CDP Update

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Summer 2019

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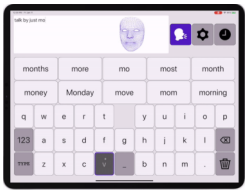
Communication Device Spotlight

Apple iPad Pro 12.9" with Face ID

We have made the plunge buying an iPad Pro 12.9" with Face ID. The picture below, shows the size difference between the iPad 9.7" and the 12.9". The Apple Pencil is for scale. ***Currently, the CDP does not offer Apple Pencils***.

The really exciting thing about Face ID, is that there are app developers (like Swiftable) that are taking advantage of this feature by translating head movement into cursor control within their app on the Face ID enabled iPad Pro.



Jabberwocky

So far, Swiftable has created an App called Jabberwocky - there are 2 options available: Jabberwocky AAC and Jabberwocky for Hands-Free Web Browsing.

Another app that has been developed is called Hawkeye Access. While it also takes advantage of the Face ID technology, they profess that their app will track your eye movement. If this video is legit, then it really does look like they are using their eyes to control the cursor movement and smiling to select. Currently, the technology is only available for controlling web browsing, but on their website, it say's "Control Apps" is COMING SOON! Which will integrate with other apps to allow you to control them!

I see apps like these, as a sign that we are one more step closer to **Access for ALL**! And if independent developers are on this, it's only a matter of time before Apple comes out with a cross-platform option!

Tobii DynaVox - Speech Case for the iPad 9.7" and Pro 12.9"

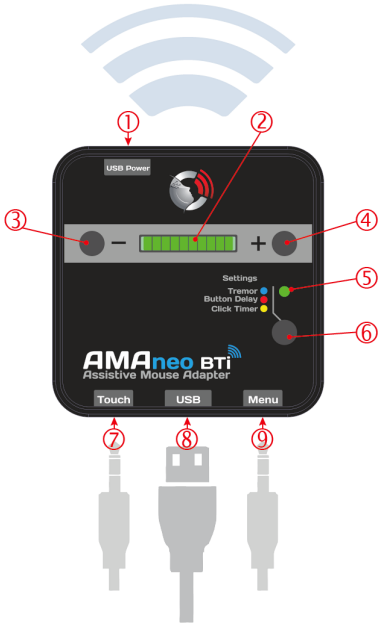
Tobii DynaVox came out with the Speech Case for the iPad 9.7" and iPad Pro 12.9", to allow clients to have great quality speakers, and a durable case with handle, strap, and/or mounting/stand capabilities. In addition, if your client is using the Snap + Core First App - there are also keyguard options available. We like that the Speech Case has a battery that allows it to run for approximately 10 hours with normal usage and can be re-charged in as little as 4 hours. Oh yah, and last but not least there are 2 switch ports built right in. No need for external switch interface!

Consider the iPad Pro for clients who:

- Need a much larger screen for vision or access related reasons
- Desire the ability to try FaceID as a head controlled alternate access method (i.e. through Jabberwocky app)

Access and Selection Method Spotlight

AMAneo BTi by CSS MicroSystems



So, I have to take a step back and report that last season's CDP Update (Spring 2019) was incorrect. Gasp, I know! Here, I thought that AbleNet was leading the way in mouse control of the iDevices, when it was actually CSS Microsystems from Germany! They even took it one step further, making their device Bluetooth, rather than wired. YUP

So, how does this magic work, you may ask?

- Bluetooth interface for iPad (compatible with: iPad Mini 2, Air 2 or higher)
- USB port for connecting an adaptive mouse
- Integrated battery for 20 hours of operation of the AMAneo BTi
- Adjustable: Anti-Tremor filter, click delay and auto click
- 2 external switch ports (i.e. left/right mouse)
- Fully integrated assistive touch menu (ensures ability to use full functionality of the built-in menus as well as the hardware buttons on the iDevice)
- Made for iPad (Official MFi Products)

