

Shine A Light Awards Criteria

Category	Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) of the Year Award
Eligibility	Open to all settings in the UK who provide best practice for children and young people who use AAC.
Guidance	<p>Winning settings will be those who use their chosen application method to provide the judges with quantitative and qualitative examples and, or case studies to clearly demonstrate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How they have prioritised speech, language and communication development of all children, including those who use AAC. • Statistical and anecdotal evidence to support the difference they are making. • An awareness of the importance of early identification of the need for AAC and the implementation of support. • Evidence of involving parents/guardians in the development of children’s communication. • How working in partnership with other professionals or agencies has better supported communication development for those children using AAC. • Evidence of investment in professional development in AAC to deliver excellent practice.
Application questions	<p>All applications for the Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) of the Year Award must address the following questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How has your environment been developed to facilitate increased and more effective use of AAC? (max 200 words) 2. How are children who may benefit from AAC identified in your setting? (max 200 words) 3. How is professional expertise in AAC established and maintained within your setting? (max 200 words) 4. How do you work in partnership with other services to ensure a seamless multi-professional approach to supporting children and young people who use AAC and their families? (max 200 words) 5. What impact does your work have on outcomes for children and young people who use AAC? (max 200 words)