

# CDP Update

Feature Devices · Tech Tips · Clinical Practice

Summer 2017

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## Communication Device Spotlight



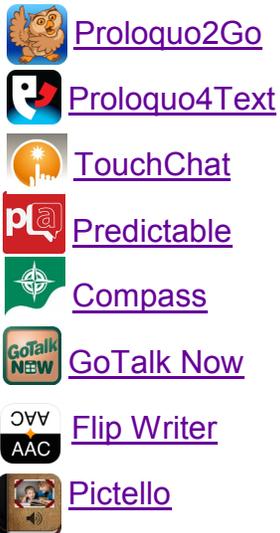
### iDevice Family: iPad, iPad Mini, iPod Touch

The ever popular family of iDevices are still going strong. Since they were first released in 2010, we have found that these devices have really cornered the lightweight, hand-held device market. In response to this demand, we have the iPod touch, iPad mini and iPad in stock for eligible clients.

Consider the Apple iDevice for those clients that need a lightweight, portable, and socially desirable piece of equipment. The iDevice is no longer ONLY for those that require direct access. All versions of the iDevices are now switch accessible. Switch scanning abilities are becoming much more sophisticated, allowing even our clients with physical access needs the ability to use the entire iDevice with one or more switches.

As listed on the left there are many high quality, fully modifiable apps available for clients at all levels of literacy. Over the years these apps have been revised and re-developed to be even more user friendly and easy to program. They also take into account many complex physical and cognitive needs. Accessibility programming options are available in many of these apps making it easier for persons with tremors, spasticity, changes in vision, etc. to use.

#### Popular Apps :



#### Accessible Keyboard Apps:



#### Resources for Switch Users:



Check out a great little clip from the BBC New Comedy award winning [Lee Ridley](#), aka "Lost Voice Guy", entitled: [Why Lost Voice Guy is losing his patience too](#)

#### Consider an iDevice for clients who:

- Require a portable, lightweight, socially desirable option
- Require basic to advanced communication software
- Require access to alternate modes of communication, including email, messaging and social media.
- Need computer access features in addition to communication

# Access and Selection Method Spotlight



for independent  
living inc.

Not all access comes in the form of switches and mouse alternatives. Access may also be accomplished through careful mounting and positioning of equipment. The Communication Devices Program has always carried a large inventory of [Daessy Mounting Equipment](#), which meets the needs of many of our clients. More recently, we have begun to build up our inventory of [Ideas Mounting Equipment](#).



Articulating Arm with Riser

Ideas mounts fill a niche that has not traditionally been met by other mounting companies. They aim to provide the consumer with much more independence in positioning their equipment. In particular, the Ideas line of “[Lift and Lock](#)” mounting arms can give the consumer control over the height, lateral movement of the device and distance from their person. This is great for clients that may need to reposition themselves and the equipment regularly, to transfer in and out of their wheelchairs independently, or to move the device out of the way to safely negotiate power mobility. In some instances this ability to freely move the equipment is undesirable. There are a few reasons why you **may not** want to consider this style of mounting for your client, such as: If a client has very specific positioning needs, meaning that the device needs to be in the *exact* same position each time it’s used, or if your client does not need to independently move the mounting arm/device, or if your client has high staff turn-over where training staff on proper positioning of the equipment would be difficult. As an alternate you may want to explore the more traditional Daessy Mounting System, or in some cases a custom made mount is the most suitable option.

Ideas mounts are available for power mobility and manual wheelchairs users, as rolling floor stands or as table top mounts. If you are interested in learning more about these and/or our other mounting options, please contact the CDP OT, [Amy McDougall](#).



Rolling Floor Stands



Table Top Mount



Lift and Lock: M2X Arm (in multiple positions)

## Consider the IDEAS line of mounts for those clients that:

- Require independent movement of the mounting arm,
- Require frequent device repositioning throughout the day,
- Require a system that can be used with multiple bases (i.e. rolling floor stand AND power mobility)

## The Accessibility for Manitobans Act (AMA)

The [Accessibility for Manitobans Act](#) (AMA) became law December 5, 2013. Under this landmark legislation, the Manitoba government will develop mandatory accessibility standards. Each standard will address barriers for Manitobans in key areas of daily living. Standards will apply to Manitoba's private and public sector organizations.

