



Calling All Spellers to Know Your Rights! Part 1

Written by the Spellers & Allies Advocacy Network



This lesson is based on a presentation that DAWNMARIE GAIVIN, S2C Practitioner and I-ASC Leadership Cadre member, gave to the SPELLERS AND ALLIES ADVOCACY NETWORK, S&A for short, in August of 2020. S&A is an ADVOCACY group open to all nonspeakers 18 YEARS OLD and UP as well as ALLIES between the ages of 18-30. Following Dawnmarie's presentation, S&A wanted to share their learning with other spellers. We hope this lesson is INFORMATIVE and EMPOWERING.

Spell: ALLIES Spell: ADVOCACY

What advocacy group wrote this lesson? SPELLERS AND ALLIES ADVOCACY NETWORK

Who gave the presentation to S&A? DAWNMARIE GAIVIN

Who is S&A comprised of? SPELLERS; ALLIES

If Dawnmarie gave this presentation in August 2020. How many months/years has it been since?

Name another advocacy group that you know of.

Poke the Spellers & Allies Advocacy Network logo.

SARAH ACKERMAN, a minimally speaking member of S&A said, "After Dawnmarie's presentation, I realized the importance of knowing one's RIGHTS. It is extremely essential that people become aware of DISABILITY LAW and understand what they are ENTITLED to. This knowledge can empower individuals

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to stand up for themselves and can pave the way for FUTURE GENERATIONS of nonspeakers.”

Spell: GENERATIONS

Spell: ENTITLED

Who’s quote was shared here? SARAH ACKERMAN

Sarah thinks it is important for people to become aware of _____ law.
DISABILITY

Sarah believes that nonspeakers today can pave the way for who? FUTURE GENERATIONS

What is one thing that Sarah believes is important for nonspeakers to understand? DISABILITY LAW; WHAT WE ARE ENTITLED TO

Name a community of people who you feel have paved the way for you (this could be in reference to civil rights, culture, etc.).



BEN CRIMM, another S&A nonspeaking member reflected, “I think it is important to understand that the LANGUAGE and TERMINOLOGY we use in discussions with others must echo the LEGAL terminology, PRINCIPLES, and RIGHTS that have already been ESTABLISHED in the law.” Through our reflections, S&A thought that

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it is important for all nonspeaking people to know about three laws: the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Assistive Technology Act, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Today we want to teach you a little bit about these.

Spell: LEGAL Spell: CRIMM

Ben Crimm believes it is important for nonspeakers to understand _____ and terminology. LANGUAGE

Ben Crimm believes that echoing _____ terminology, principles and rights that have already been established in the law is important. LEGAL

What is one of the legal elements that Ben suggests people echo in discussions? TERMINOLOGY; PRINCIPLES; RIGHTS

Name one of the laws we will discuss today. AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT; ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT; INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT

What convention did the United Nations create to support disabled people? UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities; CRPD

In what decade did the UN adopt this convention? 2000-2010; 2006



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The AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, ADA for short, was established in 1990. It requires that STATE governments, LOCAL governments, BUSINESSES and NONPROFIT organizations, known as ENTITIES, that serve the PUBLIC communicate effectively with people with communication or speech disabilities. INCLUDED in this is a person's ability to communicate WITH, RECEIVE information from and communicate information TO the public entities described above.

Spell: BUSINESSES Spell: LOCAL GOVERNMENT

What does ADA stand for? AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

Under the ADA State governments and local governments that serve the public are called what? ENTITIES

All entities under the ADA serve who? PUBLIC

Under that ADA included in effective communication is:

Who is someone who might require support to receive information from a public entity? DEAF PEOPLE; NONSPEAKING PEOPLE; etc.

Name a public entity described in the ADA. STATE GOVERNMENT; LOCAL GOVERNMENT; BUSINESSES; NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

How many years ago was the ADA established? Present year- 1990=

What is an example of a nonprofit organization that serves you?

The picture above is a mural of Justin Dart Jr. to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Capitol Crawl, one of the pivotal advocacy actions that instated the ADA. Poke this picture and read Justin Dart Jr.'s quote.

