-depth look at how Brodie has navigated her communication needs throughout different stages of her life, emphasising the evolution of her communication strategies and tools. Central to this journey are key milestones, including building friendships, assembling her support team, and moving into her own home.

Building Friendships

One of the most significant aspects of Brodie's journey has been her ability to form and maintain meaningful friendships. Through her use of different AAC modes and the support of her dedicated team, Brodie has developed unique ways to connect with others, overcoming barriers that might otherwise hinder her social interactions. Her personal insights into how AAC has facilitated these relationships will be shared, illustrating the impact of effective communication tools on building strong, supportive connections with peers. This segment highlights the importance of AAC in fostering social inclusion and helping users develop a robust support network of friends.

Building Her Support Team

As Brodie progressed through her educational years and into adulthood, the formation of a dedicated support team became crucial. This support team plays a vital role in her daily life. The presentation will showcase how Brodie and her team collaboratively developed and adapted her AAC strategies to meet evolving needs. The focus will be on the strategies employed to ensure that her support system is both effective and responsive to her individual needs, demonstrating the essential role of personalised support in achieving a happy life.

Living in Her Own Place

A major milestone in Brodie's journey was moving into her own home. This transition represents a significant step toward independence and self-determination. The presentation will cover the challenges and triumphs associated with this move, including how AAC tools and support systems were pivotal in managing this new phase of life. Brodie's experiences will shed light on the practical aspects of living independently while relying on AAC, showcasing the importance of having a well-established support network and personalised communication strategies to navigate daily life.

The presentation will be delivered through video content, providing a creative and unique format that authentically represents Brodie's voice. Brodie is excited to engage with the audience to observe their reactions. The AGOSCI platform provides an invaluable opportunity to share these lived experiences, fostering greater understanding and advocacy within the community.