AMAneo BTi with its anti-tremor filter and othe innovative functions for assistive mouse use

iOS13

While in the process of writing this post, we learned that apple themselves are coming out with system wide 'mouse support' on iOS devices in their latest updates, expected fall 2019. For iPhone and iPod Touch (iOS 13) and for iPadOS some of the new accessibility features will include: Voice Control, and Pointer/Mouse Support. Check out this Techcrunch article by iOS accessibility expert Steve Aquino. They explain these features in more detail. I was especially excited about the Pointer/Mouse control option for our clients, but the voice control is intriguing as well. I wonder how well it will work with a synthesized voice? Only one way to find out I guess! Looking forward to playing around with all the new accessibility features of iPadOS and iOS13 when it launches this fall . For any of your brave souls out there - the beta version is already available for the public! Make sure to read their warnings first!! Beta versions are not for everyone!

Consider AMAneo BTi for those clients that:

- Have an upper Extremity tremor that affects their ability to use a standard mouse
- Have the ability to use an alternate access mouse, and want to be accessing an iOS device
- Have been using an iOS device, but due to changes in condition need to explore alternate access options.

Clinician's Corner

International Communication Project (ICP)

On 12 June 2019, the ICP participated in a Side Event at the UN Conference of States Parties (COSP) to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

Taken directly from the UN Web TV site describing the event: "Communication is a fundamental human right and yet people with communication disability are often denied the right to "freedom of expression and opinion, and access to information" (Art.21) and rights and freedoms regarding "communication" and "language" (Art.2). This side event will increase awareness of this (often) invisible disability and discuss proposals to strengthen effective transnational cooperation to promote a human rights-based approach to inclusion and participation. Presenters with communication disabilities and others from government and civil society will speak to the COSP sub-themes: how technology can support communication accessibility, the importance of effective communication to attain a high standard of health (and education), and the need for social inclusion and equal participation in cultural life, recreation, and leisure. The prevalence and impact of communication disability on SDGs relating to poverty, health and education will be highlighted".

The speakers at the event included: Gail Mulcair, Chief Executive Officer - Speech Pathology Australia (Presentation in print format), Sharynne McLeod, Professor at Charles Sturt University, Australia, and Editor, special issue of the *International Journal of Speech-Language Pathology* (Presentation in print format), Ms. Meredith Allan, President, International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (ISAAC) and Augmentative Communication User (Presentation in print format), Mr. Miles Forma, Disability Advocate and Augmentative Communication User, United States of America (Presentation in print format), and **Ms. Julia McGeown**, Global Inclusive Education Specialist, Humanity and Inclusion. Moderated by: **Derek Munn**, Director of Policy and Public Affairs, Royal College of Speech & Language Therapists ***You can view the entire presentation, recorded live for UN Web TV here: Speak up for Inclusion***

The ICP has also recently released a report titled: The Importance of Speech, Language and Communication to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals: A Summary of Evidence. Follow the link here, or click the picture to the left for a PDF copy of the report.

Below is an excerpt taken directly from the Executive Summary of the report:

"Communication disability affects millions of lives across the world, yet its impact is too often ignored. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals have, for the first time, provided an impetus for a global effort to address this formidable reality.

This report was prepared by the ICP to demonstrate the need to address communication disability as part of any effort to deliver the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 1 (End poverty in all its forms everywhere), SDG 3 (Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages) and SDG 4 (Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all).

The ICP recommends the following activities to support such efforts:

- Seek collaboration between the World Health Organization, other relevant international agencies and the International Communication Project, which stands ready to participate in and assist with joint efforts that foster awareness and understanding of the scope of communication disability globally.
- Promote early intervention for communication disabilities to reduce negative outcomes such as poverty, poor health, and limited access to education.
- Support the development of speech and language therapy and audiology services and professions across countries where these services may not yet exist.
- Fund professional education in developing countries with a particular emphasis on developing culturally and linguistically appropriate care.
- Fund research to determine the global scope of communication disability.