Considerations for "EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION" include the nature, length, COMPLEXITY and context as well as an individual's NORMAL METHOD of communication. S2C is effective communication because it gives the individual access to the ENTIRE ALPHABET which does not LIMIT what they can and cannot communicate, it also allows individuals to produce ORIGINAL, OPEN-ENDED and UNLIMITED communication.

Spell: ORIGINAL Spell: UNLIMITED COMMUNICATION

Nature, length, complexity and context are all considerations for what? EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

What habit does the ADA consider in determining effective communication that I mentioned? NORMAL METHOD OF COMMUNICATION



What does S2C give nonspeakers access to that doesn't limit what nonspeakers can communicate? ENTIRE ALPHABET

What are two considerations of effective communication under the ADA?

NATURE; COMPLEXITY; CONTEXT; NORMAL METHOD OF COMMUNICATION

Name a communication system that does not give unlimited access to the alphabet.

Write a one sentence metaphor that describes what it feels like to have access to effective communication.

Under the ADA, a letterboard would be considered an "AUXILIARY AID AND SERVICE" and it is the RESPONSIBILITY of the public entity a nonspeaking individual is interacting with to provide the needed service. A discovery that S&A ally, AMAN ASFAH, made is that the ADA gives PRIMARY CONSIDERATION to the NONSPEAKING INDIVIDUAL to choose their PREFERRED aid or service in order to communicate. This means that if a nonspeaking person says that they prefer to use a letterboard to other modes of communication, this request should be honored under the ADA.

Spell: PREFERRED COMMUNICATION Spell: RESPONSIBILITY

Under the ADA, a letterboard is considered what? AUXILIARY AID AND SERVICE

The ADA gives what to the disabled person in choosing a communication method?

PRIMARY CONSIDERATION

What disability law are nonspeaking people relying on when they assert the method of communication they prefer? ADA

In a sentence describe who is given primary consideration in choosing a method of communication.

Name a responsibility the public entity has under the ADA.

Name a public entity you interact with and briefly describe their responsibilities.

Creative Writing:

In one sentence, explain what being an ally for nonspeaking people means to you.

What does "effective communication" mean to you?



What does it mean to be included?

We'd love to hear from you, we encourage you to send your creative writing to spellers-allies@i-asc.org

Special thanks to Dawnmarie Gaivin for coming to speak with the Spellers & Allies Advocacy Network. As Sarah shared, you are a resource and ally!



The I-ASC Spellers & Allies Advocacy Network is a group of spellers and allies between the ages of 18- 30 who advocate together around issues that concern nonspeaking people, such as agency, autonomy, and access. Through public education and advocacy campaigns, we seek to make real change for all nonspeaking people.

Please visit www.i-asc.org/spellers-allies/ to learn more about S&A or email us at spellers-allies@i-asc.org. You can see their accompanying blog at [CALLING ALL SPELLERS TO KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!](#)

References:

IDEA:

<http://www.fortelawgroup.com/least-restrictive-environment-lre-mean/>
<https://www.understood.org/en/school-learning/your-childs-rights/basics-about-childs-rights/individuals-with-disabilities-education-act-idea-what-you-need-to-know>

Assistive Technology Act:

<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/PLAW-108publ364/html/PLAW-108publ364.htm>

ADA:

<https://www.ada.gov/effective-comm.htm#:~:text=The%20ADA%20places%20responsibility%20for,interpret%20in%20only%20two%20situations.>

Capitol Crawl:

<https://www.brandingmag.com/2015/08/04/capitol-crawl-25th-anniversary/>
<https://activisthistory.com/2017/08/11/the-blind-historian-and-other-fables/>
<https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/20/1412>

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S2C as AAC:

<https://i-asc.org/the-abc-of-s2c-aac/>

The mission of I-ASC is to advance communication access for nonspeaking individuals globally through [training](#), [education](#), [advocacy](#) and [research](#). I-ASC supports all forms of augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) with a focus on methods of spelling and typing. I-ASC currently offers [Practitioner training in Spelling to Communicate \(S2C\)](#) with the hope that other methods of AAC using spelling or typing will join our association

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