

Vision Conditions and Implications for Augmentative and Alternative Communication

Person is near sighted	Requires the use of corrective lenses for distance. May require modifications of materials re: size, colour etc.
Person is farsighted	Requires glasses to use AAC displays. Need to consider size, colour and arrangement of graphic symbols. Illumination of displays can help.
Person has astigmatism	Both near and far objects appear blurry. Requires glasses to use AAC display.
Person has ocular motor problems: strabismus or nystagmus	May affect ability to scan, locate and track objects. May interfere with interaction and use of AAC approaches. May need to adjust head and body positions to compensate. Location/orientation of display, configuration on a symbol array and placement of items on the display may be critical.
Person has visual field difficulties	Person may need to be constantly shifting positions to see. Affects positioning of person and placement and arrangement of symbols, devices and materials. Note: peripheral vision is less clear than central vision.
Person has light sensitivity	May need to use non-reflective surfaces to decrease glare. Retinal problems and CVI may require low light conditions. Myopia/presbyopia may require increases illumination.
Person is colourblind	Be careful when choosing colour codes. Provide contrast when using colour.