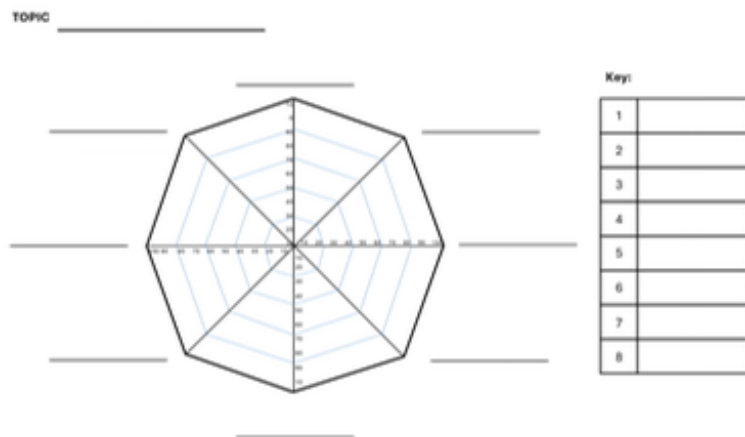


What is a spidergram?

A Spidergram is a tool to support the decision-making process and prioritising different communication aid features. When assessing or reviewing any decision (such as AAC support needs), the Spidergram can be used to explore and bring together the views of the AAC user, their family, and the wider support team.

You may create more than one Spidergram, as each one can focus on a different feature of AAC.

When used together, the Spidergrams can give a clear picture of what is working well, what support is needed and what to focus on next.



Step 1

- Agree on shared priorities that the team wants to focus on and include the AAC user in these discussions, where possible.
- Ask each team member to identify what is most and least important in a new or current AAC system.
- Use relevant I-ASC descriptions to help decide an area to focus on (e.g., child characteristics, communication aid features, access methods, ways of working, transitions, available resources) to guide discussion.
- Try to stick to one area at a time, unless there is a clear reason to look at more than one.

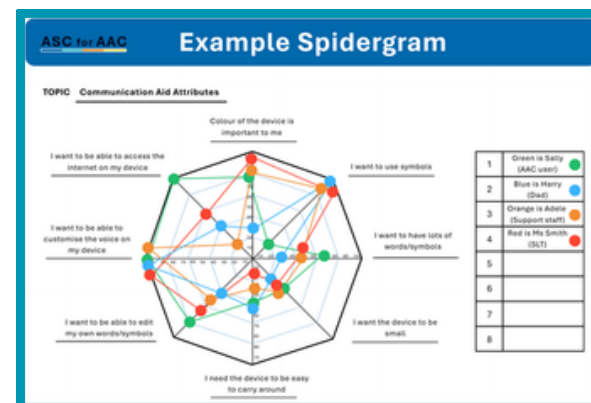
Step 2

- Ask each person to score the agreed areas from 0–100, with the user's needs and preferences in mind.
- You can complete the Spidergram on your own or together as a group—take your time and don't rush.
- Share helpful materials, such as blank templates, examples of completed Spidergrams, and ASCforAAC guidance, so everyone understands what to do.
- Give all team members time and support. This might include printed copies if helpful, and checking in before the meeting to talk through any draft ideas before the Spidergram is finalised.



Step 3

- If the Spidergram is completed before the meeting, ask everyone to send it to one person who can bring them all together (e.g. the Coordinator - taken from the “Roles” ASCforAAC tool).
- Combine the responses to create one shared visual summary.
- Use this during the discussion to highlight areas of agreement and identify priorities for further discussion.



