

Using an iPad for Aided Communication

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The logo for "The Magic of a Cure" features the words "THE MAGIC OF A CURE" in a stylized, colorful font. "THE" is in black, "MAGIC" is in red, "OF A" is in black, and "CURE" is in red. Above the text is a semi-circle of blue stars of varying sizes. To the right of the text is a blue graphic element resembling a stylized letter 'h' or a similar shape.

DREAM IT.
HOPE IT.

National Ataxia Foundation
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Hosted by the Southeast Region

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PRESENTER DISCLOSURES

- Nancy Harrington, M.A., CCC
- No relationships to disclose or list

AGENDA

- FFAST
- AT/ AAC Overview
- Why an iPad?
- Key AAC Apps
- Technical Tips
- Resources

The Florida Alliance for Assistive Services and Technology

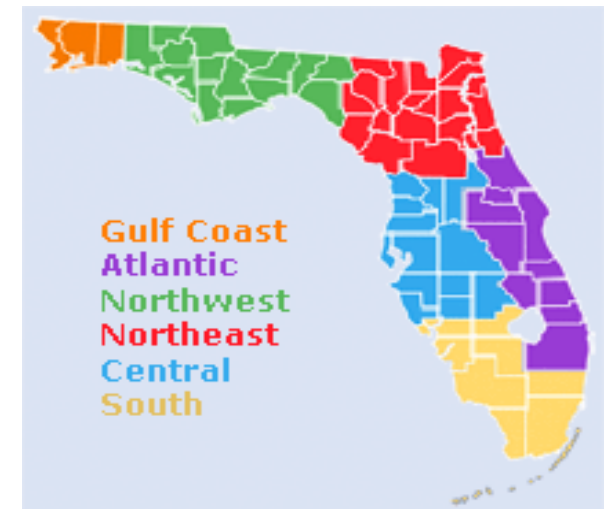
FAAST is a non-profit organization funded by the U.S. Department of Education Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) through the Assistive Technology Act of 2004 and the State of Florida Department of Education Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.



FAAST MISSION

Our Mission is to improve the quality of life for all Floridians with disabilities through advocacy and awareness activities that increase access to and acquisition of assistive services and technology.

The core work of FAAST's mission is achieved through Regional Demonstration Centers throughout the state.



FAAST PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

- Information & Referral
- Assessments, Education & Training
- Special Programs
- Presentations, Exhibits and Forums
- Demonstrations of Assistive Technology
- Resource Library
- Device Lending
- Device Recycling
- Device Exchange website: [FAAST AT List](#)
- Alternative Financing : New Horizon Loan Program
- Public Policy Awareness





ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

WHAT IS ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY?


- AT is defined as:

“any item, piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially off-the-shelf, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities”

(PL 103-218 – Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities: Amendments of 1994)

WHO USES AT?

- Individuals with:
 - Physical disabilities
 - Learning disabilities
 - Cognitive disabilities
 - Sensory impairments
 - Communication impairments



***“For people without disabilities,
technology makes things easier. For
people with disabilities, technology
makes things possible.”***

PIAT web site (www.temple.edu/inst_disabilities/piat)



COMMUNICATION & AAC



YOUR COMMUNICATION TODAY

FUNCTIONS OF COMMUNICATIVE INTERACTION

LIGHT, 1988

- Express needs and wants
 - Goal: to regulate someone's behavior to fulfill your needs and wants.
- Exchange information
 - Goal: to exchange information with others.
- Develop social closeness
 - Goal: to establish, maintain, and develop personal relationships.
- Fulfill social etiquette routines
 - Goal is to conform to social conventions of politeness.

FORMS OF COMMUNICATION

- Face to face communication/interaction
 - Written communication
 - Telecommunication
- ❖ Individuals may require AAC to realize any or all of the previously-identified functions or forms of communication



- AAC *System*
 - integrated group of components, including the symbols, aids, strategies, and techniques used by individuals to enhance communication.
 - incorporates multiple modes of communication:
 - natural speech (word approximations, vocalizations)
 - gestures
 - low tech strategies
 - high tech strategies

WHAT IS AAC?

All forms of communication that enhance, supplement, or replace speech and/or writing



*PODD image from
www.mayerjohnson.com*




image from verballyapp.com

(ASHA Knowledge and Skills for AAC Service Delivery, 2001)



WHO IS A CANDIDATE FOR AAC?

