

Communication Assistance for Nonspeaking Individuals

An Annotated Bibliography

Project VOICE
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

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References

- [1] V. K. Jaswal, A. J. Lampi, and K. M. Stockwell, “Literacy in nonspeaking autistic people,” in *Autism*, Feb 2024.

This paper claims that nonspeaking autistic people with limited to no phrase speech show patterns in their response rates close to verbal and literate people, which means that their brain is capable of this level of literacy, and with adequate instruction it might be possible lead them to written forms of communication as an alternative.

- [2] V. K. Jaswal, A. Wayne, and H. Golino, “Eye-tracking reveals agency in assisted autistic communication,” *Scientific Reports*, vol. 10, no. 7882, May 2020.

Letterboards are a very common way to assist non-verbal people communicate, but it’s a very controversial method to prove higher levels of literacy since the person assisting them through that process could cue them into certain behaviors. This study used eye-tracking to see what letters they focused their gaze on to spell instead. The study reported that the method was very successful, they rarely made any spelling errors, fixated their vision on most letters before pointing to them, and their response time “reflected planning and production processes characteristic of fluent spelling in non-autistic typists” .