



### Select Publications

Ryan SE, Shepherd T, Renzoni A, Anderson C, Barber M, Kingsnorth S, Ward K. *Towards Advancing Knowledge Translation of AAC Outcomes Research for Children and Youth with Complex Communication Needs*. AAC Journal, (2015), June 31 (2):148-58.

Delarosa L, Horner S, Eisenberg C, Ball L, Renzoni A, Ryan SE. *Family Impact of Assistive Technology Scale: Development of a Measurement Scale for Parents of Children with Complex Communication Needs*. Augmentative and Alternative Communication Journal, (2012), June;28(3): 171-180.

Ryan SE, Sawatzky B, Campbell KA, Rigby PJ, Monpetit K, Roxborough L, McKeever PD. *Functional Outcomes Associated with Adaptive Seating Interventions in Children and Youth with Wheeled Mobility Needs*. Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. (2014), Apr;95(5):825-831.

### Stephen E. Ryan, PhD, PEng

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Although clinicians recommend AT devices to improve the functional performance of children with disabilities, compelling evidence of AT device misuse, disuse and abandonment exists in the literature. Empirical proof of the effectiveness of AT devices for children has been impeded by the lack of sound outcome measures relevant to young AT device users and their families.

Dr. Ryan's research program uses applied measurement science and innovative health research methods to study the functional impact of AT interventions in children and youth with disabilities and their families.

Dr. Ryan's research initiatives engage knowledge users, researchers and trainees in novel child and family-centered approaches to measure, interpret and improve functional outcomes for children and youth who use adaptive seating, wheeled mobility or augmentative and alternative communication technologies.

His focus on AT outcomes research has yielded eight novel health measurement scales for research and clinical applications, including three sound, parent-report questionnaires: the Family Impact of Assistive Technology Scale for Adaptive Seating (FIAT-AS),

Augmentative and Alternative Communication (FIAT-AAC) and Computer-Based Writing Interventions (FIAT-WI).

### Clinical Implications of Research

Dr. Ryan's outcomes research program contributes to new thinking about how children's seating, mobility and AAC devices and systems should be designed, prescribed, supported and funded.

### Vision Statement

To improve the everyday lives of children and youth with disabilities and their families by supporting evidence-informed decision-making about assistive technology devices and services.

### Research Group Profile

The AAC Outcomes for Kids Research Alliance currently includes researchers and knowledge users from 24 AAC clinics for children in Canada. The objectives of the alliance are to conduct research to develop a richer understanding about the effectiveness of AAC interventions and apply evidence to support improvements in AAC systems and services for children and youth with complex communication needs.