

PECS

What is PECS?

PECS stands for the Picture Exchange Communication System. It is a unique augmentative alternative communication system to permit children with autism and other communication deficits to initiate communication with others.

PECS was developed in 1989 by Andrew Bondy and Lori Frost. It was first used at the Delaware Autistic Program in the United States.

The primary purpose of PECS is to focus on the initiation component of communication to enhance individuals' independence and use of successful, initiated communication.

Who is PECS for?

PECS has been successful with individuals of all ages who have a wide array of communicative, cognitive, and/or physical difficulties.

The individual can use PECS with educators, resident care providers, families, friends, and other with ease.

Characteristics

- Does *not* require complex or expensive materials
- Used in a variety of settings
- Especially useful in appropriately combined with elements of behavior analysis
- A 6 phase training manual is available which provides examples, helpful hints, and templates for data and progress reporting (Pyramid Educational Consultants)

Examples

Picture Boards, Cue Cards, Photos, and other materials to help an individual to do such things as:

- request a preferred food
- indicate a desired recreational activity
- visualize the steps for a daily schedule or task

Steps to Use

1. Teach student to exchange a picture of a desired item with a teacher who *immediately* honors the request.
2. Teach symbol discrimination.
3. Teach "sentence" building.
4. Teach student to comment and answer direct questions using symbols.

**Note:* The initial design of PECS does not involve verbal prompts. Initially, verbal prompts are *not* used in an attempt to build immediate initiation and to avoid prompt dependency. However, in some cases, the use of PECS has been modified for individual needs.

For More Information

Please visit one of the following websites:

<http://www.pecs.com>

<http://www.cesa10.k12.wi.us>