

# Apps for AAC

## (Alternative & Augmentative Communication)



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1

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Disclosure: I have no relevant financial or nonfinancial relationship to disclose  
other than I am an employee of Easterseals Crossroads

2

## Learning Objectives:

- Understand the difference between dedicated AAC devices and apps acquired through the Apple iTunes App Store/Google Play Store
- Understand the difference between types of communication strategies: Symbols, orthographic, natural language formation, symbol compaction.
- Understand the thoughts behind vocabulary pages and how the user uses the page



3

## Communication



### Types of communication include:

- ❖ Speech
- ❖ Email
- ❖ Texting (SMS)
- ❖ Letters
- ❖ Phone calls

Although these forms of communication are used by most individuals, AAC users have been historically allowed devices to handle face to face communication only. Only recently are these other modes recognized as essential communication avenues. This discussion will focus on speech output needs.

4

# AAC Apps

## From SGD manufacturers

- |                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| • Snap Core First     | TobiiDynaVox         |
| • TouchChat           | Saltillo/PRC         |
| • Grid 3              | Smartbox             |
| • LAMP Words for Life | Prentke Romich (PRC) |
| • Communicator        | Tobii                |

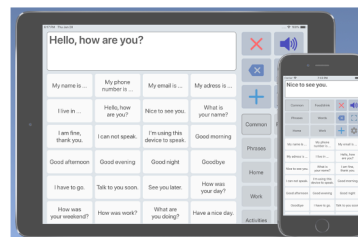
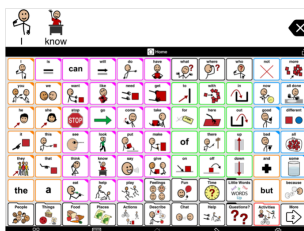


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# AAC Apps

## From independent developers

- Verbally+
- Alexicom AAC
- Proloquo2Go/Proloquo4Text
- Speech Assistant AAC

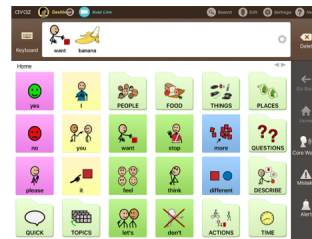
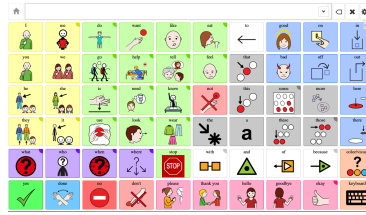


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## AAC Apps

From Independent developers

- Cough Drop
- Avaz AAC



7

## AAC Apps

Targeted AAC

- Assistive Express
- Gabby
- Speakprose

These apps have a more specific targeted user, rather than the broader coverage of the apps in the SGD products and manufacturer apps that cover individuals from 2 through adult.



8



# Apps for Communication (Not AAC)



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Presenter:  
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2

## Learning Objectives:

- Name 3 Apps that can assist individuals with communication
- Name 3 disabilities that can be aided by communication apps.



3

## Communication



### Important things to remember:

Communication is not a static event. It requires a sender, a receiver and understanding of the information relayed. Some barriers to effective communication can include:

- ❖ Hearing impairments
- ❖ Print disabilities
- ❖ Language barriers
- ❖ Cognitive impairments
- ❖ Being of the age 1 to 19 years old
- ❖ Others?

4

## Communication Apps

### Sorenson Buzz Apps

- Buzz Cards – Works like a deck of flash cards for those who do not know ASL
- Buzz Stickers – Animated images of ASL "stickers" to utilize in text messaging



5

## Translation and Transcription Apps

- Microsoft Translator – Allows for users to speak or type and have their words translated into many different languages (including Klingon!)
- Otter AI – instant transcription that can be turned into searchable notes
- AVA – uses AI or real transcription



6

## Communication for Symbol Speakers

### Symbol Speak

- Symbol-It – Changes spoken English into AAC based symbols to communicate with AAC users without the need to learn the device



7

## Using your Head

### Jabberwocky AAC

- Text-based AAC app that uses facial recognition capacity of device to track movement and allow for hands-free use.



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## Communication with First Responders

iTalkDoc – Created to help individuals who are nonverbal quickly and easily relay information to medical personnel and first responders.

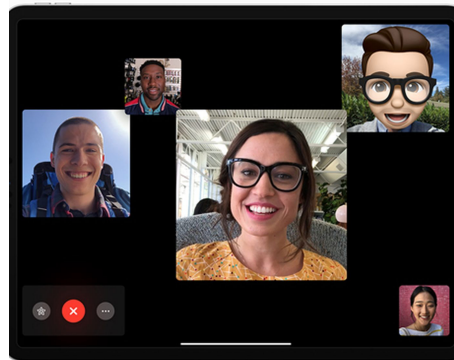


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## Communication Apps

### Built-in Accommodations

- FaceTime and Google Duo – allow for face to face conversation
- Visual Voicemail
- Texting
- Email



10

## Communication Apps

There are a lot more out there!

- Too many to name in one presentation
- Different barriers – Different needs
- Try free or free trial apps when possible
- May take more than one to get the job done
- Bridging Apps, State AT programs are a great place to start!



11

## Questions?



12

# Thank You!

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