CDP Update

Feature Devices · Tech Tips · Clinical Practice

Fall 2017

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Communication Device Spotlight - Indi

tobii dynavox Indi

Arriving this fall! Please help us welcome the newest member of the CDP inventory, the ***Tobii Dynavox Indi***! Indi is a consumer-focused speech tablet, specifically designed for symbol-based communicators. The Indi comes with innovative new software called SNAP + Core First. The device and software are designed to be easy-to-use and customize, they empower users to continue to excel in communication, learning, and language as they continue their journey towards independent communication. Indi User's Manual

At just over one pound (1lb11oz), with a 10.1" screen, Indi is portable and sleek. It comes in a protective case with handle and adjustable stand that make using Indi in a variety of environments and positions a snap!

Built for your world

with an easy-to-hold, ergonomic design, Indi is ultra-portable and ready to go out-of-the-box.

Adapts to your access method

with numerous compatible inputs such as switch-scanning, head-mouse, and touch with keyguards, etc.

Indi is designed around your needs

Created to be heard

with powerful, outward facing, built-in speakers providing clear speech, exceptionally loud output, and a wide range of authentic sounding voices.

Made for everyday interactions

with capabilities that go beyond speech communication like Environmental Control Units (ECUs), Infrared (IR), access to social media, email, and texting.

Consider an Indi for clients who:

- Require symbol-based communication
- Would benefit from a Core Word framework (topics, quick phrases, behavior supports, and word lists)
- Do not require advanced access to the internet

Access and Selection Method Spotlight - SCATIR Switch

SCATIR Switch

The Self-Calibrating Auditory Tone Infrared (SCATIR) Switch is a multi-purpose optical switch with auditory feedback designed for use by persons who experience difficulty in activating mechanical switches. It works by detecting a beam of reflected pulsed infrared light. It is suitable for use with a variety of movements, including eye -blink, eyebrow movement, finger movement, head movement or facial muscle movement. It works on an optical principal therefore it can be activated at a distance. The controlling body part does not need to be in physical contact with the switch sensor.

Options include: Eyeglass or Gooseneck mounting
Ability to adjust: Beep ON/OFF
Tone continuous/beep
Manual or self-calibration

The maximum distance allowed for activation ("activation distance") can be adjusted from a few centimeters to less than a millimeter. This adjustment can be made manually or automatically (self-calibration). When the activation distance is reduced to its minimal value, the switch simulates a zero force touch switch. When activation distance of, say, four centimeters, is chosen, the switch can be activated from as far away as four centimeters.

When the switch is being activated by a body part that cannot always maintain a constant activation distance from the sensor, the switch can be operated in self-calibrating mode. In this mode, placing the activating body part at ANY given distance within range of the switch will serve to define that distance as the activation distance. Once activated at this distance, the switch may be turned off by moving the body part completely out of the range of the sensor

Check out these quick little YouTube videos, here and here that show the SCATIR in operation!

If you are interested in more information about the SCATIR switch please feel free to contact the CDP at 204-831-3430 and ask for the Occupational Therapist.

Or if you would like to learn more about the SCATIR switch on your own, we have included the Manual for you to explore.

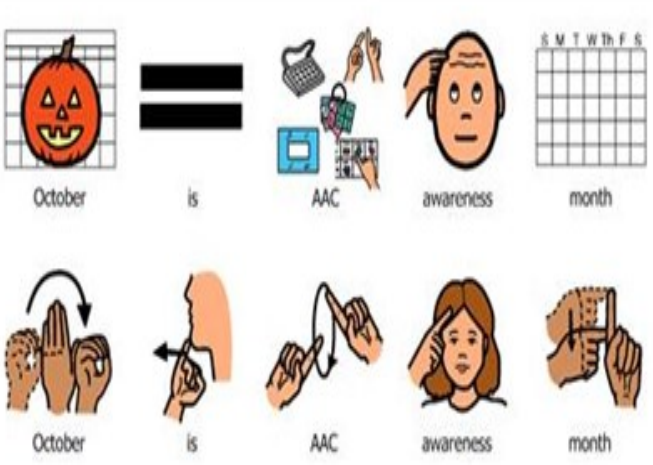
Consider the SCATIR switch for those clients that:

- Have difficulty controlling mechanical switches (i.e. force is required)
- Maintain volitional control of an eyeblink, have check or facial movements, or other small movement
- Have a support team willing and able to assist with set-up, and charging of the equipment

Clinician's Corner - AAC Awareness

October is AAC Awareness Month!!

Do you have anything planned to celebrate AAC month?



ISAAC (International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication) chose "Access All Areas" as one of this year's themes for International AAC Awareness Month, to focus on the next ISAAC Conference, to be held July 21-26, 2018 in Australia! ISAAC members are encouraged to expand the concept of accessibility to include communication access in their own communities, regions, and countries.

