

DURING THE PROJECT PRESENTED METHODOLOGICAL TOOLS

There is no need to discuss the importance of communication in human life. 70 % we spend our time communicating with each other. The need to communicate is common to everyone, even babies. However, there are people who face communication difficulties.

Function	DIFFICULTY DEGREE			
	Negligible	Easy	Medium	Significant
Communication	Can easily participate in the conversation.	Participating in a conversation. It is difficult to express thoughts orally and in writing. Homeowners understand the essence of what is being said.	Can't communicate in language. Expresses thoughts in writing. Uses gestures, auxiliary communication. Answers YES or NO, gestures, facial expressions.	Does not answer the question. Not always responsive to questions.

For people with speech and other communication disorders, language is replaced by augmentative and alternative communication (AAC). In 1980, the American Association for Language, Speech and Hearing adopted the term *augmentative and alternative communication*. Augmentative and alternative communication is the use of additional and assistive tools by people with speech and other communication disorders to help them express their thoughts, wishes and ideas.

Below we will review the methodological tools presented during the project.

Picture communication methodological tool "Let's communicate with pictures"

The method of communication with pictures "Let's communicate with pictures" provides an opportunity for people with language and communication difficulties to effectively and constructively solve problems, successfully participate in social life, adapt to different social conditions and requirements in the family, educational institution or other social environment. The set includes: home environment zoning pictures, individual agenda and daily activity posters, rules of conduct and recommended activity picture posters, feelings, emotions, behavioural picture fans, activity consistency picture cards, home environment items and home activities depicting pictures, etc. Using pictures develops not only the language and its perception, but also a person's independence, ability to plan their time, social skills. Learning to use communication pictures can be expected to develop verbal language more successfully and encourage individuals to communicate not only on the most important issues, but also to share impressions and experiences.



Can be used when: 1. The person perceives the cause-effect relationship; 2. Recognizes the object (-s); 3. Can choose one of two or one of three items; 4. Knows the purpose of the item (-s).

Positive aspects	Negative aspects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Does not require a person to have a high level of thinking and understanding. ○ Can quickly identify and show specific objects, people, actions, activities. ○ Easy to select and adapt to individual communication needs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Limited access to information due to limited use of items. ○ Items-symbols need to be assigned a permanent location where they can be easily accessed by the person using the system.

Alternative communication system PECS

Alternative communication system – PECS (*Picture Exchange Communication System*). It teaches a person to communicate by exchanging pictures. This method is based on the fact that communication takes place using images or symbols that change the communication system. The PECS method is used to teach a person to give another person a picture that contains their desire, as well as to understand the relationship between the words and the pictures (symbols) they represent. When teaching to communicate in this way, 6 stages of training are distinguished: 1. Selection of communication; 2. Spatial distance of the object (distance); 3. Choice (What you want? What you don't want?); 4. Sentence structure; 5. Answering questions; 6. Development of communication skills. Education to communicate in this way is not only the basis of language skills, but also a way to avoid problems of personal aggression and behaviour, social exclusion and loss of language skills.



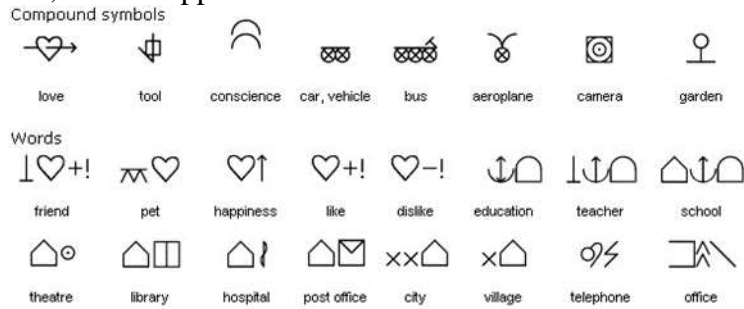
Can be used when: 1. The person perceives the cause-effect relationship; 2. Recognizes the object (-s); 3. Can choose one of two or one of three items; 4. Knows the purpose of the item (-s).

Positive aspects	Negative aspects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The systematic structure is easily understood even by the youngest children. ○ Easy to select and adapt to individual communication needs. ○ Can be used by people with intellectual disabilities. ○ Easily accessible and inexpensive. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Limits choices if a person wants to communicate about something that is not in the system.

BLISS Alternative Communication Character System

The Bliss Symbol System for Alternative Communication is an international symbol system that can still be described as a graphic language. The system of these symbols can be used by various means. For example, a printed character table on paper: a person can report information by pointing a finger at the required characters. The interlocutor's partner, meanwhile, has to watch and read, translate, or interpret the character message. The main dictionary consists of 900 characters, of which there are about 2,500 more characters. A Bliss symbol training computer program has been developed, which greatly facilitates training and communication opportunities for the person using

this system: the ability for people with disabilities to communicate using a tablet computer – the person presses the symbols, and the app sounds his choice.



Can be used when: 1. A person distinguishes one character from another; 2. Able to form from characters meaningful sentences; 3. Has a good visual perception; 4. Has high intelligence.

Positive aspects	Negative aspects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A computer program for Bliss characters has been created. ○ New characters can be created. Symbols or their elements can be combined to create new characters. ○ Allows you to expand the vocabulary according to the needs of the person. ○ Provides great opportunities to convey information. ○ It is possible to form compound, grammatically correct sentences. ○ Symbols are presented in tables created for an individual. ○ It is an international system that can be communicated by people from different countries. ○ Easy to transport. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The person using the characters needs to be tall intelligence. ○ Symbols are complex, not always clear and sometimes difficult to understand.

Drama

Drama as a way of communication – drama is useful for people with disabilities to express themselves, because here it is possible to incarnate into any character, experience his feelings and thus expand the boundaries of his personality, knowing and managing emotions, helping to engage in joint activities, communicating through stage and getting to know yourself and others better.



Even those who cannot speak are able to convey essential feelings through the power of movements and gestures.

Positive aspects	Negative aspects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Easy to select and adapt to individual communication needs. ○ Inexpensive. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Limits if a person has difficulty controlling the body.

Additional methods presented during the project:

- Non-verbal communication method – body language conveys interpersonal relationships, emotions, experiences, reaction to external stimuli. For example, a contemptuous look may be more eloquent than spoken words. And a wide smile or even a clap of hands – to convey joy, self-satisfaction, the positive impact of the environment (music, etc.). In this way, nonverbal communication helps to better express the desired thoughts when a person is unable to express it in words.
- A beekeeping method that allows people with disabilities to express themselves through beekeeping. They learn not only to live with bees, but also to take care of them, collect honey and make various works from beeswax.
- VoiceSense computer for the blind. This specialized computer does not have a display, its control and work with audio or tactical commands.
- The INTENSIVE INTERACTION tool. This method includes how to use and understand eye contact, facial expressions, vocalization leading to speech, alternating conversation and conversation structure. It is a human interaction that can be observed to judge people's behaviours and emotions
- A method of communicating through music. Music is a great way to communicate. What cannot be said in words can be said in the language of music. It helps people with disabilities to relax, gives a lot of positive emotions. The sounds of musical instruments help a person to overcome not only internal contradictions, but also to experience pain, sadness, strengthen personality, promote self-awareness and awareness.

Additional technical tools for communication:

- EYE GAZE is a device for controlling the computer through the eyes. By installing a special control program, you can control your computer, work, create and play and so on. Very useful for people who cannot control the body.
- Alternative communication software COMMUNICATOR 5 – if a person has significant language and communication difficulties, cannot communicate in a language, the simplest way to communicate is by using a technical communication tool: a symbol (picture) is clicked, which is sounded.