

## Remote Consultancy Service

Pyramid Educational Consultants have developed a NEW service called **Remote Consultancy**. We have been able to use interactive technology (SightSpeed) to observe parents implementing PECS with their child in order to advise and fine tune current implementation practices. Our consultants can provide immediate feedback on what is observed. Time permitting the consultant will discuss other critical communication skills such as following visual directions & timetables, learning to 'wait', learning to ask for 'help' or for a 'break' and answering 'yes' and 'no'. Finally the consultant will make recommendations describing the next steps in PECS training for the family.

### How it works:

The family need a computer with a webcam, microphone and speaker, then just sign up for a free SightSpeed account [www.sightspeed.com](http://www.sightspeed.com) make sure you select the free programme that is available to be downloaded. You will need to provide us with your USER NAME for your SightSpeed account. We can then arrange an agreed date and time to contact each other. Further technical specifications can be provided on request. The more planning and preparation that can be done in advance the more effective and useful the sessions will be. Families need to have prepared up to six activities to carry out with their child during the session. This will enable us to provide immediate feedback, therefore helping you with practical skills and how to follow the protocol from the Pyramid Approach to Education and PECS.

The set up of the video camera and microphone is important so we have a good view and can hear what is happening. The first five to ten minutes will be checking that we can all see and hear everything as required. Should you wish to address any technical issues prior to the first session, please contact Christy Wallis, Director of Operations, who will be happy to assist you. [cwallis@pecs.com](mailto:cwallis@pecs.com) T: 01273 609555

### Backup:

In case there is a difficulty using SightSpeed we recommend Skype as an alternative, just sign up for a free account [www.skype.com](http://www.skype.com) make sure you select the free programme that is available to be downloaded.

You will need to provide us with your USER NAME for your Skype account.

### Requirement: PECS 2 Day Basic Training

It is compulsory that the key person who is using the remote service has attended the *PECS 2 Day Basic Training* provided by Pyramid Educational Consultants, for full details of training workshops please visit [www.pecs.com](http://www.pecs.com)

### What you will be expected to do:

During the PECS Remote Consultancy you will need to demonstrate the skills from all the Phases with your child, starting with what you have told us he/she can already do; so we have an opportunity to see his/her current level of ability.

So if you have told me he/she is at Phase IV of PECS I would want you to do the following:

Phase I – he/she should be able to demonstrate skills exchanging the sentence strip independently, although it would be good to have a second person available who can act as a physical prompter if needed.

Phase II – he/she should be able to travel to the communication book, then travel to a communicative partner who has the reinforcers he/she wants. They can still be using their sentence strip for this. The child being able to get someone's attention when they are not looking is also an important part of Phase II, so please show this too. They also need to show that they can carry their book from one area to the next.

Phase III – with discrimination he/she will be using the sentence strip and you should show how you check their skills using correspondence checks (Phase IIIB).

Phase IV – they should be able to show that they can construct the sentence independently.

Then we can consider moving on to developing additional skills.

So please set up 6 – 10 activities where he/she can make requests to demonstrate the above – all with powerful reinforcers. We will focus on one area at a time. You will need symbols for all the reinforcers that are available.

Additional items to work on or discuss if time allows:

- Visual Reinforcement Systems (Lets Make a Deal)
- Attributes
- Commenting
- Other critical skills

You will need to have a few activities prepared for at least some of these additional items so if time permits we have the chance to work through them. With attributes consider what concept may be of interest; does he/she always want the blue car, the big biscuit, etc. You can look in your PECS Training Manual for ideas if you need some help.

During the session there will be times when we need to discuss issues and go through strategies, so it will be important that there is an activity that your child can partake in unsupervised, or that there is someone to provide alternative supervision so you are able to focus on the task at hand.

#### **What it costs:**

For families each remote session will last up to two hours and will cost £150.00 (Inc VAT).

You can book as many sessions as you see fit, best practice recommends 5 sessions at monthly intervals. We respect individual families' financial circumstances which is why you can book one session at a time.

To discuss clinical aspects of using Remote Consultancy with your child, please contact Zena Barton, Pyramid Consultant [zbarton@pecs.com](mailto:zbarton@pecs.com)

To book our Remote Consultancy Service please contact Christy Wallis, Director of Operations, [cwallis@pecs.com](mailto:cwallis@pecs.com) for an application form and further technical specifications if required.