October 12th has been designated as 2017 AAC Awareness Day in Canada. For more information, check out ISAAC-Canada.

On **October 23rd** at 7:00 p.m. ET, Yoosun Chung, PhD, will moderate a discussion called "Model the Way: Celebrating AAC Awareness Month." Presenters are India Ochs, JD and Jack Ochs. For more information, visit USSAAC's webinar page. Register for this free webinar here.

On USSAAC's new SpeakUp Editor's Blog, there are some new Awareness Month catch phrases and quotes like above, that are downloadable and ready for you to use!

We know it's a busy month for everyone, so here are some great ideas of things that you can implement to spread awareness about AAC;

Carole Zangari from PrAACtical AAC has put together many resources for AAC awareness month.

AssistiveWare has created a page dedicated to AAC Awareness

There's even a Facebook group dedicated to International AAC Awareness Month!

Don't forget to check out ISAAC Canada, ISSAC and USSAAC for great resources and information!!

For more information about joining **ISAAC Canada**, contact your local representative **Nancy Furness** (204-831-3433 or at nfurness@deerlodge.mb.ca) or visit ISAAC Canada website.

Education and Resources - SNAP + Core First

SNAP + Core First: Learning language, achieving literacy, and becoming an independent communicator is a journey with many stages. Tobii Dynavox **Snap + Core First** meets each communicator wherever they are on that journey, and evolves with users as they grow. It's designed to be the most intuitive and engaging symbol-based software solution on the market. **Snap + Core First** lets users start communicating quickly and stay engaged as they grow and evolve.

Snap + Core First Manual

The **Snap + Core First** pageset includes a wide variety of pre-designed button layouts (from as few as 1x1 to as many as 8x10), and a full range of Acapela voices. Some other features you may enjoy include: passcode for edit mode, full screen mode, PCS symbols available - including the high contrast set, help and tutorials available within the software, and the ability to turn on/off the message window and toolbar! At the CDP, we have found that programming the software is much more intuitive than previous Tobii DynaVox options.

At the heart of **Snap + Core First**, is a page set centered on Tobii Dynavox's systematic delivery of the Core Word vocabulary, Topics, Quick Fires, Behavior Supports, Word Lists, and Keyboards. Rooted in research by the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, Core First takes advantage of motor learning by introducing new vocabulary methodically and purposefully, which allows users to scale up or down and always know where to find vocabulary (see below for more on LAMP).

Snap + Core First is currently available on the iOS devices (iPad, iPad mini and iPod touch) as well as on our new Tobii Dynavox indi tablet. Depending on your clients physical access needs the software can be set-up for any of the following selection methods: Touch, Touch Enter, Touch Exit, Scanning Mouse Dwell (Windows ONLY), and Eye Tracking (Windows ONLY).

LAMP

Language Acquisition through Motor Planning (LAMP) is a therapeutic approach based on neurological and motor learning principles. The goal is to give individuals who are nonverbal or have limited verbal abilities a method of independently and spontaneously expressing themselves in any setting. LAMP was developed out of the clinical practices of John Halloran, MS, CCC-SLP, Cindy Halloran, OTR/L, and Mia Emerson, MS, CCC-SLP To learn more about Language Acquisition through Motor Planning find them here, LAMP: https://www.aacandautism.com/lamp

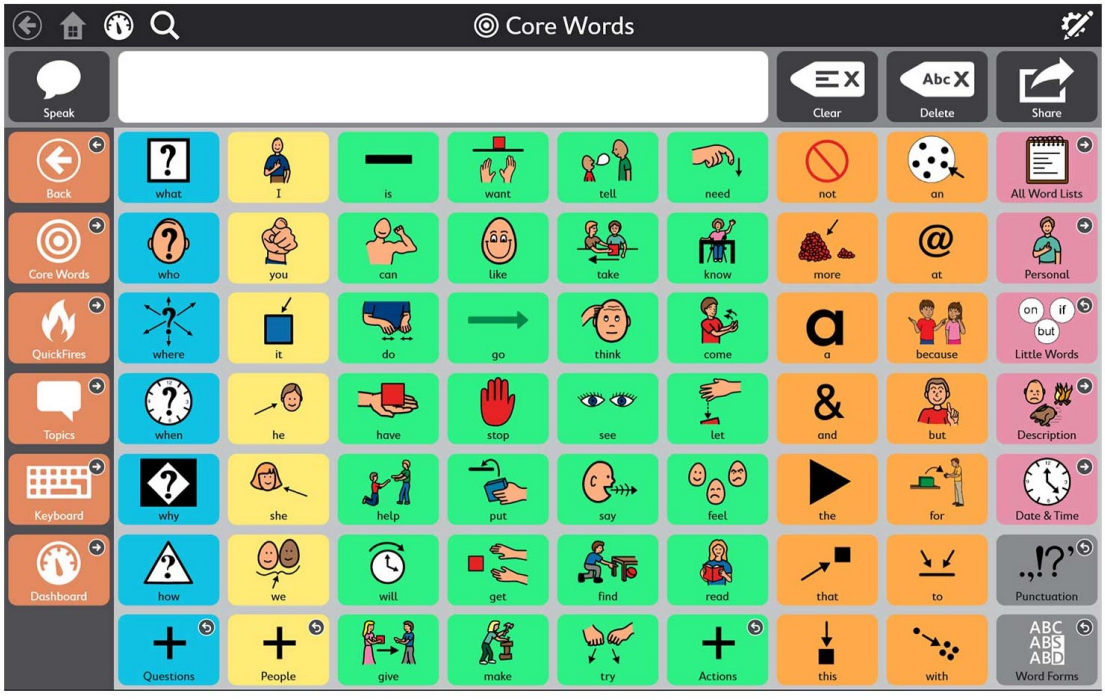
Tobii Dynavox has created many useful videos and posted them on YouTube to help you get to know Snap + Core First as well as the indi and all their other new and wonderful things coming out!

