

Development of an Augmentative and Alternative Communication app. for Makaton

Susan Carlisle

Queen's University Belfast, UK

Introduction: As part of the theme of communication in phase one undergraduate nursing curriculum students are asked to produce an information leaflet to help enhance communication with patients and clients.

As a result of this exercise students were finding out about Makaton as an AAC and asked if they would have opportunity to learn this skill as part of the programme.

Aims & Objectives: The development of a Makaton training app. for use in undergraduate nursing.

Objectives:

- To develop a teaching tool on Makaton that is up to date, current and easily accessible to all undergraduate nursing students
- To provide undergraduate nursing students with the information and skills necessary to engage with patients/clients with a communication deficit.

Methods:

Stage 1: Purchase the license for Makaton

Stage 2: The development of a teaching tool template that includes all the essential aspects required for Makaton training.

Stage 3: Collaboration with a computer technician to produce video clips, podcasts, interactive tests and hyperlinks to key areas.

Stage 4: Transferring the multimedia outputs into an app. accessible for students.

Stage 5: Pilot app. with year 1 undergraduate students and year 1 teachers

Stage 6: App. made available to all year 1 students.

Stage 6: Evaluation of app.

Outcomes: By providing nurses with an easy to use aid memoire this should improve communication and client's satisfaction with the service.

The importance of Makaton as an Augumentative and Alternative Communication methods is highlighted.

Conclusion: It is hoped that by developing this app. nursing students will have a greater understanding of communication deficits and be able to provide patient centered care that is considerate to the individual's needs.