CDP Update

Feature Devices · Tech Tips · Clinical Practice

Spring 2019

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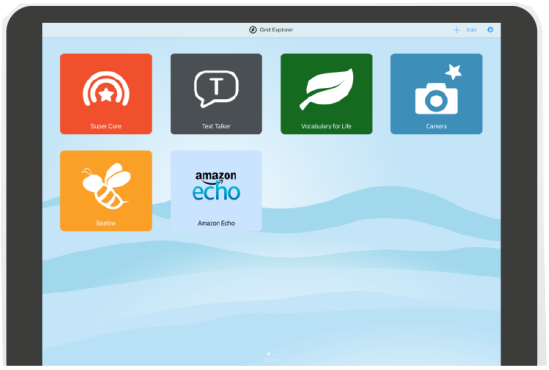
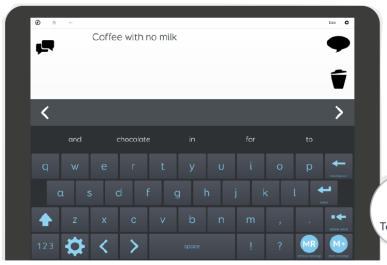
Grid for iPad (iOS)



It's true! The same great software that you love on your windows based Communication System is now available as an app on the iOS family of devices (running iOS 11 or later).



There are many of the Grids that we are already familiar with, like Text Talker, Bee-line and Super Core, etc. As well as some interactive learning pages like: Cause and Effect, Choices, and Visual Scenes.

Fortunately, they have developed the app so that many of the pages can flow between the Grid for iPad and the Grid 3! One thing to consider when creating a profile, is that not ALL of the page sets will transfer over from the Grid 3 to the Grid for iPad. For instance, Environmental Control pages, & Word Power pages (which are not licensed for use on the iPad) will not be available on the Grid for iPad.

Some of the Key features that SmartBox highlights on it's site include;

- Wide range of resources for difference ages and abilities
- Research based approach to symbol and text AAC
- Fast and intuitive in-app editing
- Available in 15 languages!
- Message banking options available
- Remote editing from any Windows computer with the Grid 3 **Not available through CDP because of privacy concerns using the cloud**

Grid for iPad also comes with access to the free online resource store, called online grids, where you can download hundreds of grid sets for free! New content is added everyday by clinicians and Grid users from across the world.

Consider the Grid for iPad for clients who:

- May need to transition to a Windows based tablet in the future (for alternate access purposes)
- Require a lightweight, and portable communication system for either Text or Symbol based communicators

Access and Selection Method Spotlight - Coming FALL 2019

Ablenet Sidekick

This blew my mind! I ***NEVER*** imagined in my wildest dreams that we would have mouse access to the iDevice family! I am excited to get our hands on one as soon as they are available this Fall 2019. We have high hopes that all mouse type devices will work - joysticks, headmouse, etc. The real dream would be eye tracking access! We can hope, right!?!

So let's get down to it, Ablenet is leading the way ***yet again***, when it comes to accessibility on the iPad! If you are like me and you need to see it to believe it, check out this great short video from Ablenet demonstrating the power of the Sidekick.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=__JjyoB5SBw

This is what Ablenet has to say about the product: "For individuals with motor impairments that make using a Multi-Touch screen difficult, Sidekick is a game-changer for access to the iPad and iPhone! Sidekick is the first plug-and-play adapter that allows you to use almost any USB Type A mouse with your iPad and iPhone. Simply connect almost any USB Type A mouse to Sidekick, plug Sidekick into your iPad or iPhone Lighting connector, and you're ready to go! Sidekick allows you to use almost any USB Type A mouse that has left click functionality. (Dwell selection is not available at this time and [a headmouse] will require the use of one switch to emulate left clicks).

The Sidekick can be configured for 1 or 2 button mouse activation. 1 button gives the user LEFT click, 2 button gives LEFT and RIGHT click access.

Current Product Status Update:
Updated 02/07/19: Sidekick is going through Apple's MFi certification process. Ablenet is actively working with Apple to complete all necessary tests to finalize certification.

