CDP Update

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Spring 2021

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Communication Device Spotlight

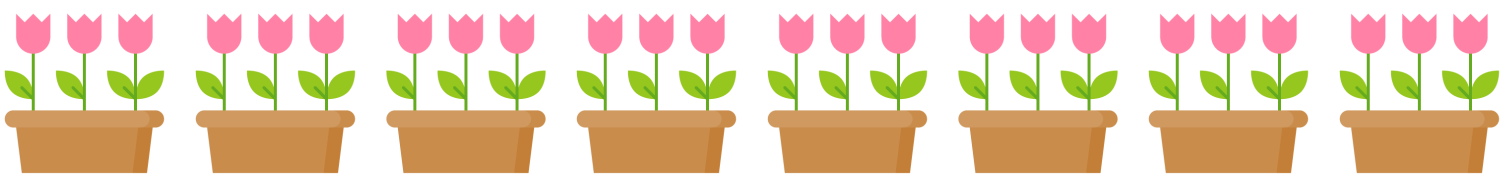
Current Communication Device Inventory

It's been a while since the CDP provided a list of all the AAC inventory we carry. So, here we go! Please note, there may be other equipment not currently listed, that is available on a case-by-case basis. Feel free to talk to your friendly neighbourhood CDP staff member if you have any questions! You can reach us at 204-831-3430 or email: cdp@wrha.mb.ca

Dynamic Display	Static Display	Other *not available for rental
iDevice Family (Touch, Mini, Standard, & Pro)	GoTalk (One, 9, 20+, 32)	Voice Amplifiers (Mini Buddy & Spokeman)
Indi (10.1" display) for basic communication needs	QuickTalker (7, 12, 23)	eTran boards*
I-110 (10.1" display) for advanced device needs	Smart Scan/Speak (8, 32)	Alphabet board with keyguard*
Eye Mobile Plus (11.5" display)	iTalk2	Boogie board*
I-12+ with/ without eye tracking (12.1" display)	Little and Big Step-by-Step with levels	
Tellus 5 (13.3" display)	Talking Brix	
I-13 with eye tracking (13.3" display)		

Each device, or family of devices, is linked to a manufacturers webpage for further details. Please don't hesitate to contact CDP if you have questions about any of the equipment listed above.

** We are always interested in hearing from you about equipment you have seen, or are interested in! Please let us know if you think we are missing something from this list!



Access and Selection Method Spotlight

Arkon Mounts for lightweight devices

Over the years the CDP has been watching for mounting options that allow for flexibility, stability and durability. And we think we've finally found it for our lightweight tablets! Introducing the new line of Arkon mounts. These mounts are modular, meaning that we can adapt them to the needs of our clients. They also come with a variety of different clamp/ attachment options.

Currently we have mounts that include options such as suction base, C-clamp base, or 'handlebar' clamp. These options allow us to mount the devices to a variety of surfaces. Whether that's to a smooth surface such as a laptray, or to a flat surface like a seat pan, or to a round object such as the tubing of a wheelchair system, or walker.

The tablet holder fits tablets 7 to 18.4 inches in screen size.
The holder features a spring-loaded design that makes it easy to insert or remove the tablet by pushing down on the lower legs of the holder with one hand. It also means it isn't right for everyone, especially those who need a more secure set-up!

Each mount offers 360-degree swivel of the screen. This allows us to be able to position the device at just the right angle and orientation for each client.

Consider a light-weight mounting options for those clients that:

- Don't need a robust mount for heavy devices (5+ lbs)
- Want a small, lightweight mount for tablets
- Have sufficient skills, or team support to position the mount appropriately

Clinician's Corner - Speech and Hearing MONTH!

May is...
Speech & Hearing MONTH
#communicateawareness

Many of us take our ability to communicate for granted, but the ability to speak, hear and be heard is much more vital to our everyday lives than most of us realize. For those who have difficulty communicating, everyday interactions can pose significant challenges. A communication disorder may prevent an individual from performing well at work, asking for help, hearing instructions at school or even saying 'I love you'.

