Apps for Autism:

Tips for Considering
And Implementing

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What benefits can iPads deliver for children with autism?

- A magical device (Steve Jobs)
- Helps kids deal with sensory overload
- Autism expert Dr. Martha Herbert: "the iPad lets autistic kids have direct control over the interface"
- Cool component!
- iPad for Autism is still "new"
- iPad can meet a lot of different needs
- Many great free of inexpensive APPS available
- People see benefits quickly
- Most folks with autism have a strength in understanding **visual** information

When is Enough, Enough?

- Over 500,000 apps for the iPhone, 140,000 for the iPad
- Many apps that support…….
  - Communication
  - Speech/oral motor
  - Social skills training
  - Visual schedules/visual supports
  - Data and behavior tracking
  - Sign language

Today's Conversation

- How to Get a Handle on Apps
- Look to the Past –

    Consideration/Assessment/Evaluation

- Look to Current Tools/Strategies
- Find the Wheel- Don't Re-Invent

Consideration Resources

● SETT Framework
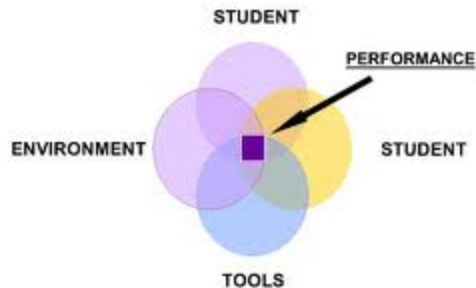
Wisconsin Assistive Technology Initiative WATI

**GA Project for AT**

Functional Evaluation for Assistive Technology

Resources on Assessment

- The SETT Framework – www.joyzabala.com
  - Great framework for understanding what needs to be assessed
- The WATI – www.dpi.wi.gov/sped/at-wati-asnat.html
  - Great tool for understanding what student's needs are specific to technology
- GPAT –http://www.gpat.org/resources
  - State of Georgia's resource on technology needs
- FEAT – www.nprinc.com_assist_tech/feat.htm
  - 5 scales, most thorough instrument on the market for technology consideration

Apps for Communication
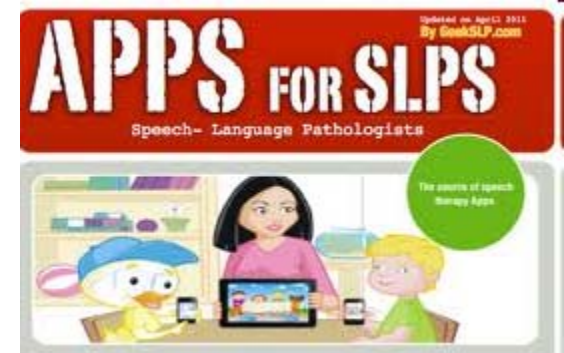
Pros and Cons:

- Affordable (many are free!)
- Main-stream technology
- Developed daily
- Utilize the power of current, dazzling technology

- **Not a real language (no 'snugs'!)**
- Not easily funded
- Difficulties separating 'communicating' from 'computing'
- Technology may be more fragile
- Less of the research/language input
- Less tech support

OCALI List of Apps for AAC

Communication - Page 2

ICON	LINK	DESCRIPTION	COST	FORMAT
	My Choice Board	Make multiple-choice boards, upload pictures or use built-in camera then add voice recordings. Selected item enlarges on screen to indicate choice. A red circle with slash is available to indicate that choice is not available.	$9.99	Compatible with iPhone, iPod touch, and iPad. Requires iOS 3.1.2 or later.
	Pics Aloud	Single message system using photos. Comes with 118 images with recorded labels. Images and recorded speech can be added. Can be set up to use as a visual schedule.	$4.99	Compatible with iPhone, iPod touch, and iPad. Requires iOS 3.2 or later.
	Sounding Board	Create custom boards with 1-9 messages using AbleNet symbols or imported photos and add recorded voice. Comes with 14 boards. Boards can be linked from messages. Switch-accessible with add-on from AbleNet.	$49.99	Compatible with iPhone, iPod touch, and iPad. Requires iOS 4.3 or later.
	TapSpeak Sequence for iPad	Acts like a sequenced switch. PCS symbols available for additional cost. Tap response can be adjusted for varying motor abilities. Unlimited recording length and unlimited number of sequences.	$29.99	Compatible with iPhone, iPod touch, and iPad. Requires iOS 4.3 or later.
	ASL Dictionary *3G or WiFi required	Videos of professional interpreters signing over 4,800 words and multiple word phrases. Internet access is required to view the videos but they can be saved for future viewing while not connected.	$2.99	Compatible with iPhone, iPod touch, and iPad. Requires iOS 4.0 or later.

