

# **AUTONOMOUS OVER INDEPENDENT**

## **Part 5**

---

**Reframe your language,  
reframe your practice.**

**On how ASHA issued a position  
statement against Autistic Autonomy**

# ASHA'S POSITION STATEMENT AGAINST RAPID PROMPTING METHOD (RPM)

ASHA's position statement undermines the autistic community's access to autonomy in favor of the capitalist myth of independence.

The following slides contain excerpts from ASHA's position statement regarding Rapid Prompting Method (RPM) and NeuroClastic's commentary on each

## ASHA claims on RPM



- there is no evidence that messages produced using RPM reflect the communication of the person with a disability, and therefore there is no evidence that RPM is a valid form of communication; (ASHA 2018)

What other people have to prove their communication is actually their own? Just autistic nonspeakers? That is bigotry and disableism.

**NOTE  
TO  
SELF:**

ASHA wants everyone to be as *\*influenced\** by the behavior industry as they are.

@NeuroClastic

# ASHA claims on RPM



- there is emerging scientific evidence that messages produced using RPM reflect these communication of the instructor and not of the person with disability (ASHA, 2018)

"EMERGING EVIDENCE"?!?!?

ASHA expects Autistic nonspeakers to not have access to communication based on evidence that's supposed to be on the horizon?! **Evidence that biased people plan to manufacture...**

*Now who is the fortune-telling Ouija being overly influenced?*



What happened to the language of autonomy in the ASHA bill of rights? ASHA sold our community out to combine resources with the behavior industry.

# ASHA claims on RPM



- RPM has been compared to FC on several characteristics, and FC is a discredited technique with evidence demonstrating that messages produced using FC do not reflect the communication of the person with disability but are authored by the "facilitator" (ASHA, 2018)

By "has been compared to FC," what they mean is that the people on their ad hoc committee have been comparing it to FC. In FC, a communication partner physically touches or supports the hand of the person pointing to letters. There is no touch in RPM or S2C.

RPM can be compared to ABA on several more characteristics. Are we going to throw that out, too?

How many logical fallacies can ASHA fit into one position statement?

# ASHA claims on RPM



- the potential harms associated with using RPM include prompt dependency; lost time and money that cannot be retrieved; reduced opportunities for access to timely, effective, and appropriate interventions; and potential loss of individual communication rights; (ASHA, 2018)

**REMEMBER!**

**According to ASHA, ASHA is violating our communication rights.**

**OUCH!**

“Nevertheless, it would be contrary to current standards of professional practice, policy, and published literature to allow the setting, communication partner, or funding stream to dictate what constitutes an individual's “need” to communicate. (ASHA, 2002)



# ASHA claims on RPM



- ASHA's position on RPM is that the use of RPM is not recommended (ASHA, 2018).

NeuroClastic's position on ASHA is that as long as they are complicit in denying access to the chosen communication for people with complex communication barriers, they are complicit in hate crimes against the Autistic and broader disability community.

ASHA has abused its authority and positioned its entire field as a hostile antagonist to autistic rights while failing to provide a single solution that is effective for a large percentage of autistic people.

Where are the apraxic nonspeaking autistic advocates who gained access to reliable communication without the benefit of RPM, S2C, or FC? No one? So ASHA proactively silenced 100% of apraxic autistic people's #OwnVoice representation.

**ASHA reinforces the oppressive notion that disabled people are only valid when they don't need supports.**

”

It must not be assumed that messages produced via RPM or any other "facilitator"-dependent technique (e.g., FC) reflect the communication of the person with a disability. This position statement on RPM does not pertain to **independent** typing without instructor influence.

-ASHA, 2018



Again, ASHA reinforces their oppressive values that invalidate anyone who needs a communication partner, violating their own bill of rights and making nonspeakers responsible for all the weight of structural privilege over their heads.



“

ASHA strongly supports continued research and clinical efforts to develop scientifically valid methods for developing and enhancing the authentic and **independent** communication and literacy skills of people with disabilities.

-ASHA, 2018



## BUT THERE IS NO TOUCH IN RPM.

Those in ASHA's ad hoc committee claim that autistic apraxic people are reading subtle cues from the communication partner. **All of them.** Subconsciously, thousands of autistic people and their communication partners-- even those in different continents-- have the same subtle cues no one else can see or identify...



## JEDI MIND TRICKS

ASHA wants people to save money so they can spend it on more "effective" interventions, **like for learning to read subtle cues.** But they're supposedly masters of reading subtle cues, though, right? They want them to enroll in therapies that use "**programming**" as the language for their approach to avoid being **influenced...**