- **Anyone** who cannot meet ALL communication needs through natural speech



AAC services are provided to people who have communication disabilities such that their natural speech is inadequate to meet their daily communication needs.

- no access to natural speech.
- at risk for speech development.
- some speech, but not sufficient to meet all needs.
- speech that is functional in most contexts, but not functional in some specific contexts with specific partners.
- speech that is temporarily inadequate to meet communication needs, but is expected to improve or recover.

AAC & SPEECH/LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

- Augmentative and Alternative Communication can **help** children with developmental disabilities develop communication skills.
- The Research tells us that:
 - AAC does not hinder, and actually aids speech production (Millar, Light & Schlosser, 2006; Yoder, 2006; Binger, Berens, Kent-Walsh, & Hickman, 2008; Romski et al. 2010;

APPLICATIONS OF AAC

- Establish a basic means of communication
- Improve functional communication.
- Alleviate frustration.
- Equalize comprehension and production.
- Promote language development.: vocabulary, sentence building, syntax/grammar Clarify speech.
 - *Visual & auditory feedback aids learning!*
- Facilitate speech development.
- Enhance educational/vocational opportunities.
- Increase participation in society.
- Reduce challenging behaviors.

IPADS & TABLETS

- iPad & iPad Mini
 - Chatwrap – protection and Bluetooth speaker
 - Range of External portable Bluetooth speakers for speech output amplification
- Dedicated iPads (may be funded in some states)
 - Quicktalker Freestyle (Ablenet)
 - ProSlate (FRS)

- Android Tablets (some AAC Apps available)

Dedicated Tablet Devices

- Nova Chat 5, 8, 10 & 14 (an Android Device)
- Dynavox T-10 & T-15
- Grid Pad (Windows)





APPS, APPS & MORE APPS...

- They keep coming.....

SOME AAC APPS.... SYMBOL BASED

- Proloquo2Go
- TouchChat HD w/ WordPower
- Sonoflex
- Go Talk Now
- Speak for Yourself
- My Talk Tools (*Workspace subscription*)
- Tap to Talk
- Speak All (good for PECS transition)

....AND MORE

- LAMP Words for Life
- Avaz
- AvaTalker AAC
- Sounding Board
- Click n' Talk (*good as starter talking photo album*)
- Pictello (Also good a starter talking photo album & has visual scene capability)

TEXT BASED APPS:

IOS

- Predictable
- Proloquo4Text
- Rocket Keys
- Speak It!
- Type2Speak
- Abilipad
- Assistive Express
- EZ Speech Pro
- Verbally
- Flip Writer AAC
- iMean

ANDROID

- EZ Speech Pro
- Touch Voice
- Predictable

COMPARISON TABLE OF TEXT BASED APPS

Table 1
Sample Text-to-Speech Augmentative & Alternative Communication Applications

Application	Platform Options		Voice Output Options		Rate Enhancement Options			Additional Options		
	iOS	Android	Synthesized Speech Voices	Blended Personal Voices*	Word Prediction Intelligent*	Stored Phrases	Customizable Keyboard	Write-to-Text**	Multiple Languages	Accessibility Features
<i>Abilipad</i>	X		X		X**	X	X			
<i>Assistive Express</i>	X		X		X**	X		X		
<i>EZ Speech Pro</i>	X	X	X		X**	X				
<i>Flip Writer AAC</i>	X		X		X					
<i>iMean</i>	X		X		X		X			
<i>Predictable</i>	X	X	X	X	X**	X	X	X	X (iOS)	X
<i>Proloquo4Text</i>	X		X	X	X**	X	X		X	X
<i>Rocket Keys</i>	X		X		X**		X			
<i>Speak It!</i>	X		X			X			X	X
<i>Touch Voice</i>	X	X	X		X	X				
<i>Type2Speak</i>	X		X			X				
<i>Verbally</i>	X		X		X**	X	X			

AAC WEB RESOURCES

<http://praacticalaac.org/category/praactical/>

www.spectronicsinoz.com

TECHNICAL TIPS

- Guided Access
- Turn off Editing & Settings
- Backing up Users/Drop Box/iShare
- Screen adjustments to aid touch access
- Switch Access
- Adjustments of symbol size and colors
- Hiding & Revealing buttons