Once available, we may consider a sidekick for those clients that:

- Require alternate access to an SGD, and are otherwise appropriate for an iDevice with app
- Have used/are currently using an iDevice, and their condition has progressed to require an alternate access method

Clinician's Corner

It's Official - Aynsley is back at CDP, and she is here FULL time now!

We knew the day would finally come that Aynsley would join us at CDP again, but we didn't know that we would be lucky enough to get her FULL time! Apologies to her colleagues and friends at the positions that she gave up to join us. We know that she will be missed there, just as much as she will be valued here! Aynsley brings with her multiple years of experience in the world of AAC. Her knowledge is matched by her enthusiasm to see clients communicate in a meaningful and functional way.

Please join us in welcoming Aynsley to the CDP team full time! She can be reached via email at: aallen2@deerlodge.mb.ca, or by phone at: 204-831-3437.

COMMUNICATION ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

Better Hearing & Speech Month

May is Better Hearing & Speech month! As always, ASHA has some resources to help promote Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology services. Currently, they also have a sale on many of their Consumer Education Materials for SLPs as well as Audiologists until April 30th with the code READY19.

Have some littles at home, or in your practice? Or maybe you need a moment of Zen for yourself? Here's a link to the colouring page created by ASHA for Better Hearing & Speech month!

Or, if reading is more your speed, there are some great printable bookmarks available as well!

ISAAC Canada - Update from Stacey

With Nancy's retirement, Stacey has agreed to take on the role as the Manitoba representative on the ISAAC council. Feel free to connect with Stacey via email at smcruer@deerlodge.mb.ca OR phone at 204-831-2579, if you have any questions about ISAAC Canada, or would like to join.

isaac
International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication
Canada
Société internationale de suppléance à la communication

Education and Resources

Creative Speech Lab - Claudia Doan

Have you come across Creative Speech Lab yet? When I did, it was because of the Please Don't Leave my Voice on the Shelf poem. It was written by Claudia Doan, a Speech-Language Pathologist with a passion for AAC, and all things Speech. Not only did I think the poem was great, but when I found that it had been brought to life by Zinette Cronje, an SLP and a group of their students at New Hope School in Pretoria, South Africa, I couldn't resist sharing it with you! Click the link above or the picture to the left.

Turns out you can find quite a few great resources for working with kids in Speech-Language Pathology on the Creative Speech Lab blog. Everything from Apps and Articulation, to Freebies and Giveaways, to Therapy Ideas and Vocabulary. Go check it out!

creative SPEECH LAB

AMAZE Org won the internet the day they released this...

Ok, if you follow CDP on Facebook or Twitter, you have already seen this, but I couldn't help but share it again. ISAAC Canada posted this on their Facebook page and I really thought it was just so wonderful. EVERYONE deserves to be in a relationship, if they want to be. EVERYONE also deserves the right to communicate about those feelings! People who have different abilities, including those who use a communication device are no exception! Spoiler Alert*: When the student pulls out the Speech Generating Device to communicate with their peer, I almost melted!

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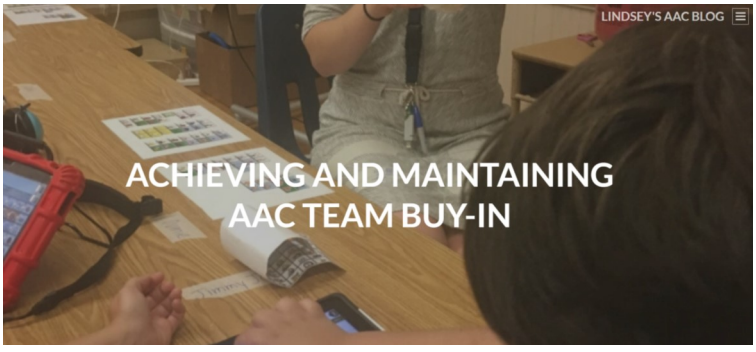
Lindsey's AAC Blog - Achieving and Maintaining AAC Team Buy-In