Step 4

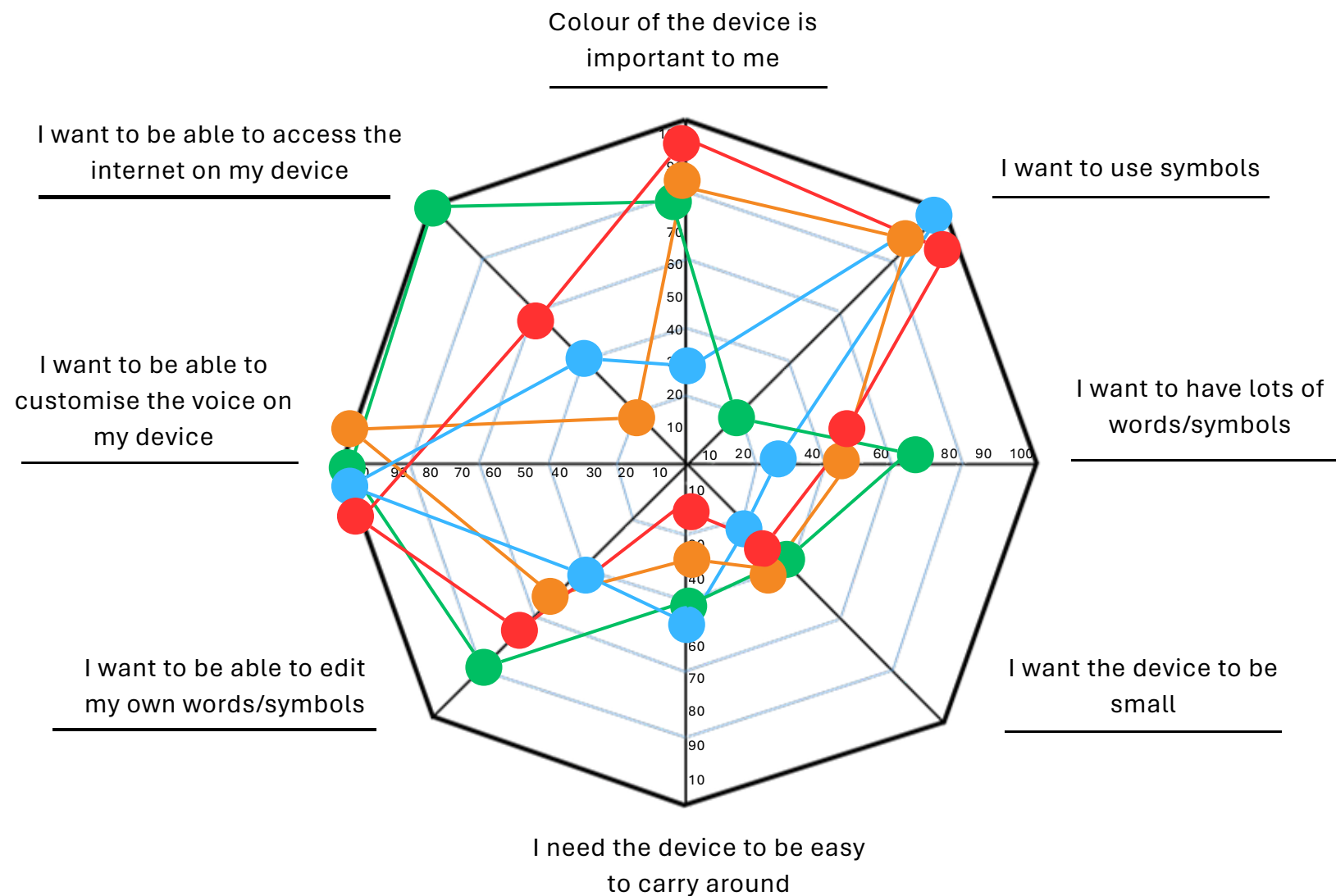
- Recognise that everyone’s views are equally valuable - the user, relatives, school/setting staff, professionals, etc., all contribute important insights.
- Identify areas of agreement across the whole team. The scores will help to show which areas are important. Focus discussions on areas where opinions differ.
- Invite each person to explain their viewpoint, recognising that home, work/school and therapy contexts may highlight different priorities.
- Listen respectfully and work towards a shared understanding and agreed next steps in matching AAC components to the user’s needs and preferences.