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Other great resources

- **Autism Apps: Free App Store Designed Specifically For Kids With Autism:**
http://www.autismpluggedin.com/2011/08/autism-apps-free-app-store-designed-specifically-for-kids-with-autism.html

- **Speech Therapist's Favorite Apps For Children on the Spectrum**
http://www.autismpluggedin.com/2011/10/speech-therapists-favorite-apps-for-children-on-the-spectrum.html
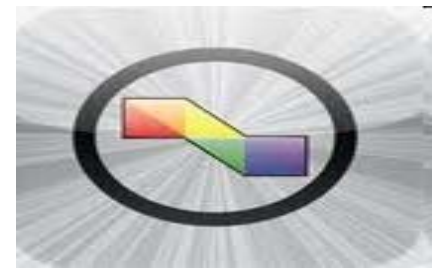
Spectronics: blog and apps table

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

AAC Apps Assistant

- http://www.aactechconnect.com/index.php/app-assistant

fee-for-service tool for researching AAC communication Apps for iOS devices (iPads,iPhone, iPods with other platforms to be added). It provides information based on our review of over 100+ current communication Apps on the market.

Can be previewed and you get a month for free

A look at simple choice apps

- Choice Creator – free, Techno Chipmonk website
- TaptoTalk AAC – Assistyx LTC, free, go to website to create and customize albums
- Talk4Me – free, English, Chinese, Spanish
- My Choice Board - $9.99 – visual display of choices
- TapSpeak Choice - $149.99 – more like an SGD
- My Talk – mobile lite version free, unlimited content $49.99
  - "medium robust," fully customizable, can create on computer

More robust communication apps

- SonoFlex (Lite is free) - $99.99
  - words and phrases in context packages, core vocabulary, Fitzgerald Key format
- Proloquo2Go – $189.99, very robust, great videos on webpage
  - www.**proloquo2go**.com
- Speak for Yourself - $299.99, developed by 2 SLP's, consistent with motor planning principles
  - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VpafqM1kiNo

Communicating through text

- Assistive Chat - $24.99
  - TTS, word prediction, recents, favorites
- Speak it! - $1.99
  - TTS, can read SMS, imported text, simple
- Typ-O HD - $14.99
  - TTS, word prediction, used by LD, can import text, export from

Speech/Oral Motor Apps

- GeekSLP.com (blogs and resources)
- Speechtechie.com: The SLP Apps List
- Lingraphica
- Mayer Johnson (free)

Social Stories

- Model Me Kids: Videos for Modeling Social Skills www.modelmekids.com
  - (DVDs cost, has some free apps)
- Pictello by AssistiveWare - $18.99
- Stories2Learn – MDR - $13.99
  - give a situation, and then show you the "correct" response. For example, if a girl waves at you, you are supposed to wave back – this is what is considered socially acceptable
- Quick Cues - $4.99
  - helps teens and young adults handle new situations and learn new skills

- Mister Rogers' Makes a Journal - $1.99
- Sonic Pics - $2.99 – lets you create digital stories with pictures
- Photo Books with Text – Stories2Learn - $13.99
- TherAD for Autism - $14.99
  - by Marz Consulting, Inc., video self modeling application, student watches "motivating" media (movies), paused, short video self modeling clip presented of student engaging in targeted behavior , then student isreturned to the motivating content.

Visual Schedules

- First Then - $9.99 www.goodkarmaaplications.com
  - simple schedule, can view as single picture, 2 pictures, or list. Can add own pics and recordings.
- iPrompts – $49.99 www.handholdadaptive.com
  - Picture schedules, visual countdown timer, choice prompts. Can import pics
- Picture Scheduler - $2.99 – www.jankuj.com
  - Task organizer. Can use pics, text, video, audio.
- TASUC – $20.99 -www.apps.tasuc.com
  - Picture-based schedule, can add sub-schedules/choices. Esp. for small children, daily time-table with image cards, sounds, voices, video. Can save multiple schedules

Dr. Gary Brown's Autism/DTT apps

- DTT Colors
- DTT Letters
- DTT Numbers
- DTT Shapes

Data Tracking, Goal Writing

- **Percentally by RinnApps** - $2.99
  - tally counter that automatically converts tallies to percentages

- **SLP Goal Bank by Smarty Ears** - $14.99
  - Annual, short term goals

- **My Medical by Steven Chaitoff** - $2.99
  - comprehensive record-keeping app for personal medical information

- **Data Tracker by Super Duper** -$5.99
  - Create multiple goals for each student,.
  - Choose from various response types
  - Store data for an unlimited number of sessions.
  - Add students to multiple groups.
  - Write notes for each student in a session.
  - Graph results for each goal.

- **BehaviorTrackerPro -** $29.99

  - Used by BCBA's, behavior therapists , allows graph

More Websites,Blogs, and Reviews

- Autism Epicenter – www.autismepicenter.com
  - Best reviews of apps broken into speech/language, social stories, etc.
- Spectronics – www.spectronicsinoz.com
- TherapyApp411 – www.therapyapp411.com
  - centralized location for information on mobile devices and their uses in therapy with reviews and other content regarding apps and devices from a therapists' perspective- SLPs, OTs, PTs. Free, must subscribe
- D-12 ASHA, AAC Special Interest group
  - Great conversations about apps from SLPS

Resources

- Apps for Children with Special Needs www.A4cwsn.com/apps/apps-a-z/
  - Excellent work in identifying apps and offers excellent illustrations.
- AAC Apps – www.atomiclearning.com
  - Pay for site
- App Miner – www.appminer.com
  - Let's you search for what you're looking for and need.
- App Annie – www.appannnie.com
- OCALI's Resources – www.ocali.org