

## Using Ipad/iPods for Communication

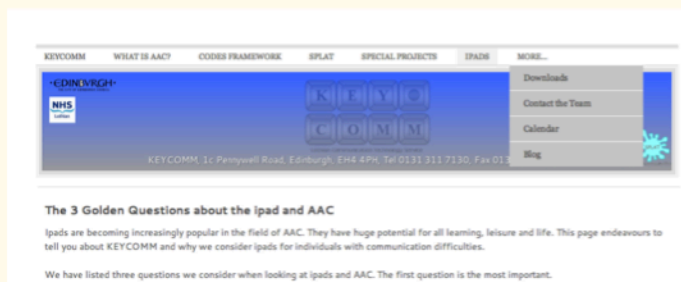
Welcome to our Autumn newsletter. We've been busy bees at Keycomm, so inside you'll learn about some of the changes to the service, our new website, our thoughts on the new devices available, and the courses we have on offer

KEYCOMM recently welcomed Therapy Box, a leading developer/supplier of ipad apps and accessories to Edinburgh to demonstrate their products in early October. They demonstrated Predictable, their text based app and Scene and Heard, a communication app based around the use of visual scenes. They also demonstrated Assistiveware's Proloquo2Go which we will look at later in the newsletter.

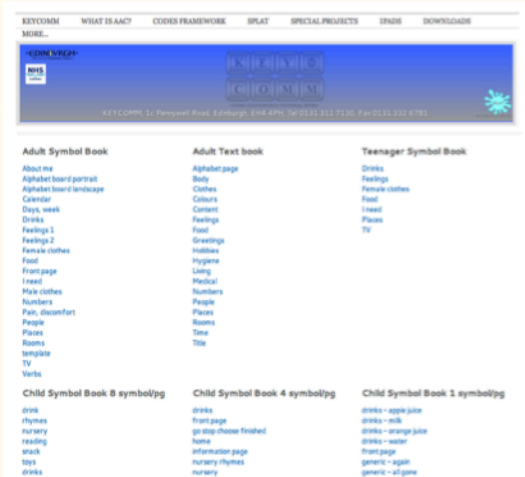
Predictable, they described as a lightwriter for the ipad, has many features that can offer flexibility in its access. With the latest version, which is due to be released soon, the keyboard can be completely reorganised. There is also the option of using handwriting recognition for people who prefer to write rather type. Predictable also has a scanning option, and the screen can be used as a switch. A switch and blue tooth switch box can alternatively be used.

Scene and Heard, had the wow factor, which we can't do justice to here. It is basically a visual scene app, however, the visual scenes can be used for many purposes in addition to use for expressive language. For instance, scenes can be sequenced to show someone how to make a cup of tea, video clips of each step can be included as well as the auditory prompt. Scenes can be scheduled to begin automatically at times during the day, eg within a school setting, the maths scenes might open up at 9.30, and the snack apps at 10.15am. So there is a huge potential for use of this app for receptive language and learning.

## New website



We have recently changed and updated our website. It's new address is [www.keycomm.weebly.com](http://www.keycomm.weebly.com), but if that is too much to remember google the word keycomm and you'll find us at the top. There are some key improvements. We have now been able to organise our downloads page meaning it is much easier to find and download resources. We've added lots of resources that we have made in Boardmaker to the site. Please note: you will need Boardmaker to download and print these out. We've also ventured into the world of blogging. You will find our blog on the website. We hope that you will visit this to keep up with KEYCOMM and the changing service.



# Cleaning Policy

We have recently updated our guidelines on how to look after and maintain our equipment whilst it is out on loan. The equipment within our loan bank can be loaned to many people and we want everyone to feel that they are getting to trial a device that looks and behaves as good as new. So you can help us by following these guidelines.

- 1) If you are supplied with a protective case or cover for the device on loan, please keep this in place throughout the loan period.
- 2) Please keep all attachments, documents and/or instructions together, ready to be returned with the equipment.
- 3) Please do not remove or cover Keycomm ID reference numbers
- 4) To clean non-porous equipment, please ONLY use antibacterial disposable wipes. We recommend that they are 60-70% alcohol based wipes.
- 5) Please remove any personal stickers from equipment before returning to Keycomm.

Many thanks for your anticipated support. You can also download this information from our website if you feel that it would be useful for other people to know this.



# Voice Amplifiers

We have recently updated our referral process for the voice amplifier service. There are two ways the service can be accessed. As a speech and language therapist you can choose to borrow a voice amplifier from Keycomm to try with your client, alternatively the client can self-refer to Keycomm. We have introduced a short referral form which can be found on our website. This needs to be completed before an assessment can be arranged, and there is a short section that must be completed by the speech and language therapist. All clients referred will be assessed at Keycomm



# Buzzers

KEYCOMM has provided switch accessible buzzers for many years now. Unfortunately, the buzzers have recently been redesigned and are proving unreliable, therefore we have made the decision that we are unable to provide these anymore. Apologies.

