

# About Pointing it Out

Pointing it Out is about safety for people who have communication disabilities and who use augmentative and alternative communication (AAC). AAC includes letter, word or picture boards and devices that speak out messages.

Pointing it Out contains:

- A DVD showing people who use AAC sharing their views on ways to increase their safety.
- A booklet with information, assignments and resources.
- An audio CD of the booklet.

## The Audience

Pointing it Out is primarily intended for adults and youth over the age of 15, who use AAC. It is also useful for parents, teachers, clinicians, counselors, attendants, health care providers, legal professionals, police and others who work in community services.

The tone is positive and proactive. Discussion about personal abuse experiences is kept to a minimum and references are used only where it is considered essential to illustrate a point. Every effort has been made to present information in ways that are appropriate for youth and that are sensitive to the needs of people who may be experiencing or have experienced abuse in the past.

## The Content

Eight people who use AAC discuss their safety in the following seven contexts:

- Human rights
- Relationships
- Attendant services
- Self-esteem and confidence
- Communication
- Access to community services
- Safety tools and strategies

The DVD and booklet are intended to stimulate discussion and provide resources and direction on pertinent aspects of abuse prevention for people who use AAC.

## The Reality

People with disabilities combined with severe speech disorders are 2-6 times more likely to experience physical, mental and sexual abuse as a result of their inability to communicate effectively. (Sobsey, 1994)

Without access to the means to communicate about safety, rights and abuse, people who use AAC cannot discuss, learn about, disclose or report issues.

(Farrar, 1996)

Research tells us that most abuse happens where the person lives and that most offenders are known to the individual and usually in positions of care and trust.

(Brown & Mirenda, 1997)

The majority of participants in the Ontario Speak Up project (2001-2004), experienced a range of abuses; had no way to communicate about these experiences; lacked information to make informed decisions and could not access health, social and justice services within their communities. (Collier, 2006)

## Reduce the risk of victimization for people who use AAC by:

- Fostering self-esteem, confidence and self advocacy skills
- Providing information about rights, safety, sexuality and abuse
- Providing communication systems and vocabularies
- Ensuring there are opportunities and people with whom the AAC user can communicate about these issues
- Teaching safety skills
- Creating safe attendant / caregiver services
- Promoting communication access to health, social, policing and legal community services

**POINTING IT OUT** Safety for people who use augmentative communication

### Mail order form and cheque to:

ACCPC  
131 Barber Greene Rd. Toronto ON  
M3C 3Y5 Canada

**On-line:** Print off this order form.

Resource package contains DVD; booklet and audio CD of booklet. Items are not sold separately.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip / Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

[ ] Cheque enclosed.

### Payment:

ACCPC accepts cheques only in Canadian or US dollars. Payable to ACCPC.  
ACCPC does not accept credit cards.  
All taxes, shipping and handling included in cost.

### Cost:

Professional and Organization Rate: \$75 US or CAD  
AAC User / Family Rate: \$60 US or CAD

Please allow 30 days for delivery. No returns or funds.  
Sales inquiries: accpc@sympatico.ca

Augmentative Communication Community Partnerships-Canada (ACCPC) is a federal, community-based, non-profit organization that aims to provide knowledge, skill and resources about and for people who use Augmentative and Alternative Communication.

For more information about ACCPC and its projects: [www.accpc.ca](http://www.accpc.ca)

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131 Barber Greene Rd., Toronto, ON  
Canada M3C 3Y5

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# Pointing it Out

## Safety for People who use Augmentative Communication

Instructional DVD, booklet and audio CD

Directed and Produced by Barbara Collier



Augmentative Communication  
Community Partnerships – Canada

[www.accpc.ca](http://www.accpc.ca)

*“Pointing It Out’ makes a significant contribution to the field of AAC\* by touching upon issues that are universal in nature and uphold the principles mentioned in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It will be of great value to members of the AAC community, worldwide.”*

Sudha Kaul, Ph.D., President, International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (ISAAC).  
NGO with a special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

*“Pointing It Out focuses on strategies for increasing personal safety, healthy relationships, access to community resources, and self-determination through the experiences and voices of AAC users themselves. It's about time!”*

Pat Mirenda, Ph.D., University of British Columbia

*“Pointing it Out makes a unique contribution in that it is by people who use AAC and is for people who use AAC. Professionals will learn a great deal by listening to the perspectives and recommendations of individuals who use AAC. This is definitely a “must have” resource for anyone who supports people who use AAC!”*

Janice Light, Ph.D., Penn State University

*“Until now, we haven't had a resource that helps people who use AAC maintain their dignity by teaching everyone, including personal attendants, health care professionals, counselors, social workers, legal professionals and police, what dignity means!”*

Melanie Fried-Oken, Ph.D., Oregon Health & Science University

\* Augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) refers to communication systems used by people who have severe speech impairments. These systems include communication displays and/or electronic devices.