

# Augmentative & Alternative Communication

*The LifeScape Rehabilitation Center offers thorough Augmentative and Alternative Communication and computer access evaluations using the latest technology. We serve children and adults with any communications challenge, including those with cerebral palsy, Parkinson's Disease, ALS, Huntington's Disease, Multiple Sclerosis, Muscular Dystrophy, and strokes. Our clinic features the area's most experienced team of communications specialists, consisting of speech-language pathologists and occupational therapists.*

## Evaluation

- Prior to the evaluation, a questionnaire is sent out, and test scores, videos, and other information is requested to help determine the most appropriate devices and systems to consider during the evaluation.
- To make communication efficient and effective, the speech-language pathologist evaluates the patient to determine the features he or she needs – then helps to find the AAC method 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 generating 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.



### For more information:

- **Call Us** at 605.444.9700 for an appointment or details.
- **Toll-Free** 800.584.9294, Ext. 9700
- **Visit** [LifeScapeSD.org/services/therapy](http://LifeScapeSD.org/services/therapy)

## 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 changes need to be made.*

## Funding

- SD, MN, IA, NE
- Medicaid Medicare
- Sanford Health Plan
- Avera Health Plans
- Wellmark Blue Cross/Blue Shield
- Dakotacare
- Cigna
- Aetna
- School Districts