



KEYCOMM NEWS

Text to Speech AAC Options

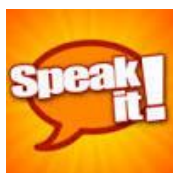
There are various options for individuals who require a text to speech communication aid. The Lightwriter sl40 can be a very good option as it has real keys and the keyboard can be modified for sensitivity. It also comes with 3 different keyguards for varied access. The Lightwriter can also be used as a mobile phone for text messaging if the individual finds traditional mobile phones difficult to access. Another good option is the Allora voice output communication aid sold by Techcess. This has a qwerty keyboard but also can be used with single switch scanning for those individuals who need to switch between direct and indirect access. It also has a listener screen which detaches so the communication partner can take it with them around the house. It is a bit bulkier than the Lightwriter but some of our clients have preferred this device.



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The other text to speech options are on the Ipad. There are various apps which support text to speech which we have used with good results. Speak it! and Predictable are the most commonly used with Speak it! being the simplest to use. There are a few others you might want to check out. ClaroCom is a free app that also gives the individual a qwerty keyboard and pre-stored phrases. It also supports word and phrase prediction and there are various settings you can use to individualise the speech and appearance of the app. This is a free app which has lots of features. We have already discussed Proloquo4text in our last newsletter. This app can be very busy on the screen but it does support dual language speakers. It is produced by the same app developer as Proloquo2go.



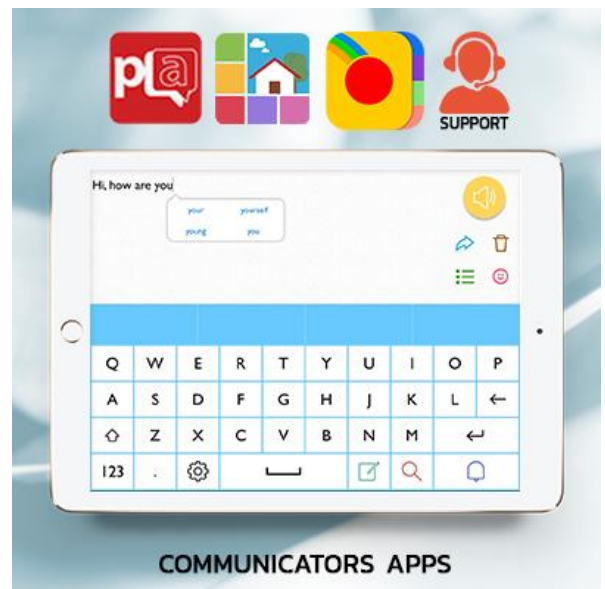
Scottish Government News

The new AAC team at the Scottish Government have been busy making visits to all 14 health boards. Each health board now has a nominated board executive to champion AAC within their health board. Alex McMahon is the nominated representative for NHS Lothian. He visited Keycomm on 1 March as now has a good idea of AAC provision within Lothian.

Predictable app Update



The Predictable app from Therapy Box has now been updated to Predictable 5. It looks quite different, behaves differently and has some new features. The first thing you notice is the icons on the right hand of the screen have changed. They are the same features just with a new look. One of the new features is Floor hold. This is a pre-set phrase that the user can programme which will speak out while you are typing your message to let your communication partner know you are composing your message. Some sample messages might be “Please wait a minute” or “please bear with me while I type my message”. Predictable now also has a variety of keyboards to choose from. Another new feature it now has is the option of having in line prediction in a speech bubble or prediction in boxes above the keyboard or both. The new version 5 also gives you the option of having your phrases in a list or grid format. For more information, have a look at the therapy box website. www.therapybox.co.uk



Something new

The Swifty USB Switch Interface Box for windows devices brings switch input to the devices where the software has the capability. This can be used on the Tobii Dynavox T series as well as the SmartBox Grid pad series of devices. Available from Liberator Ltd.

In order to get the Swifty to work, you must change the white dip switch configuration to dip switch 2 down and positions 1, 3, and 4 up.

Four Your Information

The Augmentative Communication in Practice: Scotland network group are planning a variety of events this year. There will be an Adult Discovery Day sometime before the summer and an Annual Study Day in November 2017. For more information, have a look at the website acipscotland.org.uk or contact Keycomm on 0131 311 7130.

Helpful Tip- If you are using an app on an Ipad, and it seems to freeze or not working correctly. The best thing to do is to hit the home button twice very quickly and then swipe the app window up to permanently close it. Restart the app and hopefully the problem is solved.

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 free copies to give away.

First come, First serve.

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

Conferences/Study Days

CM conference 10-12 September 2017

NHS Scotland 20 and 21 June 2017

Call Technology Day 14 June 2017

RCSLT 27-28 September 2017, Glasgow

More Baby News:

Congratulations to Phillipa and Alasdair on the birth of their baby girl, Rowan Catherine.

Mother and baby and the 3 dogs are doing well!

Boardmaker in Libraries Project- After a bit of a delay the Boardmaker in Libraries Project will be offering some pilot drop in sessions starting in May at the designated libraries. This is for parents and carers only at this time. The 6 libraries in Edinburgh where parents can go to access Boardmaker to make resources and materials for their child are: Drumbrae Library, The Central Library, Gilmerton Library, Wester Hailes Library, Leith Library and Craigmillar Library. The exact dates of the open sessions are still to be determined. Contact Keycomm for any further information.

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.

4 May 2017	1.30 – 3.30 pm	Measuring Effective Communication using The CODES Framework
10 May 2017	3.30 –5.30 pm	Boardmaker 6 for PC

Contacting the Keycomm Team

Office Hours: 9am-5pm, Monday- Thursday, 9:30 am-2:30 pm, Fridays (**pick up and collection only**)

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