

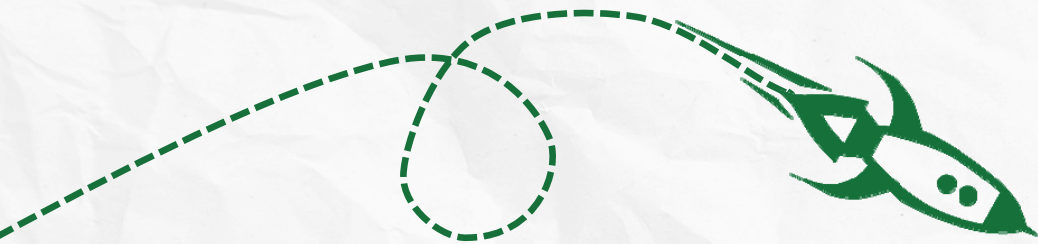
2013 Cigna
Autism
education series

March 14, 2013

Assistive
technology



State of the
science



Presenters

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Agenda

Assistive Technology



Augmentative and Alternative Communication



Assessment Process

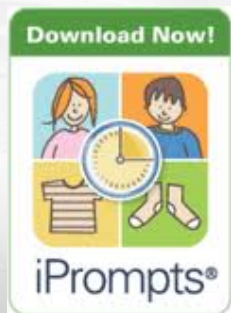


Tech Options



Agenda

Apps



Resources



Questions



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Assistive Technology: What It Is

Any device, gadget, hardware or software used by a person with a disability to do things for themselves that might otherwise be difficult or impossible to do because of their disability.



What is Augmentative and Alternative Communication or AAC?



All non-oral speech forms of communication used to express thoughts, needs, wants, and ideas.

Can be used in place of speech, to supplement speech, or to help develop speech.

AAC devices that use technology are a form of AT!



Who can Benefit from AT?

About 54 million people nationwide rely on AT daily to improve their quality of life, including:

- Those with physical disabilities who use wheelchairs for mobility
- Deaf individuals who use vibrating alarm clocks
- Those with communication disorders who use an AAC device to communicate
- Those with physical impairments who need adaptive devices to access their communication devices or other daily activities
- Those with memory difficulties who use specialized watches or hand held devices to remember or complete important tasks

Who can Help with AT?

The field of AT and AAC involves many different disciplines
SLPs, OTs, BCBAs, PTs, educators, and others

It's important to find the right professionals who will work
dynamically with your family to ensure success

An interdisciplinary team approach, which brings multiple
perspectives, is best!

Types of AAC

No Tech AAC



Unaided



Low Tech



High Tech



Technology and Autism Spectrum Disorder

The infusion of technology in the lives of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Latest mobile technology has heightened interest in AAC

Less stigma

Caution! We need to make sure that good evaluations and intervention are still taking place

Assessment Process Overview

- Identify current methods of communication, what they want to communicate, and patterns of communication
- Ensure the communicator is matched with the appropriate AAC tool
- Conduct a device trial
- Follow-up and provide ongoing support to ensure goodness of fit.

Assessment Process

We start the assessment process with family interview and patient observations

1. Look at WHY the person communicates
2. Look at the patterns of communication –with WHO, WHERE, WHEN
3. Look at HOW the person is communicating now.

Next, we use direct assessment and take a look at abilities and needs

Comprehension, vision and hearing, physical abilities, and visual scanning abilities

Language and linguistic needs

Feature Matching

- Features: Real pictures, video, icons, words/letters
- Message formulation: Single key messages, Simple sentences, Full grammar sentences
- Message keys: # pictures, Size of pix
- Message window: Will it have pix or not?
- Key action (click, zoom, hold time)
- Screen size
- Screen type (touch, swipe, alternate access)
- Voice output options

Decision Making

1. Gather all the information
2. Narrow down the choices
3. Try out probable matches
4. Conduct a device trial

Mobile Technology or Manufactured



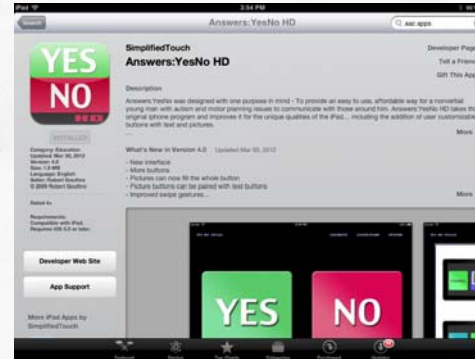
Traditional Devices and Costs

- Dynavox, PRC , Lingraphia
- Benefits of traditional AAC devices
- Costs usually range from \$3,000 to \$10,000