Step 5

- Agree on clear decisions based on what has been discussed so far.
- Make sure everyone understands the outcomes. At the end of the meeting, revisit what you agree on and any areas where views may differ.
- Provide a written summary that explains what has been decided and why - especially if people had different views at the start.
- The AAC user is central to this process, in the event that their preferences differ from the wider team’s, it is important not to dismiss their opinion or voice, assuming we know best - this could be an opportunity for a teachable moment and working together to find solutions. (e.g. ‘Sally’ wanting to be able to access the internet in the Example Spidergram)

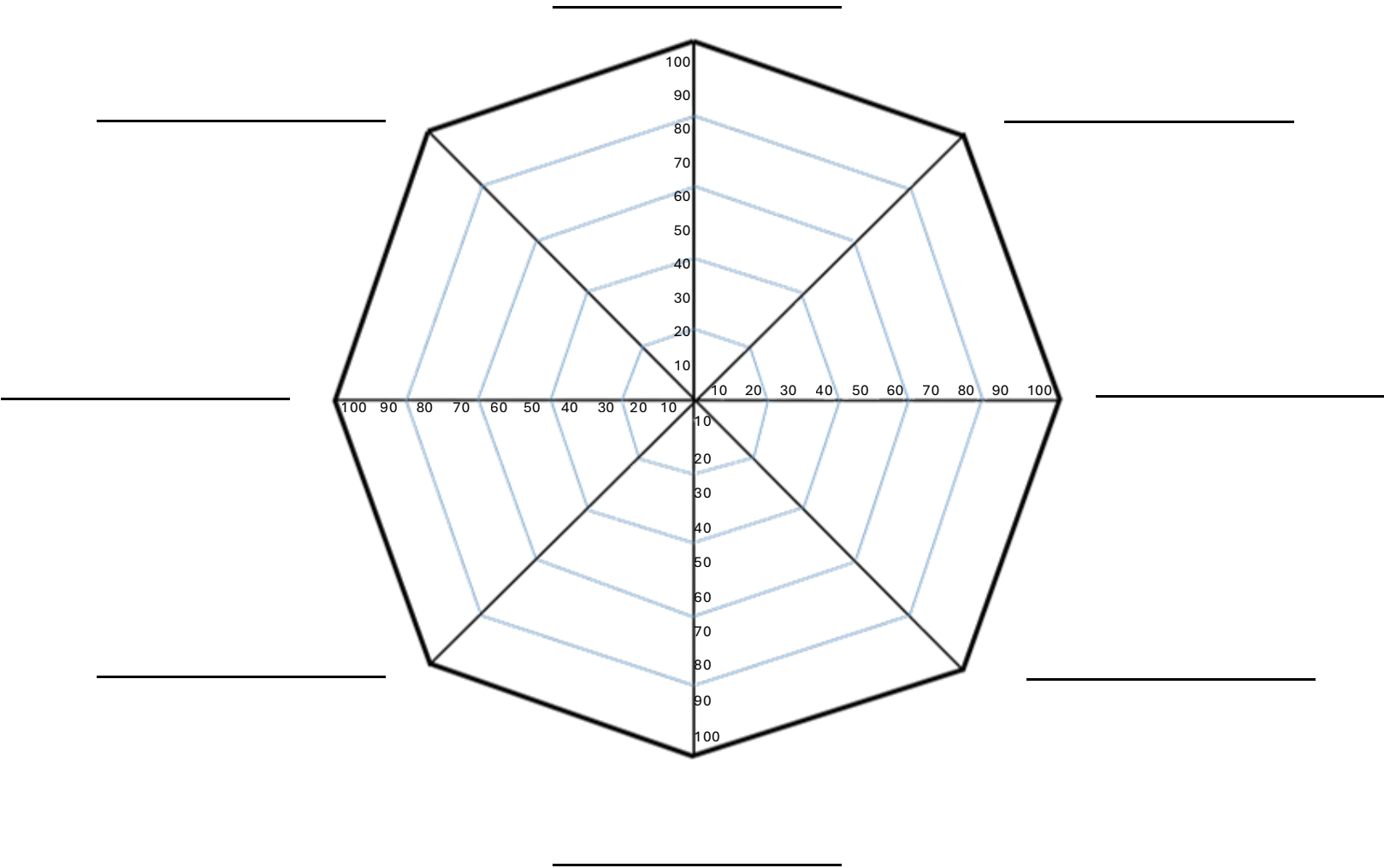


TOPIC Communication Aid Attributes



1	Green is Sally (AAC user)	●
2	Blue is Harry (Dad)	●
3	Orange is Adele (Support staff)	●
4	Red is Ms Smith (SLT)	●
5		
6		
7		
8		

TOPIC _____



Key:

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	

ASCforAAC Spidergram

TOPIC _____