# NEW!

# Support Clinic Sessions

New Monthly Support Clinics at KEYCOMM

We are now able to offer a monthly clinic at the KEYCOMM centre to support and review individual's AAC system. This is, initially available to individuals who are 16 years and older and not in full time education. The clinic will start in November and will be held on the second Thursday of each month between 10am and 2.30pm. Each individual must make an appointment to attend the clinic, and each appointment will be one hour long. During the clinic we will be able to review the present AAC system or provide support and /or training for a key person who should accompany the individual user. The next clinic dates are;

**Thursday 8th November**

**Thursday 13th December**

To book an appointment at the support clinic, contact KEYCOMM on 0131 311 7130 or email [janet.1.ramsay@ea.edin.sch.uk](mailto:janet.1.ramsay@ea.edin.sch.uk)

# New Devices

## Novachat

The Novachat series by Sattilo, is a dynamic display communication aid designed around the Samsung tablet, with attached bluetooth speaker.

The software is an upgraded version of the software found on the Alt-Chat, and this has been significantly improved. Programming is fairly straight forward, almost a pleasure. The Novachat is available as a 5 inch, 7 inch or 10 inch device. Novachat 7 has a 7 inch screen and so forth. It comes with SymbolStix symbols as standard, although PCS symbols can be added for an additional cost. There are also various vocabulary sets available within the device, including Chatpower. It comes with a choice of voices, and the sound quality from the speakers are good. Keyguards are available for 15, 24 and 42 page layouts, and the device can be locked down as a communication device if required. It has an attached carry handle, and a stand which is a bit flimsy. However, the attached speaker helps the Novachat lie at a slight angle negating the need for the stand. These are just becoming available and are being trialled at the moment at KEYCOMM. We don't know how durable the device will be yet, time will tell, but we think this device has real potential for the ambulant client.



## Proloquo2Go version 2

Proloquo2Go has been around for a quite a while now and Assistiveware have continually made small improvements to the software, however, this summer saw a major update to the software. A few new features have been added, and the vocabulary set has been completely rejigged.

Proloquo2Go now has 3 vocabulary options. You can start from blank and access their symbol banks, begin with the basic vocabulary set or start with the core vocabulary set, which is designed so that the individual can build their own phrases from single words. All of the vocabulary sets are targeted towards children. There continues to be the option of using the keyboard to write messages as well. The keyboard has prediction.

Programming has changed, and takes a bit to get used to if you are familiar with the older version of Proloquo2Go. We have created instructions for this, and uploaded them to our new website. You will find these on the downloads page at [www.keycomm.weebly.com](http://www.keycomm.weebly.com). Once you do become more familiar with Proloquo2Go, programming becomes a very quick process.

There are some nice features that have been added. You can now hide buttons, and swap them more easily. You can select a number of buttons to edit at once. Individual buttons can also have individual styles.

If you already have the older version of Proloquo2Go, a free upgrade to version 2 is available through itunes.



## Did you know..

In the latest software upgrade for the ipad (IOS 1.06), Apple have added an interesting accessibility option that everyone has been asking for for a while.

Yes, it is finally here! The ipad can be locked into apps. This means that if Proloquo2Go, or any other app seems like the perfect app, but the user finds other aspects of the ipad more interesting, the ipad can now be locked in to the app, meaning that the user is only able to use that app.

You will find this option in the settings. It is called guided access, and it will require a pincode to unlock it once it is set.

# Courses and Upcoming Events

## CODES FRAMEWORK - FRIDAY 2ND NOV 1.30-3.30PM (REPEATED ON 18TH JANUARY)

This course is suitable for Speech and Language Therapists, and Teachers. Based upon the principles of Janice Light's communication competencies and the model of human occupation, we will guide you through KEYCOMM's Codes Framework which is a joint goal setting and planning proforma designed to monitor and extend communication effectiveness for the individual using AAC. Individuals attending the course will receive the Codes Framework pack which includes electronic copies of the baseline assessment and the planning and goal setting tool. DOWNLOAD booking form from the calendar page on our website.

## USING IPADS IN AAC - ACIP's annual study day

This study day will be held Canergie Conference Centre, Dunfermline, on 7th November. It will focus upon using ipads for AAC. There will be an opportunity to hear about some case studies in the morning, followed by workshop sessions in the afternoon. The choice of workshops are

- getting started with you ipad
- simple photo and video apps to support communication
- using ipads with people with aphasia
- AAC apps for symbol users
- Accessibility - switch access, gloves, pens and accessories
- Text-based AAC apps for/adults with acquired neurological conditions

There will be the opportunity to join two workshops. The day will conclude with a look at managing ipads. The booking form can be downloaded from our website, or contact Janet Scott on 0141 201 2619

Something missing?

You can request a course by phoning and talking to us. Schools and centres can download our training menu to give you some ideas for in-service

## THE KEYCOMM TEAM

It can be a little confusing tracking us down when we are away on our travels visiting you. Fortunately, as I am sure you all know, Janet runs a tight ship and keeps us and the office all organised. But just in case you want to keep track of us, or hunt us down, tear off this slip and pin it to the noticeboard, fridge, diary....

OFFICE HOURS MONDAY-FRIDAY 9AM-5PM

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JANET RAMSAY	AVAILABLE MONDAY-FRIDAY 9-1PM	<a href="mailto:janet.1.ramsay@ea.edin.sch.uk">janet.1.ramsay@ea.edin.sch.uk</a>