

# Augmentative & Alternative Communication

The Children's Care Rehabilitation Center offers thorough Augmentative and Alternative Communication and Computer access evaluations using the latest technology.

The clinic is staffed by our specialized, experienced team of speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists, an educator with a master's degree in educational technology, and five therapists certified as Assistive Technology Practitioners (ATP) by the Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA).

## Evaluation

- Prior to the evaluation, a questionnaire is sent out to help determine the most appropriate devices and systems to look at during the evaluation.
- The speech-language pathologist evaluates the patient to determine features the individual needs to make communicating efficient and effective, then help find the right device that fits that criteria.
- Initial evaluation determines which types of communication methods would be appropriate. These methods range from simple picture symbol or word board devices, low-tech speech output devices and high tech devices with virtually unlimited speech output vocabulary.

- The individual's access methods are also assessed as part of the communication device trial. Access methods range from direct finger access to eye-gaze or switch access using nearly any body movement.
- Computer access evaluation can occur as part of the augmentative communication evaluation or as a separate evaluation. The computer specialist selects from a wide array of adapted software and hardware to meet the computing needs of the individual. The access methods range from adapted keyboards and mouse devices to voice activation, switch access or direct access using state of the art methods that can track head or eye movement.
- Recommendations are documented as part of a written comprehensive report based on clinical findings.

## Follow-up

- Therapy sessions for users may be scheduled following delivery of the equipment.
- Follow-up visits are encouraged to determine how the system is working and if any changes need to be made.

**For more information or to set up an appointment please call:**

(605) 782-2400 or Toll Free: 1-800-584-9294 Ext. 2400



**CHILDREN'S CARE**  
REHABILITATION CENTER

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# Funding:

The Children's Care Rehab & Development Center is a provider for most funding sources, including:

- SD,MN, IA, NE Medicaid
- Medicare
- Sioux Valley Health Plan
- Avera Health Plan
- Dakotacare
- Wellmark
- Cigna
- Blue Cross/Blue Shield
- Aetna
- School districts