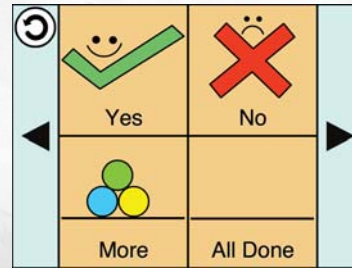
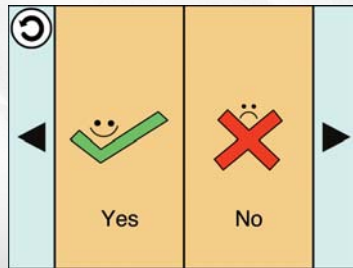
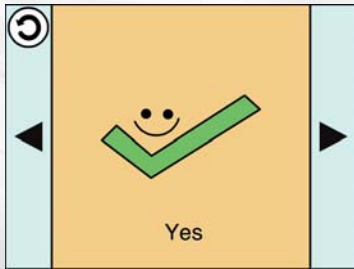
Benefits of Mobile Devices Plus Apps

- COST EFFECTIVE under \$2,000
- Cool, socially acceptable
- Easily available
- Short vs. long term options
- Use for other things (may cause issue with payer's)

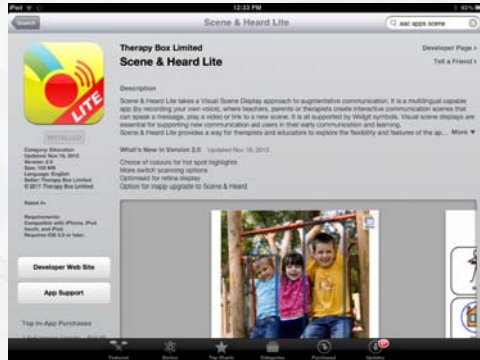


From Simple Apps to Major Communication Apps

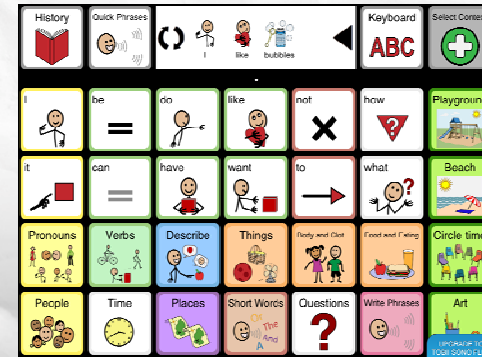
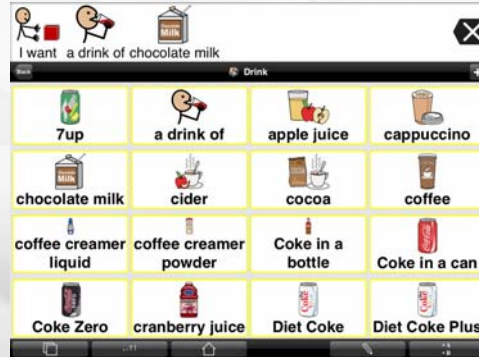
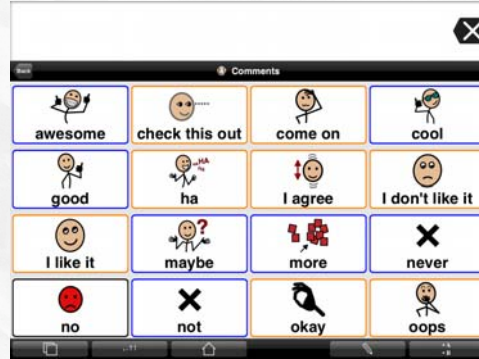
Applications



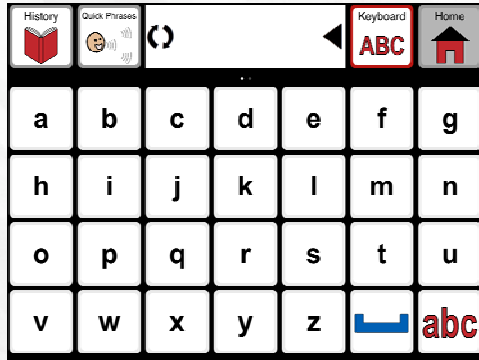
Applications



Applications



Applications



Applications

How to select Apps

- Work with your professional team
- Search the App store, read descriptions, check ratings and try the lite version
- Read blogs that review apps

Understanding your funding options

- School district
- AT Loan programs

Resources

Funding Resources and Loan Programs

ATIA Funding Resource Guidelines

<http://www.atia.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=4219>

List of AT assistance programs by state

<http://resnaprojects.org/allcontacts/statewidecontacts.html>

Assistive Technology Network <http://www.atnet.org/>

Finding qualified professionals

ASHA website link <http://www.asha.org/findpro/>

Resources

Findings Apps

Review of current AAC apps with description, costs and ratings

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

Review of current AAC apps with description, costs and ratings

<http://www.janefarrall.com/blog/>

Information on good general apps for kids

<http://momswithapps.com/>

Information on apps for children with special needs

<http://bridgingapps.org/>

Information on Ipads for children with special needs

<http://ipads4specialneedsbook.com/>



Thank you for attending the Cigna Autism Awareness Webinar !

Michael Cameron and Melanie Foshee