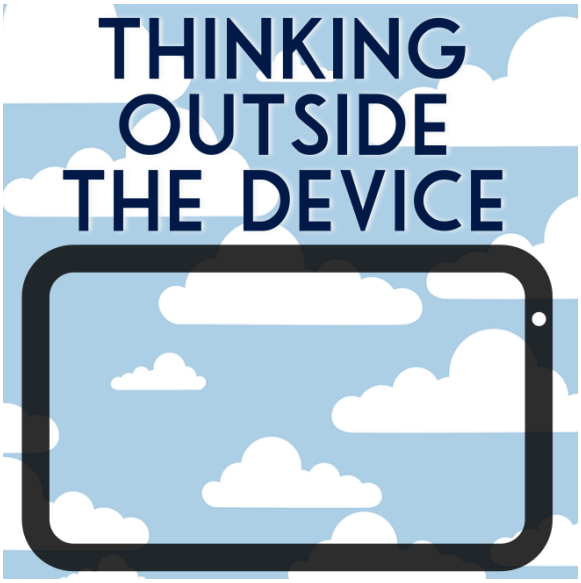
If you're interested, check out this link where you can sign the Pledge to Support the ICP Universal Declaration of Communication Rights: https://internationalcommunicationproject.com/sign-the-pledge/

Last but not least, if you want to stay up-to-date with all the goings on at ICP, you can join the mailing list here: https://internationalcommunicationproject.com/newsletter/

Education and Resources

AAC in the Cloud

Ok, I know it almost seems cruel to talk about AAC in the Cloud literally the week after the ONLINE conference ended, but which is worse, mentioning it when you now have the opportunity to attend next year, or not telling you about it at all? Exactly!! So, I'm going to tell you all about our experience with AAC in the Cloud and why we will absolutely join again next year!



I'll let you in on a little secret too, next year, you will have access to ALL the education from this year, last year and 2017! So really you haven't missed a thing!

This years theme was "Thinking outside the Device" and we have to say that communication continues to evolve and change over the years so this theme seemed so fitting!

Top 10 reasons to mark your calendar for AAC in the Cloud 2020:

10. They had ADULT specific content! AAC is often focused on the pediatric world, so this was AWESOME to see!

9. They offer 'pre-conference' sessions!

8. You can access previous years content (i.e. 2017, 2018 and next year 2019)!

7. All sessions are recorded, so if you miss one, you can go back and find it later!

6. C.E.U's!

5. Many of their presenters are well known in the AAC world (i.e. Lauren Enders, Kelly Fonner, Joy Zabala & MANY more)!

4. They offer lived-experience presentations from actual AAC users!

3. It's GREAT Education & an opportunity to network in the 'Chat' sessions

2. It's ONLINE, so you can attend from anywhere!

1. It's FREE, all of our budgets are tight, so this is AMAZING!!!

Odds and Ends

Mainstream Media and disAbilities - Ruderman TV Challenge

I'm sure many of you have had the pleasure of seeing Toy Story 4 already. Well, I haven't - so no spoilers please!! What I did come across is a short little article, on the AHSA blog - LEADER LIVE, about the depiction of a happy child in a mainstream classroom who uses a Cochlear Implant!

Text in "" below taken directly from the ASHA blog:

"Two aspects of this child are notable: He is part of a mainstream classroom and is smiling. Inclusivity and happiness are often missing in media portrayals of people with hearing loss, and this positive portrayal has sparked a hubbub of celebration online from audiologists, parents, and people in the deaf and hard of hearing community alike.

However, despite this showcase of inclusivity in the animated blockbuster, there is not enough visibility for and inclusivity of people with disabilities in the media, according to a recent report from the Ruderman Family Foundation, "The Ruderman White Paper on the Challenge to Create More Authentic Disability Casting and Representation on TV," or in short, the Ruderman TV Challenge.

Though 20% of the U.S. population has a disability, less than than 2% of all TV characters has a disability, notes the report. The foundation urges entertainment companies to pledge to improve disability inclusion in Hollywood.

CBS Entertainment became the first company to answer the call, signing the agreement on June 19. The company has committed to auditioning actors with disabilities for each new production. "It is our hope that other major media companies will follow their lead and foster opportunities that will lead to more authentic representation of people with disabilities in popular entertainment," Ruderman says. "Enhanced visibility of disability onscreen will help reduce stigmas people with disabilities face in everyday life".