Information below taken directly from: speechandhearing.ca . Please visit for further details and more resources!

Each year, Speech-Language & Audiology Canada (SAC) dedicates the month of May to raising public awareness about communication health. We work to highlight the importance of early detection and intervention in the treatment of communication disorders, and the role that our members and associates play in helping people to *"Speak well. Hear well. Live well."*

Learn how to get involved.

New Resources

SAC produces new Speech and Hearing Month materials every year to promote communication health and raise public awareness about communication disorders. For 2021, they've created four new resources with varying topics: Aphasia, Sudden Sensorineural Hearing Loss (SSNHL), Communication Health Assistants, The Role of Speech-Language Pathologists in Schools

Kids' Contest

Each year, they host a Kids' Contest to encourage young people to share their experiences of working with communication health professionals. If you work with children under the age of 11, be sure to encourage them to participate. **Learn more about the Kids' Contest!**

ISAAC Connect: Augmenting our Network

Virtual Conference **NOW OPEN** for registration! This worldwide event will be held from **August 9-12, 2021**. Speakers include: Janice Light, David McNaughton, Susan Fager, and many many more! Presenters are from across the world including the Canada, Brazil, UK , the US and more. They will be presenting on topics including: Language and Literacy, AAC Innovations, Interactions, Aphasia, Autism, Assessment, Unaided Communication, Telepractice, Cortical Visual Impairment and COVID-19!

Rates are posted here. There are early bird rates which are in effect until May 28, 2001!,So, go and see if this conference is right for you!!

isaac CONNECT
AUGMENTING OUR NETWORK
AUGUST 9 - 12, 2021

Education and Resources - T911

T911

Have you heard about ***TEXT with 911, or T911***??

T911 is a TEXT based service, which allows individuals to TEXT with 911 instead of having to call! ***Text with 9-1-1*** is a free service that enables deaf, deafened, hard of hearing, or persons with speech impairment (DDHHSI), to communicate with 9-1-1 in the event of an emergency. There is no need to speak, as the 9-1-1 call taker will receive an indicator that tells them to communicate with the caller via text messaging. The 9-1-1 call taker then initiates text messaging with the caller to address the emergency.

In order to use *Text with 9-1-1*, you **must** have a compatible cellphone and register your phone number with your wireless service provider. A complete list of service providers is available at http://textwith9-1-1.ca/en/wireless-service-providers/.

Pre-Registration Checklist: https://www.textwith911.ca/en/wireless-service-providers/checklist/

*How to use **Text with 9-1-1**: https://www.textwith911.ca/en/home/*

1. Unlock your cellphone and make a voice call to 9-1-1. Calls to 9-1-1 are free even if you do not have a voice calling plan.
2. There is no need to speak as the 9-1-1 operator will receive a message to communicate with you via text messaging.
3. *Text with 9-1-1* will not work unless you first connect with a voice call to 9-1-1.
4. Once the call is connected, you should receive an initial text message from a 9-1-1 call centre. The number you will see on your cellphone will have 13 digits and will begin with 5559-1-1.
5. Once you receive the initial text message, reply with the information the 9-1-1 operator asks you for, such as the nature of the emergency and your location.
6. If possible, keep the 9-1-1 voice call connected throughout your text messaging session so that the 9-1-1 operator can hear any background noises that will be helpful to assess the emergency.
7. Once you are finished, you will receive a text message that says “End of 9-1-1 Call” to end the *Text with 9-1-1*

Important Information for T9-1-1 Users

- Text messages should be brief and concise.
- Text abbreviations and slang should never be used so that the intent of the dialog can be as clear as possible.
- If the DHHSI callers are outside or near the edge of the 9-1-1 served territory, the 9-1-1 call may not reach the appropriate 9-1-1 call centre.

