



Finding a Voice: A Look at Some Apps that can Assist with Communication

Martha Rust Tools for Life
With contributions by Ben Satterfield
www.gatfl.org



Agenda

- Welcome
- Tools for Life/ AMAC
- Mobile Tablets
- Apps
- Resources





AMAC

AMAC Accessibility is a social change organization on a mission to create affordable services for governmental, private and non-profits organization working with individuals with disabilities. Services include e-text, braille, captioning, assistive technology, office management software and consulting.

For more information, please visit our website at www.amacusg.org



Tools for Life Mission

We're here to help Georgians with disabilities gain access to and acquisition of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services so they can live, learn, work, and play independently in the communities of their choice.





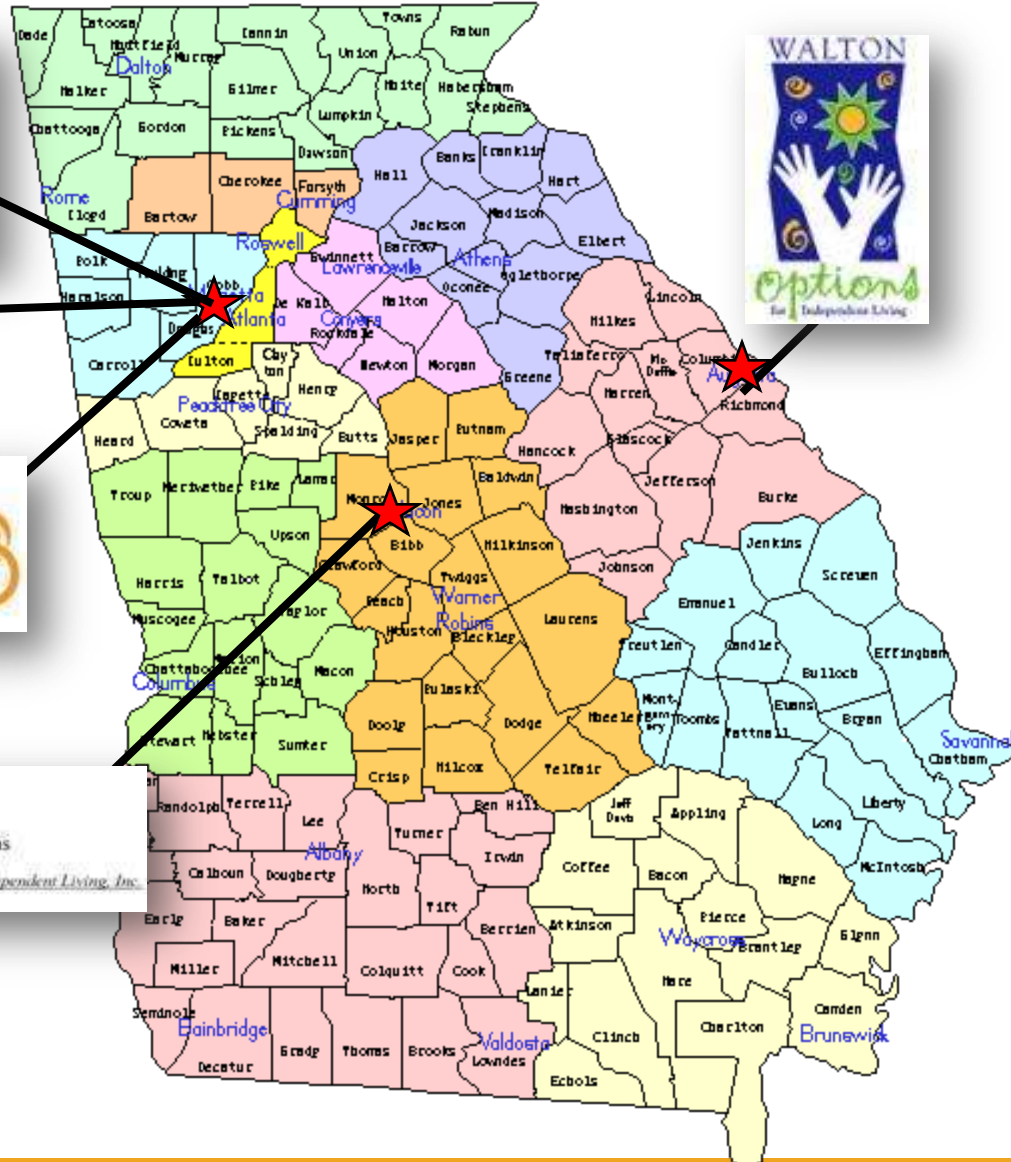
Tools for Life @ Georgia Tech

Georgia's Federal AT Act Program

- TFL developed Georgia's Plan for AT
- We serve individuals of all ages & all disabilities in Georgia
 - Over 50,000+ thru various activities throughout the year
- TFL Network
 - Assistive Technology Resource Centers
 - Lending Libraries
 - Training and Demonstrations
 - AT Reuse
 - AT Funding Education/Assistance and Resources
- Online Resources
 - www.gatfl.org - 12,000 unique visitors a month



Tools for Life Network





Mobile Tablets

Tablets

- More than 2 million people in the United States have a severe communication disorder that impairs their ability to talk
 - » *ASHA*
- More than 11,000 mobile tablets available on the market
 - Androids
 - Apple

Which One???





