KEYCOMM NEWS

Dual Language Speakers

Keycomm have been looking into the existing communication apps to identify whether AAC users who need to switch languages can do so easily. For some of the communication apps, you would need to purchase an additional copy of the app for each language. This can be costly.

Proloquo4text, a text to speech app developed by Assistiveware, does support many languages used within one app. It is easy to switch keyboards and speech output at the touch of a button. This requires users to first load up the different language keyboards within the Ipad keyboard settings. Then when using the app there is a world icon on the keyboard. When pressed this allows each user to change the keyboard to a different language which in this app automatically changes the voice output. (The speech output will only work if there is a corresponding synthetic voice available). This allows an individual user to converse using 2 languages and to switch easily between the 2 languages. This may be applicable when an individual speaks one language with family and friends and another language with professionals. Beware- this is not a translation app! It will not translate text or speech into different languages.

Scottish Government News

There is a now a 2 year project at the Scottish Government focussing on developing AAC across Scotland. They have appointed a new AAC team which consists of a new AAC Improvement Officer, Jean Alexander. This team will be taking many issues forward including developing directions to NHS Boards on implementing the new legislation.

They have also revised the AAC Advisory Group which will meet for the first time in December. Members of the advisory group consist of various stakeholders including AHP's working within AAC and the third sector.

Refresh your memory on Photo Story Apps

The use of photos for communication has had a massive growth within the last few years. This is because it is much easier to take the photos and use them right away via the Ipad/Android devices. Here is a list of various photo story apps for the Ipad you might find useful. All the apps below can be purchased through I tunes.

1. **Pictello**- This app allows you to take photos and put them together in individual stories with both text and audio recording for each page. It is easy to use and is available through the app store for £14.99. It is also available for Android devices.

2. **Our Story**- This is a photo story app developed by the Open University. It has been designed to add sound and text to your digital photos to make a story. It is a bit more difficult to programme however it does provide in app instructions through a Get Started button. Free

3. **Talking Pictures**- This is a simple, easy to use app that allows you to put speech output on different parts of a photo. It is easy to use but does not link the photos up to create a story. Free for the basic version.

4. **Snap Scene**- This is a new app developed by Tobii Dynavox. This app is similar to Talking pictures as it allows you to record speech output onto different hotspots on your photos. The difference is that it stores your photos in folders which can be easier to manage when you build up quite a big library. It is quite straightforward to use as there are 2 modes: create mode and play mode. £39.99 excluding vat. There is a light version so you can try before you buy.

Supplier News

From 1 January 2017, SmartBox will no longer be selling TobiiDynavox eye gaze products. This means that we will be buying the equipment mainly through Tobii Dynavox itself. I have been assured that the support we get will be equal to SmartBox support for all purchases. SmartBox(Graeme Innes) will still be able to provide support visits and technical troubleshooting for equipment that has been previously purchased from them.

Four Your Information

Various On-line resources for AAC continuing professional development:

1. www.aace-learning.org.uk – a website developed by Communication Matters as an entry level training to developing AAC awareness
2. www.aacmanmet.wordpress.com- new training resource focussing on AAC assessment. Matches up with the IPAACKS level 1 and 2.

Follow us on Twitter

Keycomm is now on Twitter @keycommaac

Welcome to Stephan Millar, Communication Technology Development Officer, who has joined the Keycomm team to cover Susan Henderson and her maternity leave. Stephan will be working at Keycomm on Wednesday and Thursdays.

More news, Susan Henderson has had a bouncing baby boy Dominic Henderson. Good luck to Susan and Stu on their new arrival.

Interested in improving your own skills and competencies in AAC? Check out the **IPAACKS** self-assessment framework at www.nes.scot.nhs.uk

Keycomm have a number of copies to give away.

First come, First serve.

Contact Keycomm at deborah.jans@ea.edin.sch.uk

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all of us at Keycomm!

Courses at Keycomm

Don't miss out on the courses we are running at Keycomm! Booking forms are available to download from our website www.keycomm.weebly.com. Just email your completed booking form to Janet at Janet.1.ramsay@ea.edin.sch.uk to book your place.

19 January 2017	*10.30 – 12.30 pm*	*Introduction to AAC*
26 January 2017	*1.30 – 3.30 pm*	*Introduction to CODES Framework*
2 February 2017	*10.30 – 12.30 pm*	*Using Ipads to Improve Comm*
23 February 2017	*10.30-12.30 pm*	*Boardmaker 6 for PC*
22 March 2017	*1.30-3.30 pm*	*Boardmaker 6 for PC*

Contacting the Keycomm Team

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