### Accessibility Standards will focus on 5 key areas:

1. The **Accessible Customer Service** standard will be the first standard to be developed. It will address business practices and training needed to provide better customer service to people with disabilities.
2. The **Accessible Information and Communications** standard will address the removal of barriers in access to information. The standard could include information being provided in person, through print, websites or other means.
3. The **Accessible Built Environment** standard will address access into and within buildings and outdoor spaces and is expected to build on Manitoba's Building Code. The standard could include things like counter height, aisle and door width, parking and signs.
4. The **Employment Accessibility** standard will address paid employment practices relating to employee-employer relationships, which could include recruitment, as well as hiring and retention policies and practices.
5. The **Accessible Transportation** standard will address aspects of accessible public transportation. Access to transportation is needed for going to work or school, shopping and other aspects of daily life.

### The Accessibility Standards must consider the following barriers\*:

\*A barrier is anything that keeps someone with a disability from participating in the social or economic life of our communities.

- **Architectural or structural barriers** may result from the design of a building, such as stairs, doorways, the width of hallways and even room layout.
- **Information and communications barriers** can make it difficult for people to receive or convey information. Things like small print size, low colour contrast between text and background, confusing design of printed materials and the use of language that is not clear or plain can all cause difficulty.
- **Technology**, or lack of it, can prevent people from accessing information. Everyday tools like computers, telephones and other aids can all present barriers.
- **Systemic barriers** can occur through policies and procedures. These are any practices or rules that restrict people with disabilities. Example: denying access to a person with a service animal.
- **Attitude** is perhaps the most difficult barrier to overcome.
- Some people don't know how to communicate with those who have visible or invisible disabilities. They may feel that they could offend the individual with a disability by offering help. Others might ignore or avoid people with disabilities altogether.

The first standard that was developed was the [Customer Service Accessibility Standard](#). This standard focuses on policy, training and good communication practices to provide barrier-free customer service. By addressing attitudes, knowledge and basic practices, the goal is to achieve barrier-free customer service in the public and private sectors. This Standard took effect November 1st, 2015.

The next standard, currently being developed, is the [Accessible Employment Standard](#). A list of the Summary of Discussions about the Employment Standard can be found [here](#). A final report, containing recommendations for a Proposed Accessibility Standard on Employment, will be submitted to the Minister of Families, Honourable Scott Fielding by March 31, 2017. The report is a public document and will be posted on the [Accessibility Manitoba Website](#).

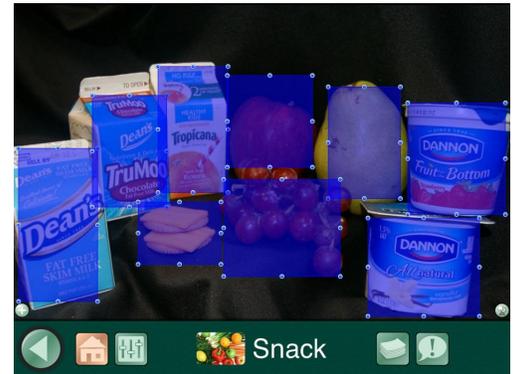
# Education and Resources



The GoTalk NOW app combines the simplicity of traditional GoTalks with the dynamic capabilities of an iPad. GoTalk NOW has all the essentials of an effective AAC app, like adjustable page layouts, customizable navigation, digitally recorded and synthetic text-to-speech capabilities, and an included symbol set.

The new GoTalk NOW app offers three styles of communication pages: **Standard, Scene, and Express.**

- In **Standard Pages**, the action occurs when the location is pressed.
- **Scene Pages** are built around a single photo or image. (see right) When you arrange visible or invisible hotspots over people or objects in the photo, they play speech, music or videos! This allows you to mix and match pages within a communication book.
- In **Express Pages**, recorded or text-to-speech are inserted into the message bar and played in sequence when the bar is tapped.



**Programming features on the GoTalk NOW app include:**

- Choose 1, 4, 9, 16, or 25 Communication Locations per page.
- Use images from your iPad camera, photo library, the Imagine Symbol set, or search the Internet in the app for the perfect image or icon.
- Crop, scale, or rotate an image using your fingers, or combine multiple images in a single communication location.
- Color pages, borders, and text with any hue, and move and size text with your fingers so it feels just right.
- Digitally record your voice or choose a synthetic text-to-speech voice.
- Auditory Cues allow you to add spoken labels to any Communication Location. Great for scanning, guiding visually impaired users, and identifying any new or difficult vocabulary.
- Play videos from any communication location.
- Use the core vocabulary button to give the communicator access to essential messages on any page.
- Create multimedia social stories and step-by-step instruction books by linking pages with an after action.
- Switch accessible:
  - ◆ Select step or auto scan, plus scanning speed.
  - ◆ Group scanning by rows or columns. Add an extra auditory cue to announce when the row or column advances.

