

Dada, S. (2000). *Teacher's attitudes towards children with little or no functional speech using two AAC devices*. Unpublished master's thesis, University of Pretoria, Pretoria, South Africa. Erna Alant (Advisor): 65 pages of text, 100 references, 8 appendices, 17 tables, and 9 figures.

The aim of this study was to determine and compare teachers' attitudes towards students with little or no functional speech, using two alternative and augmentative communication (AAC) devices, i.e., an Alpha Talker™ and communication board. Teachers viewed videotapes showing students communicating using either AAC device. Attitudes were measured using the Teacher Attitudinal Scale (TAS) and biographical information about the teachers was obtained using a questionnaire. The results revealed teachers were generally positive towards both devices. A comparison of teachers' attitudes towards the devices revealed no statistically significant differences in teachers' attitudes. Hence, teachers had similar attitudes towards both devices. However, there was a consistent tendency to perceive the Alpha Talker™ more positively. Reasons for this finding are discussed, as are the implications of this finding for implementing AAC services. In addition, the results revealed that teachers perceived a need for training in AAC strategies. Furthermore, the suggested mismatch between teachers' attitudes and the reality of the teaching context supports the need for teacher training prior to facilitating the implementation of AAC strategies and devices within the classroom context.