



Lothian Communication Technology Service

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2012

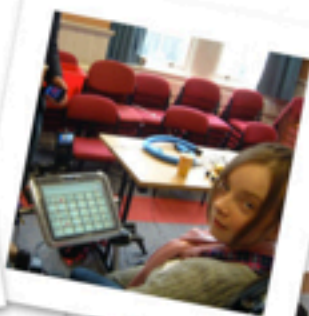
Welcome to our Spring Newsletter. Read about the latest devices, see the fun we had at the Family Fun Day, and find out more about the courses on offer at KEYCOMM.

Family Fun Day

The Family Fun Day was held at CALL Scotland on Saturday 24th March. It's a time when Scotland's communication centres, and others interested in communication, gather together to share with families what's on offer around the country. The place was a hive of activity, with lots on offer for families to explore, which we've captured in our photo gallery!

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KEYCOMM brought along our switch toys, and switch software. There is a certain patch of carpet at CALL Scotland that is now extremely clean from all the bubble mixture that washed over it. Elsewhere, children could create pictures, have a go on the smart wheelchair, even practise their targeting skills against Shrek. Lots of fun had by all we hope, and some useful information shared too!

New Products

Nova Chat- This is a new voice output communication aid from Saltillo. It is being distributed through Liberator Ltd. It is based on an android tablet with added speech. It has Symbol Stix symbols in it but you can purchase PCS symbols as an option. It has a carrying handle and integral stand for table top work. It will be available in 3 sizes based on screen size: 5 in, 7 in, and 10 in. We saw the 7 inch device and it was light and portable and seemed like a good size for ambulant users. It comes with a variety of vocabularies for different abilities. It also has a built in camera for ease of use of photographs. You can also use it in both portrait or landscape orientation. Available from Liberator Ltd. £2495 ex vat.

Nova Chat 7



Toby Churchill's Swift

Swift- This is a new text to speech voice output communication aid from Toby Churchill. The Swift is a handheld device with the dual screen that Toby Churchill is known for. The device is accessed through a small rubber joystick which moves a cursor around the screen and then the user selects the letters/functions. The Swift software is compatible with the Lightwriter s140 so individuals could change between the two devices maintaining their personalised messages etc. It also has a USB port for quick backups and exchange of information through a USB stick. The Swift is unique in its design and it also has the capacity for storing personal messages and also access to Quick Sounds which are sociable sounds like laughing, sighing etc that you can put in your output. The Swift will be available soon and we are hoping to have a better look and trial use of it in the coming months.

WAP-7D Digital Voice Amplifier - This system is portable, light weight and has versatile wearing options; a waistband, a neckband or a waistband clamp. It offers voice amplification in various settings indoor and outdoors, and it has a powerful digital amplifier that provides a high quality stable sound. There are several microphones that come with the system, head set, collar clip or hand held, again this increases the options for its use. The batteries are rechargeable, a charger is provided, the device is reported to have a long operating time, up to approx 30 hours with fully charged batteries.

Now available at
KEYCOMM

Monacor WAP+7D Digital Voice Amplifier



React2- React2 is a new suite of software which can be used with Stroke patients. It is an upgrade from the original React from Propeller Multimedia. The programme is all done online so there is no software to install. Therapists can set patients up at home or in another site and monitor their progress through the software. There are a number of modules which have all been rewritten. They include Auditory Processing, Visual Processing, Life Skills, Semantics and Memory and Sequencing. We understand that there is to be a pilot trial of React2 in Lothian very soon. For more information go to www.propeller.net/react2.

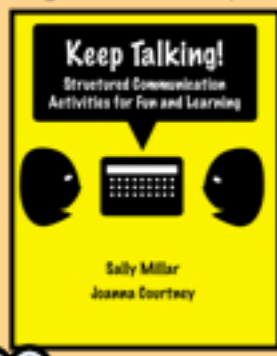
Book Review

Keep Talking! Structured Communication Activities for Fun and Learning
By Sally Millar and Joanna Courtney, CALL Scotland

This new resource is a set of ideas to help teachers and therapists implement and use an AAC system. It has lots of ideas organised into sections such as Out and About, Five Minute Standbys, Group Communication etc. Each activity is set out with clear instructions on how to play and what you will need including necessary vocabulary. They also include variations on each game/activity so they can be used again and again.

We are all constantly looking for new ideas (or variations on the old ones) to provide loads of opportunities for young people to use their AAC system. This new book gives us a good jump start.

Available from CALL Scotland, The University of Edinburgh, Paterson's Land, Holyrood Road, Edinburgh EH8 8AQ, www.callscotland.org.uk. Cost is £7.50



Ipad Accessories

iAdaptor £148
iAdaptor 2 (Ipad 2)
£198



This carry case has its own speaker which needs charging. It offers more protection than the standard cases available, but this comes at the cost of a hefty price tag. The children we have trialled this with enjoy the handle and the carry strap. As we speak no iPad have been injured at KEYCOMM where this has been used!

There are more and more iPad accessories coming on to the market. Carrying an iPad about can become a bit of an issue, as they are fragile, and they don't have handy grips like some of the dedicated devices.

Big Grips, Inclusive
Technology £24,
plus £15 for stand



These are a lot bigger than they look here. Made of a rubber material, they offer protection in an affordable way. Be warned they smell pungent when new and once your iPad is in this case it's difficult to get it out.

Speck iguy
around £40



Isn't it adorable? We've not tried this yet, but if you have let us know what you think.

We still love the tecknet case, available from Amazon. It's not quite as sturdy as the original but still does a good job.

This mounting option used the Daessy system. It offers a secure way of mounting an iPad onto a chair or bed in a neat way



Available from
Mounts & More £90
+ VAT



Tecknet, around
£10 on Amazon

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

CODES FRAMEWORK

New course! 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 develop the communication skills of an individual. This course is aimed at professionals. This course will take place 2nd November, 1.30pm-3.30pm and will be repeated on 18th January. For more information contact Debbie on 0131 311 7130. The booking form can be downloaded from our website. Please note booking is through CPD for CoE Children and Families employees.

BOARDMAKER 6

Hands-on course to guide you through how to use this symbol bank to create low tech boards, visual aids and overlays. This is a 2 hour course, 10am-12pm, 10th May. Please phone us to book on or download a booking form from www.keycommaac.uk.org

Remember our website is packed with information sheets to help you program devices. We have also put up lots of low tech boards for those of you who have Boardmaker.

LET'S PLAY AND TALK TOGETHER
This is a project to help children develop social language and peer to peer communication through play. KEYCOMM has now developed a new boardgame library for parents and families to borrow. Each pack comes with low tech symbol boards to promote communication. If you're interested in finding out more, please give us a call.

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