

This month's resources reviewed and rated by Bulletin's reviewers

Reviews

BOOK

Communication and mealtimes toolkit

AUTHOR: Rebecca Kellett and colleagues

PRICE: Free via <http://tinyurl.com/pbu3t8x>

REVIEWER: Laura Cole, SLT, Older People's Mental Health Service, Stockport Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust

RATING Book ●●●●○

The authors describe this toolkit as a brief, practical guide for carers living and working with people with dementia. They explain person-centred care as the guiding principle and provide a clear description of how to achieve this. The practical advice is easy to follow and broken down into logical sections. People outside of our profession may question why it combines 'communication' and 'mealtimes', so the context of the speech and language therapy role could be re-iterated when using this tool.

The authors explain that the booklet is not an assessment tool or instruction manual and give advice regarding signs indicating when specialist input may be needed. The templates and illustrated examples for developing life story work, supporting communication and meal times are excellent, and there are some great key messages, eg 'looking after their memories'.

This is a practical and much needed resource but, as with any toolkit, the use of it depends on the user's experience, knowledge and interpretation. In some cases it would be best used alongside input from specialist healthcare staff.

BOOK

Moving On: My passport for moving on to secondary school

AUTHOR: I CAN

PUBLISHER: I CAN

PRICE: £7.99

REVIEWER: Jenna Braddick, Specialist SLT, Hertfordshire Partnership University Foundation Trust

RATING Book ●●●●○

This bright and colourful guide to moving from primary school to secondary school contains some great hints and tips to help remember where to go and who to ask for help. It also has activities to complete to help students feel less anxious about the transition, and explains new words, like form tutor and registration, in clear terms.

The guide encourages new students to talk to other students and ask for help when needed. It also covers friendships, bullying and worries that go along with starting secondary school. There are examples of school timetables, canteen menus and some reminder cards that students can put in a wallet to carry around school.

It provides a teacher's guide that gives discussion points and student activities to work on alongside the passport. Overall, this is a clear, simple and engaging guide for students preparing for secondary school.



APP

Actions in Video

PUBLISHER: Geraldine Moran

PRICE: £23.99

REVIEWER: Simon Henderson, SLT, South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust

RATING Book ●●●●○



This easy-to-use app delivers a fresh and innovative way to work on sentence construction skills. It targets understanding and use of 49 everyday verbs as part of 'person-action' and 'person-action-object' sentence frames. Having watched the action video, users then match the relevant person, action and object elements into a sentence.

A helpful colour coding option can be used for this to develop familiarity with the key sentence components. The user then listens to the sentence while a handy recording feature allows them to repeat it back. The complexity level of the task can be increased or decreased using the easy, intermediate or difficult options. You will find this useful when planning therapy and tracking progress.

Personally, I really liked the app's clear video recordings and the videos show real children and adults adding to the app's wide appeal across paediatric and some adult acquired speech and language therapy client groups. Depending on resources, you could also easily extend use of 'Actions in Video' beyond therapy to home and school.

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