Written by: ***Regina Escano Zappi, AuD, CCC-A****, is an associate director of audiology professional practices for the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. rescano@asha.org.*

If you are interested in learning more about the Ruderman Foundation, or reading the whitepaper, links can be found below:

Foundation: https://rudermanfoundation.org/

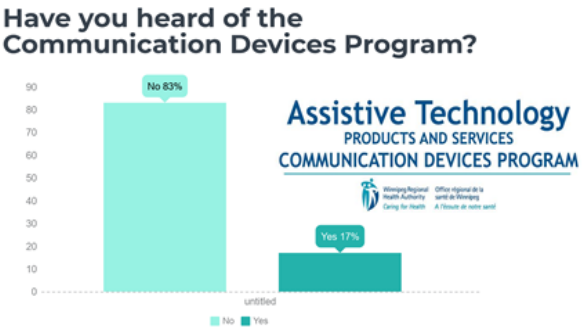
PDF: https://rudermanfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/tv_challenge_wp.pdf

ISAAC Canada

The call for proposals for the ISAAC 2024 conference has just been released. In it, they announced that ISAAC 2022 will be hosted in Rome, Italy! We can dream, right? Hosting an ISAAC conference would require scads of work and support from the community….. I think Winnipeg has what it takes - what about you? Do we have the energy and people power to get a proposal together? Let me know! smcruer@deerlodge.mb.ca

Whats NEW in CDP - Awareness Survey time again!

Wouldn't you know it! It's time for our CDP Awareness Survey again! We would imagine that if you receive the CDP newsletter, you are well on your way to understanding who we are, and what services we offer. We are always happy to get feedback from the dedicated group of people that are working with clients across Manitoba though, so please feel free to take a moment & complete the CDP Awareness Survey. Let us know a little about how you learned about the CDP, where you've seen information about our program and the ways in which you prefer we communicate with you!



ONLY 17% of respondents had heard of the Communication Devices Program! Find the rest of the results on our website, scroll to the bottom: https://deerlodge.mb.ca/programs/cdp/

We hope that with the implementation of our new website, our social media pages; Facebook & Twitter, our silver screen debut on CTV, our radio interview on CJNU (advance to about 10 minutes, 30 seconds for our interview), our October AAC Awareness Campaign and many other activities, have helped to spread the word about who we are, and what we can offer! If you have any tips and suggestions - we are always open to them. Feel free to send comments along to: cdp@wrha.mb.ca or call us at 831-3430

Please complete the Post-Awareness Campaign Survey using the QR code above, or the web link below: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CDP2019-NEWSLETTER

Disability Matters Vote!

Has everyone heard about the Disability Matters Vote Campaign (www.dmvote.ca/)? If not, let me provide a brief introduction and links for where to find more information! Disability Matters Vote (or DMVote for short) is a non-partisan public awareness joint-initiative campaign between Barrier Free Manitoba and Abilities Manitoba. The campaign has 3 main goals;

1. To ensure all Manitobans with disabilities can participate fully in election activities and those who are eligible to vote can do so.
2. To promote priority attention for disability issues in the election. (Priority Issues)
3. To support Manitobans with disabilities in making informed voting decisions

Wonderful posters to highlight the issues!

Scott Smith, family advocate

On Thursday July 4th, 2019 from 11am-2pm, the DMVote Campaign hosted a rally at Assiniboine park. The spokespeople, David Kron and Margo Powell of Disability Matters Vote kept the program on track. Present to speak to the crowd included; The Deputy Premier, Hon. Heather Stefanson, (Minister of Families), Wab Kinew, NDP MB (Leader of the Opposition), James Beddome (Leader of the Green Party of MB), Dougald Lamont (Leader of the MB Liberal Party), and Scott Smith (family advocate). Take a look at the article written by Sean Kavanagh of CBC Manitoba, titled: Advocacy Group Disability Matters launches Vote Campaign, for more details about the event!