

Meet Lisa

A Communication Hub resource

(electronic bubbles pop)

(note swooshes)

(gentle upbeat music)

- My name is Lisa. I lost my verbal speech at 13, and I now use an iPad Pro with an application called Proloquo4Text. (indistinct chatter) (laughs)

- Before the iPad, I was only writing my messages out with pen and paper. I never wanted a robotic voice. So I rejected devices for about 20 years. Then technology changed and I sound somewhat more fluent.

- [To instructor] Thanks, I was bummed I missed the last one. [Instructor] Oh, that's okay. I thought it's been a long time since I've seen you.

- AAC allows me to express myself fully. It gives me autonomy, where I don't need someone there to interpret for me. I only stumbled across AAC from being involved with advocacy, and it wasn't until my son started asking me big questions that I really started to think about how I can get better communication for his development.

[Son] - I did the summaries for our English stuff, which that was fine, that was good.

- I think communication is key in everything, and I get misread a lot 'cause I don't have the same body gestures. I had to learn to write differently a few times throughout my life. And now I've gone into the technology area, it's given me more opportunities. But I try really hard to make sure I use the right words in every aspect, 'cause I can't put very much intonation into my spoken words through my device. I think the use of language and choosing the correct words is such an important aspect of communication.

[Chatter, indistinct then] Yeah, I've worked in one house in-

- Perhaps I could have followed my dreams of getting into acting or law, but at 13, I just saw it as a barrier to life. But I went into fashion design to try and keep to the arts interests. But I think if I could tell my 15-year-old self I don't see hurdles.

- In community, it's most important that they see me not just a woman in a chair punching keys, but to hear me and see me, about who I am and what I have to offer.

[Instructor] - 15, eight, seven, six, five- (gloves thumping). So that's what I got. I wasn't sure if it was too short.

- Having people around you who are prepared to wait, who want to know your point of view and valuing whatever someone can share. 'Cause it takes me like two minutes to write a reply, but people have moved on to three other subjects before I can even respond to the initial one.

[Instructor] - So next week it's back to Monday, Friday? Yeah. So Monday, 12:30.

- I would tell someone who said communication support was too hard, to tape your mouth up and bind your hands and see how you cope for a day. Without communication, what are we?

(upbeat music slowly fades out)