

iTalk with the iPad

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Consideration Process

- S**tudent
- E**nvironments
- T**asks
- T**ools



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Principles

- Team collaboration and sharing of knowledge
- Thorough yet efficient
- Flexible
- Ongoing (considering the place to start-not to end!)



Student



- Current abilities
 - Receptive language abilities
 - Intelligibility of speech
 - Current communication modes and abilities
 - Social communication and interaction
 - Communication functions student uses and how
- Interests
- Challenges
- Functional areas of concern

Environments



- Physical environments, classrooms
 - People the student interacts with:
 - adults, peers,
 - readers/non-readers
 - familiar, unfamiliar
 - Settings student communicates in:
 - I on 1, small group, large group
- Materials/equipment used by others
 - Classroom communication systems
- Access issues (technical, physical, instruc.)
- Supports available



Tasks

- Specific tasks to progress toward mastery of IEP goals/objectives
- Specific tasks required for active participation
- Measurable outcomes for tasks



Tasks--communication

- Communication functions to consider
 - greet, gain attention,
 - request, reject,
 - comment,
 - ask questions, answer questions etc.
- Communication opportunities/tasks in the school day



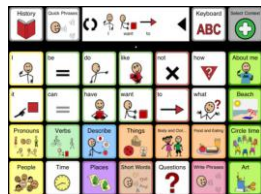
Tools: Devices/Systems

- System features
 - Level of language use
 - Programmed phrases, single words, self generated phrases, spelling
 - Vocabulary needs
 - "Core" vocabulary
 - Student specific vocabulary
 - Sentence structure



Symbols

- Symbol Stix
- PCS symbols
- Smarty Symbols
- Photos
- Other



Customizable

- Page layout
 - Number of cells/buttons
 - Size of cells
 - Can you hide buttons? (e.g. My First AAC)
- Pre-made pages and page sets
- Can you make your own?



Message Window

- Text
- Pictures
- Size



Voice

- Recorded/Digitized
- Synthesized
 - AT&T Natural Voices
 - Acapela Voices
 - Neospeech
 - Male, female and/or child

Navigation

- Static
- Dynamic
 - Has home page
 - Buttons, pages can link to others
 - Has folders/lists of categories, topic, albums, etc.
- Scene based



Text to Speech/Typing

- Simple text-to speech
- With word prediction
- Word prediction with core vocabulary



Other features to consider

- Mobile Device
 - iPad/iPod Touch/iPhone
 - Android
 - Other
- Cost
- Page Sharing/Backing Up
- Support
 - Help Center
 - User Guides
 - Videos
 - Website Tutorials

Don't Forget to Consider...

- Services
 - Staff/family training
 - Programming/customizing
- Strategies
 - Creating opportunities for communication
 - Introducing vocabulary/symbols
- Specifics of the trial
 - Data to collect
 - When to review



Resources for AAC app information

ITalk with iPads

Romina Connor, MS, CCC-SLP WashState ID
 Dawn Jones, MA, Consultant, AAC Call and Schools
 Emily Petros, MA, CCC-SLP WashState ID

Consideration /Decision Making Process

Features to Consider

Resources to help determine best app for required features

Apps for AAC (Spectronics/Jane Farrall)
<http://www.spectronics.com/article/iphoneipad-apps-for-aac>

AAC Apps: The good, the bad and the ugly (Nick Vivaldi)
http://www.oanl.org/wp_archives_09x/AAC_Apps_Good_Bad_Ugly_2012-06.pdf

AAC Tech Connect
<http://www.aactechconnect.com/>
 Free for Michigan educators through MTS www.mtsu.edu

Testing through AAC Apps (Trilly Forrester and Scott Marfilias)
http://nms.uva.edu/essac_project/wp/03comrn/resources/testing AAC_apps_OCT02011.pdf

Switch Accessible Apps for iPad/iPhone (Alex Dunn, Jane Farrall)
http://www.janefarrall.com/html/resources/switch_accessible_apps_for_ipad.pdf

Apps for AAC by Jane Farrall Spectronics

Device	Symbol System	Pre-programmed pages and customization	Voice Output Speech	Access options	Rating
2CanTalk AU \$15.99 US \$14.99 v1.1	iPhone Small number of phrases included. User can input own images.	A category based app, which uses the word "thematic" for categories. The user can create an unlimited number of themes with up to 6 sub-categories. Each sub-category can then have 6 items, which in turn can link to a further 6 items. Editing mode is turned on and off through the Settings (located under Settings on one of your home screens).	Recorded speech	Direct access	★☆☆

Over 165 apps reviewed

<http://www.spectronicsinoz.com/article/iphoneipad-apps-for-aac>



Demonstration of Apps

- Simple Apps
- Mid Level Symbol Based
- Robust Symbol Based
- Scene Based
- Text Based
- Word Prediction
- Prediction with core word bank