Odds and Ends - Bill 72

Bill 72 - The Disability Support Act

Introduced by Minister Rochelle Squires on Monday April 26th, 2021, Bill 72 - The Disability Support Act will create a dedicated new income support program for Manitobans with severe and prolonged disabilities. The Bill also amends the Manitoba Assistance Act (EIA) to maintain an income assistance category for those clients with short-term, recurring or episodic disabilities, and for those experiencing unemployment. The CBC published an article written by Ian Froese titled: Manitoba promised new income support for people with severe disabilities. To read the article, click here: https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/manitoba-new-income-support-people-with-disabilities-1.6003058

Currently, the Bill has just received the first reading and will need to go through many more steps before potentially receiving Royal Assent. We wanted to alert interested parties so they can follow along as Bill 72 proceeds. If you are interested in reading Bill 72, in it's current state you can find it here: https://web2.gov.mb.ca/bills/42-3/b072e.php

ENGAGE! Accessibility for Manitobans Act - Customer Service Standard

The Accessibility for Manitobans Act (AMA) sets out a path to remove, reduce, and prevent barriers through the development of accessibility standards in five fundamental areas of daily living. The AMA calls for a review of the effectiveness of accessibility standards every five years. https://engagemb.ca/ama

The Accessibility Advisory Council wants to hear from Manitobans about their experience with the Accessibility Standard for Customer Service, including what is working well and what needs improvement. The goal of the Standard is to ensure businesses/organizations provide customer service in a way that allows people with disabilities to benefit from the same service, in the same place and in the same way or in a way similar to how others receive service. Click here to learn more about the Five-Year Review of the Accessibility Standard for Customer Service.

Provide Your Feedback - Survey Closes by 28 May 2021!

Whether the Accessibility Standard for Customer Service removes barriers you face, or requires you to remove barriers for others, we want your feedback. There are many ways you can participate:

Take the Survey

Sign Up for a Webinar

Share Your Story

What's New in CDP

As we are all working through the third and hopefully final wave of COVID, we wanted to let you know about a few changes that have been happening around CDP.

First of all, we would like to welcome our new manager, Michael Kaan. Michael has worked at Deer Lodge Centre, as the Manager of the OSI clinic since 2005. If you need to connect with Michael for any reason, he can be reached at: 204-831-3422 or at mkaan@deerlodge.mb.ca. Fun Fact - Michael is also a celebrated author. His debut novel, The Water Beetles was shortlisted for the Governor General's Award for English-Language fiction in 2017, and won the 2018 amazon.ca First Novel Award, the Margaret Lawrence Prize for Fiction, and the McNally Robinson Book of the Year Prize. Welcome and Congratulations to Michael.

Second, it seems like it's been a long time coming, but Covid finally made it happen. The CDP has gone virtual! Many of you may have already known that the CDP offers full appointments via the Microsoft Teams platform. When it's appropriate, and works for the client/ team, we may provide assessment, consultation, education and/ or follow-up virtually! We have found this to be a successful and sometimes preferable method to get together! It saves everyone on travel and keeps everyone safe by minimizing any face to face contact during Covid. We do recognize that occasionally, virtual appointments are just not suitable, and therefore we are still offering face-to-face appointments on a case-by-case basis. Whether we see you virtually, or in person, know that you are still receiving the same great service that you've come to expect from the CDP!

Last but definitely not least, the CDP has a Student OT working with us. Linda started on the 3rd of May, and will be with the CDP team until the 25th of June. Linda is an MOT Intermediate 1 student, who comes to us with previous AAC experience! Linda also worked as a tutor in the St. Amant Autism program. This experience included working on verbal communication skills, sign language, PECS, and P2G on tablets! Truly multi-modal communication! We love it! If you need to connect with Linda while she is working in the Communication Devices Program department you can contact her at 204-831-3494 (this is Amy's line, but she's good at sharing and will pass along any messages you leave), or you can contact Linda directly at lfunk6@wrha.mb.ca.

Happy Spring Everyone!