

## iCommunicate “app” ily...



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## AAC apps

- 100+ Apps are available
- Housed on “mobile media devices”
  - Nondedicated devices
  - “no single tool fits the needs of all”

*“The goal of augmentative and alternative communication has always been about communication, not the device or technology.” RERC White Paper*

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## ASHA Article

- Surveyed 300+ SLPs
- 72% owned iDevice – 55% Ipad, 18% Ipod touch, 6% Iphone
- 56% purchased with their own finances
- Apps used:
  - Articulation: 75%
  - Articulation Assessment: 12%
  - Fluency Therapy: 16%
  - Language Therapy: 80%
  - AAC Device: 40%
  - Voice Therapy: 4%
  - Motivational Tool: 85%

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## Before you purchase....

- Know how to Search
  - Category/genre
  - Genius
  - Featured
  - Name
  - “customers also bought...”
  - Online reviews/blogs




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## Do your research

- Read descriptions thoroughly
  - What device is it for?
  - Does it have speech? Digitized or synthesized?
  - What type of symbols?
  - What type of access? Scanning? Swipe?
  - Does it have prediction?
  - What type of programming?
- Read reviews
- Look at the company website

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## Features to Consider

- Purchase or lease
- Technical support
- Durability
- Characteristics
  - Keyboard
  - Symbol set
  - Grid/visual scene
- Customability
  - Grid size
  - Symbols
  - Can you change a button in a minute?

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### Questions to ask yourself before purchasing an App

- Was the iDevice platform and accompanying app determined through a thorough clinical feature-matching process?
- Are we fitting the person to the iDevice and communication app or are we fitting the person systematically to the iDevice?
  - (Gosnell, Costello, & Shane, 2011)

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### Organization

- How do you create and name folders
- Manage the folders and student/user access
- Organization
  - Genre
  - Purpose
  - User

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### Do's and Don'ts

- **DO** sync all "i" devices to one computer
- **DO** name all "i" devices
- **DO** label or engrave your devices
- **DO** set the "i" devices into autosync
- **Don't** sync "i" devices to any other than the original computer
- **Don't** spend too much on accessories

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## User Needs

- AAC/Communication
- Language development
- Early learning
- Pre-academic
- Academic
- Transitioning
- Socializing




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## AAC/Communication Apps

- Prologue2Go
- Tap toTalk
- SonoFlex
- Verbal Victor
- Locabulary
- AAC Speech Buddy
- Alexicom AAC
- Assistive Chat
- Speak for Yourself
- My Talk
- Auto Verbal Pro




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## AAC/Communication Apps

- I Can Speak
- Touch Chat Suite
- Text2Speech
- Talk Assist
- Speakit
- Verbally
- Grace
- iCommunicate
- Talk4Me
- PicsAloud
- MyVoice




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### Language Development

- My First Apps (Words, etc)
- Kindergarten.com
- Functional Skills System
- Speech with Milo series
- WH questions
- Name that Category
- Grasshopper Apps
- How to Dazzle at Grammar
- Clean up




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### Language Development cont.

- Baby Buttons
- Alligator Apps
- Preschool EduPlay
- Wipe and Learn
- Different Roads to Learning
- Small Talk apps from Lingraphia
- Conover Company Sampler apps




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### Sign Language Apps

- BabySign Language
- Toddler Sign
- iSign
- Sign Language Alphabet
- Sign 4 Me iPad
- iASL




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## Avoid App Pitfalls

- YOU are the driving force behind intervention. The App is a TOOL. The App does not replace YOU and should not be used in place of SLP treatment or proceed without training and guidance.
- Solid clinical knowledge & judgment is needed to assess & monitor the apps' use

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Success in life can be directly related to the ability to communicate. Full interpersonal communication substantially enhances an individual's potential for education, employment, and independence. Therefore, it is imperative that the goal of augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) use be **the most effective interactive communication possible**. Anything less represents a compromise of the individual's human potential.

ASHA website, 2011 Adapted from a paper by Katya Hill, M.A., CCC-SLP, Assistant Professor, Speech-Language Pathology, Edinboro University of Pennsylvania

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## Online Resources

- [www.iPad-site.net](http://www.iPad-site.net)
- [www.Slpsharing.com](http://www.Slpsharing.com)
- [www.Teacherswithapps.com](http://www.Teacherswithapps.com)
- [www.Momswithapps.com](http://www.Momswithapps.com)
- [www.Autismepicenter.com](http://www.Autismepicenter.com)
- [www.bestkidsapps.com](http://www.bestkidsapps.com)
- [www.freeappalert.com](http://www.freeappalert.com)
- [Blog.Autismspectrumdirectory.com](http://Blog.Autismspectrumdirectory.com)
- [www.freeappalert.com](http://www.freeappalert.com)
- [www.techinspecial.com](http://www.techinspecial.com)
- [www.helpkidzlearn.com](http://www.helpkidzlearn.com)

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