

SLP-chosen for you, from the Nicespeechlady.com library SPEECH PATHOLOGY PATIENT: \_\_\_\_\_

SPEECH PATHOLOGIST: \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_



## **HANDOUT-ABLE: Nicespeechlady.com A/AC Alphabet Point Board Plus Guide for Family/Loved Ones**

For patients/families/caregivers:

A pointing alphabet board is a no-technology Augmentative/Assistive Communication system that is beneficial for patients who:

- Exhibit profound difficulties speaking
- Exhibit difficulties speaking, and have profound difficulties being understood
- Exhibit profound difficulty performing physical writing tasks, for any reason
- Functionally have intact receptive/understanding of language
- Functionally have intact expressive capabilities of language, but currently do not have access
- Demonstrate a desire to communicate complex messages
- Would benefit from open-ended message opportunities, rather than closed-set, finite picture sets
- Do not currently have low-technology, mid-level technology, or high-technology access available
- Have willingness to utilize this method of communication
- May need quick communication due to the situation for a system now, as time is of the essence

The alphabet is listed for ease of indicating desired letters to create word or sentence messages. In addition, patients also have the benefit of pre-printed phrases for quick communication, and for ease in communicating about the process of the relay of message in the interaction. These include:

- “PLEASE GIVE ME THE TIME TO POINT TO WHAT I DESIRE TO SAY”
- “REPEAT THE QUESTION, PLEASE”
- “YES”
- “NO”
- “I DON’T KNOW”
- “I’LL TRY AGAIN”
- “PLEASE SAY THE LETTERS AS I POINT TO THEM”
- “UNDERSTAND THAT?”
- “THAT IS ALMOST MY MESSAGE, LET’S TRY AGAIN.”
- “WE ARE HAVING TROUBLE COMMUNICATING”
- “HAND ME A STRAW PLEASE, SO I CAN POINT”
- “LET’S TALK LATER”

[Nicespeechlady.com](http://Nicespeechlady.com) resources are intended for speech-language pathology professionals only – in order to augment treatment as indicated, or for general information-purposes for friends of the SLP profession. SLPs should access these resources and provide content up to the level of their experience, and liability of use outside what would be indicated falls onto the responsibility of the SLP. See “Terms and Conditions.” Please return back to [Nicespeechlady.com](http://Nicespeechlady.com) for additional copies and more materials for treatment home programs, resources and assessment tools.

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## IDEAS FOR IMPROVING COMMUNICATION WITH THE [NICESPEECHLADY.COM](https://www.nicespeechlady.com) ALPHABET BOARD

- It is beneficial for the listener to speak the letters as the speaker points to them for clarification. Also, it is helpful for listeners to write down words as they are identified in the communication process (that way, certain words, if repeated, do not have to be spelled-out again — but pointed to on the list by the communicator).
- Print/transpose the [Nicespeechlady.com](https://www.nicespeechlady.com) A/AC Point Board\_onto a white board. Instead of pointing, patient could then circle letters for each word so to allow or more permanence of the indicated letters, especially in long/complex words.
- Allow for extra time for communications due to the complexity of this method for relaying information.
- If the listener asks yes/no questions, this aids in the understanding of the message via confirmations. Only simple and short yes/no questions should be utilized. Complex yes/no questions are difficult to answer with just a “yes” or “no” pointing response.
- Individuals using this pointing communication board could utilize a pencil, stylus or other implement for accuracy in indicating desired letters.
- As soon as possible, A/AC individuals could switch to texting or “Talk to Text” App to allow for vocalization by a device of the message of the communicator. Using a stylus in a texting-to-talk feature on a mid or high-technology A/AC device may aid in the functional task of choosing letters on a device.
- Additional common phrases or words that are specific to the patient could be added to the bottom of this resource for more individualization and quick communication. There is also room in the “Special Instructions” section at the top of the page by the [Nicespeechlady.com](https://www.nicespeechlady.com) logo – for additional high-frequency words or phrases the communicator may utilize.
- Communicators should prepare to have as much time available as needed for communicating messages. Listeners require willingness to work with the patient’s current expressive communication system, patients and respect that the person’s message is valuable. It is not always a steam-lined process.
- This is meant to be a temporary or transition tool. If a patient benefits from an alphabet pointing tool, and this appears to be a permanent or long-term need, then it will be indicated for technology to be utilized. The only circumstance that this system will be the only communication method long-term is if access to technology is not available. If this occurs, please contact [Nicespeechlady.com](https://www.nicespeechlady.com) at [resources@nicespeechlady.com](mailto:resources@nicespeechlady.com) to inquire/receive information about resources and direction in applying for/obtaining the indicated, useful technology. Every person, regardless of circumstance, has a right to communicate their wants and needs – with the indicated access. All efforts should be made for this to occur with all individuals who display communication difficulties.
- Patients that would benefit from a no-technology pointing alphabet board may benefit in the future from: traditional oral communication, traditional writing, low-tech communication systems, high-tech communication systems, or other options.