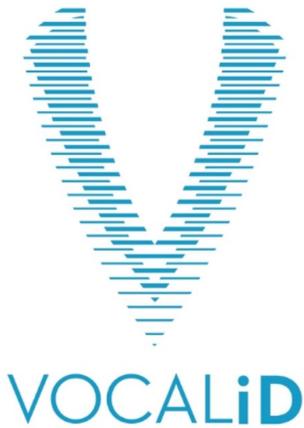


Atainment has created a [user guide](#) that provides step-by-step information on programming and developing pages for your client.

There is a great video on YouTube, by Speech-Language Therapist, [Abby Meehl](#). She introduces the GoTalk NOW Lite app. Many of the programming features are exactly the same in all levels of the app, which includes GoTalk NOW Start, Standard and PLUS versions. The video a little long at 11:45, but a great resource none the less.



# Odds and Ends



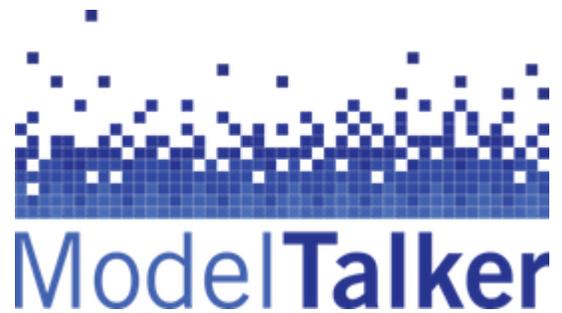
Many people live with communication disorders, leaving them without a voice. They rely on text-to-speech devices to express themselves. Yet, young or old, male or female, shy or outgoing — they all speak with very similar sounding voices. VocaliD is the voice company that is bringing SGDs to life. They leverage their voicebank and proprietary voice blending technology to create a unique vocal persona for any device that turns text into speech.

For a cute little movie, click the “Goldivox” image to the right. Or take a peek at the VocaliD [press release](#) page for heartwarming stories.

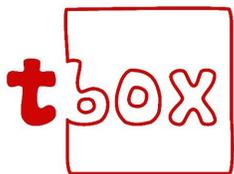


In Addition, VocaliD and Tobii Dynavox have partnered to bring Tobii Dynavox Windows device users, like those who use the I-Series+, the opportunity to have their own custom-crafted BeSpoke™ voice or the opportunity to preserve their Vocal Legacy. Since the entire process for both offerings is done online, you'll be able to submit your voice sample and track the voice building process all from the comfort of your own home. Once your BeSpoke™ voice or Vocal Legacy voice is ready, you'll be notified and you can download and install it directly on your Tobii Dynavox device. BeSpoke and Vocal Legacy voices are available at a cost of **\$1,249** (non-refundable) through [VocaliD](#).

[ModelTalker](#) is another option for customized synthetic speech. The ModelTalker System is a speech synthesis software package developed by the Nemours Speech Research Laboratory and designed to benefit people who are losing or who have already lost their ability to speak. It allows people who use a Speech Generating Device (SGD) to communicate with a unique personal synthetic voice that is representative of their own voice. As of July 1, 2017 there will be a \$100 fee to download these voices. You will continue to be able to complete the 5-7 hours of recording for free. You will only be required to pay if you like the voice and chose to download it.



## ModelTalker comes to the iPad



The UK-based company [Therapy Box](#) is working with ModelTalker to bring this new technology to the forefront! Implementing ModelTalker voices into usable solutions is a brand new and unexplored field that has wider implications than someone just being able to use an app to communicate. Predictable 4 and ChatAble 2 will be the first iOS apps to utilize ModelTalker voices for AAC, greatly influencing the lives of those with communication difficulties.

Users of Predictable 4 and ChatAble 2 will be able to download their ModelTalker voices onto their app either via iTunes or via a direct download from the ModelTalker website. This means that they will have immediate access to their synthesized voice, enabling them to communicate with others using their own voice!