This post defines buy-in as **"acceptance that the SGD is the student's voice and should be treated as an extension of their physical body and recognition that the SGD must be taught and modeled"** (Paden Cargill, 2016) - reference available on blog

We know that sometimes getting a team to implement AAC can be very challenging, and I think that we would likely all agree that we experience similar issues to what Lindsey has identified in her post. They found the most significant issues to be:

- Common misconceptions about AAC
- Unfamiliarity with the device
- Not knowing how to teach/prompt
- Intimidation by technology
- Fear of damaging the equipment



If you want to know more about how Lindsey and her colleagues approach these challenges, read her post called "Achieving and Maintaining AAC Team Buy-In".

Odds and Ends - Lost Voice Guy

Lost Voice Guy - Britain's Got Talent

We first introduced you to Lee Ridley aka Lost Voice Guy in our May 2013 Newsletter, and we want to introduce you to him all over again! If you aren't familiar with Lost Voice Guy take a look at this article titled, Lost Voice Guy: five interesting facts about Britain's Got Talent Winner, Lee Ridley

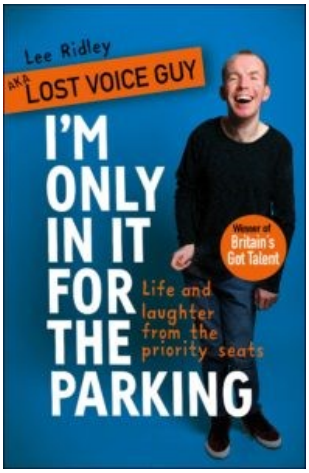
It must have been an incredible journey for Mr. Ridley to rise to fame as the Winner of Britain's Got Talent show in the spring of 2018! Click on his photo for an article by the BBC about his win.

When Mr. Ridley was interviewed for the final show he stated, "***When I am performing, it's as if I have finally found my voice - and it's a great feeling making people laugh.***"

Winning Britain's Got Talent led to an opportunity to wow once again at the Royal Variety Performance in front of the likes of, Price Harry and Meghan Markel.

If you'd like to see the whole Royal Variety Performance, click the image below. You can skip forward to approximately 1 minute to see Lost Voice Guys set.

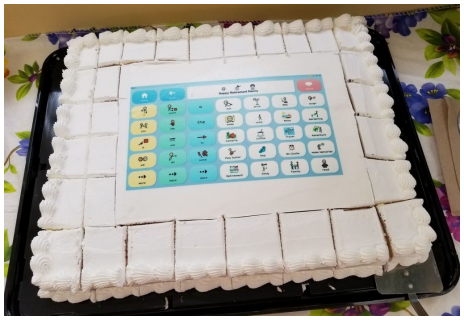
Bookmark Lost Voice Guy's website: www.lostvoiceguy.com if you want to keep up with all his events! He has been a regular performer at Edinburgh Fringe, maybe if we make enough noise, he will be here at the Winnipeg Fringe festival one of these years! You can also stay up-to-date if you follow him on Twitter, Instagram or Facebook: @lostvoiceguy



Congratulations to Mr. Ridley on such a well deserved win and for bringing awareness and giving a voice to people with Complex Communication Needs.

P.S. As if being a full time comedian, the winner of BGT, and performing at the Royal Variety Performance wasn't busy enough, LVG also wrote a book! What's being said about his new book? "*If you think you know what it's like to be disabled, prepare to have your perceptions skewered by the much-loved* ***Britain's Got Talent*** *winner, the brilliant stand-up who struggles to stand up, the Geordie without the accent*".

LOSTVOICEGUY

Congratulations and Happy Retirement to Nancy Furness!

It was an emotional farewell on Friday March, 29th, 2019 when Nancy retired. After providing such dedicated service to the patients and residents of Deer Lodge Centre, as well as the clients of the Communication Devices Program over 34 years, it was time for her and husband Doug (also a long time DLC employee who had accepted a position at HSC for the last several years of employment) to start their retirement together. We wish Nancy & Doug all the best for a happy and healthy retirement. You will be missed.