Here are a couple of the intro videos we felt would be a good start:

Snap + Core First Intro

Snap + Core First Promo

Tobii DynaVox Training



Odds and Ends - Speechless & Brain-Computer Interface

Have you heard of the hit ABC show, Speechless? Staring Micah Fowler & Minnie Driver as JJ DeMio and Maya DeMio? No? Well, go and check it out!

Maya DiMeo (Minnie Driver) is a mom on a mission who will do anything for her husband Jimmy, her kids Ray, Dylan, and JJ, her eldest son with cerebral palsy. As Maya fights injustices both real and imagined, the

family works to make a new home for themselves, and searches for just the right person to give JJ his "voice."
Go get a recap from Season 1. Then, be sure to tune in on Wednesday September 27th at 730pm for the Season 2 premiere!

Facebook, so much more!

(Taken directly from Tech Crunch, Written by Josh Constine On April 19, 2017)

"Facebook revealed it has a team of 60 engineers working on building a ***brain-computer interface*** that will let you type with just your mind without invasive implants. The team plans to use optical imaging to scan your brain a hundred times per second to detect you speaking silently in your head, and translate it into text.

Regina Dugan, the head of Facebook's R&D division Building 8, explained to conference attendees that ***the goal is to eventually allow people to type at 100 words per minute, 5X faster than typing on a phone, with just your mind***.

Eventually, brain-computer interfaces could let people control augmented reality and virtual reality experiences with their mind instead of a screen or controller".

I can only imagine the possibilities for our clients!!

For the full article, click here

What's New in CDP - (Social) Media

What's trending? #CommunicationDevicesProgram

You have been waiting and we hope you won't be disappointed! The Communication Devices Program has entered into the 21st century! We are now officially on social media. Yes, that's right!! You can find us on any of the following sites: Facebook @Communication Devices Program, Pinterest @ATPS-CDP, and last but not least on Twitter @CDPStacey.

We strive to keep you informed of what's going on in the world of AAC, as well as anything happening in our program. Swing by, take a look and **PLEASE** be sure to like, follow, and share around!

Here's a taste of what you'll find:

*** **CDP CTV Segment (click picture to right)*** The Communication Devices Program & one of our clients, were featured on CTV in June of 2017.

Amy & pALS – great ALS resources: http://amyandpals.com/

Holland Bloorview 'deareverybody' campaign: http://deareverybody.hollandbloorview.ca/

AbleNet iOS 11 Switch Control User Guide: https://www.closingthegap.com/new-ios-11-switch-control-user-guide/

Communication Devices Program - SATISFACTION SURVEY

The Communication Devices Program enlisted the assistance from Manitoba clinicians back in 2013, and we are looking for your help once again. We have re-released the "Clinician Satisfaction Survey" and would love to hear from you. We continue to strive to provide clients in Manitoba with the best possible standard of care. We would like to know where we are falling short, as well as where we are excelling. Please take a moment to complete this brief 20 item survey. We can only benefit from hearing what you have to say about our program.

Anyone who has collaborated with or requested services from the CDP at any point in time, is welcome to complete the survey. Please feel free to send the link to anyone you feel should complete the survey. Keep in mind that this survey is for clinicians, a Client Satisfaction Survey is forthcoming!

If you would like to offer further suggestions or feedback that you were unable to provide via the survey, please feel free to email us at CDP@WRHA.MB.CA

Some of you may receive an email inviting you to complete the survey. If you didn't receive the email, you can find a link to the survey here: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ClinicianSatisfaction2017

Thank-you! Stacey McRuer, MOT, OT Reg.(MB)
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