Comparing Tablets

Property	Android	iOS	MS Windows	Amazon Kindle	Barnes and Noble Nook
Number and variety of Tablets	Over 11,000	iPad and iPad mini	Several	Kindle Fire and Fire HD	Nook HD
Operating System	Android (Jelly bean)	ios7 (Sept 18, 2013)	Microsoft Windows 8	Modified version of Android ICS	Modified version of Android- Microsoft bought 2013
Apps	860,815 (AppBrain.com updated 9/13/13)	900,000 with 375,00 optimized for iPad/mini (mobileburn.com updated June 2013)	104,917 (winbeta.org updated July 4, 2013)	50,000 in Amazon App store also shop in Google Play Store (theverge.com updated August 2013)	10,000 in Barnes and Noble and have access to Google Play store (barnesandnoble.com updated August 2013)
Software Updates	As it becomes available on Google	Apple releases updates	MS releases updates	Amazon releases updates	Barnes and Noble releases updates
Interface	As designed by manufacturer	Icons and widgets designed by Apple	Metro style designed by Microsoft	Modified version of regular Android	Modified version of regular Android

Apps

Technology Changes Fast

- June 2007- 1st iPhone
- Sept 2007- 1st generation iPod Touch
- October 2008- 1st Android phone sold
- April 2010- 1ST iPad
- 2010- Google launched its Nexus series of tablets and smartphones
- 50 billion downloads!



Statistics

- There are approximately 73 million iPhones in the world.
» *Apple, 2012*
- In 2010, Apple reported that over 1000 new apps are submitted every day.
- In 2012, 400 million iTunes accounts
» *Y. Lachelle, Aug., 2010 and H. Dediu, June 2012*
- Apple receives about 49.5 Million App downloads per day!
» *H. Dediu June 2012*



Apps

- There are over 2 million apps available
- In January of 2011 there were 65 apps for AAC- June 133 apps
- According to Apps for AAC:
 - 269 listed
 - 56 are free
 - 17 are over \$100
 - 105 are under \$20



» <http://appsforaac.net/>

AAC Evaluation Genie



- informal diagnostic tool that is intended to assist speech-language pathologists and others
- does not to identify a particular speech generating device, but rather build a framework for selecting an appropriate augmentative communication device for ongoing evaluation and / or device trial
- ability to visually track and identify a single icon from 5" to 1" in size.

- \$9.99



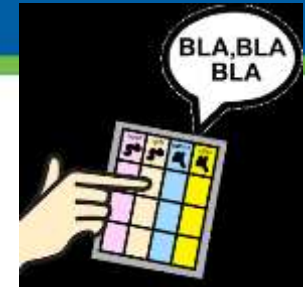
Talkadroid!



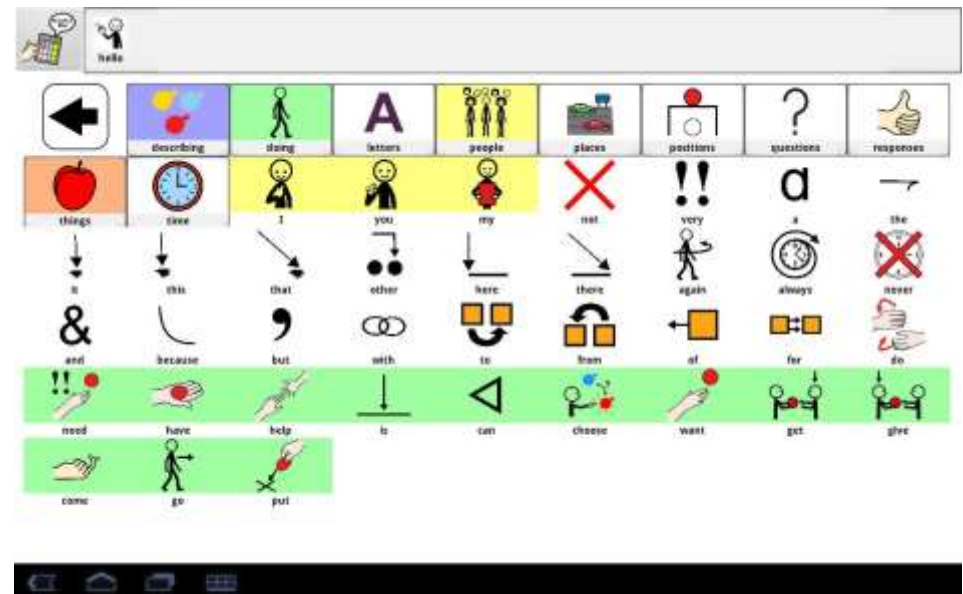
- Free
- Type in what you want to say
- Save and load your favorite phrases
- Download and use 35+ Premium SVOX voices
- Create custom ring tones and alarms



FreeAAC



- Free
- AAC Grid Application for Android devices
- Uses the Text To Speech features of Android devices
- Comes with a vocabulary of about 2000 words
- Can add new words using your own pictures, or start your own grid from scratch.



NeoKate/ NeoPaul



- Free
- Type and Speak



Lingraphica

Aphasia Facts

- Major cause in US is stroke ~700,000 strokes/year
- New aphasia cases per year ~100,000 (ALS ~5,000; CP ~10,000)
- Currently ~1,000,000 Americans living with aphasia
- Year 2020 prevalence of aphasia projected: ~2,000,000
- Why: aging US population, more stroke survivors, living longer



SmallTalk Aphasia



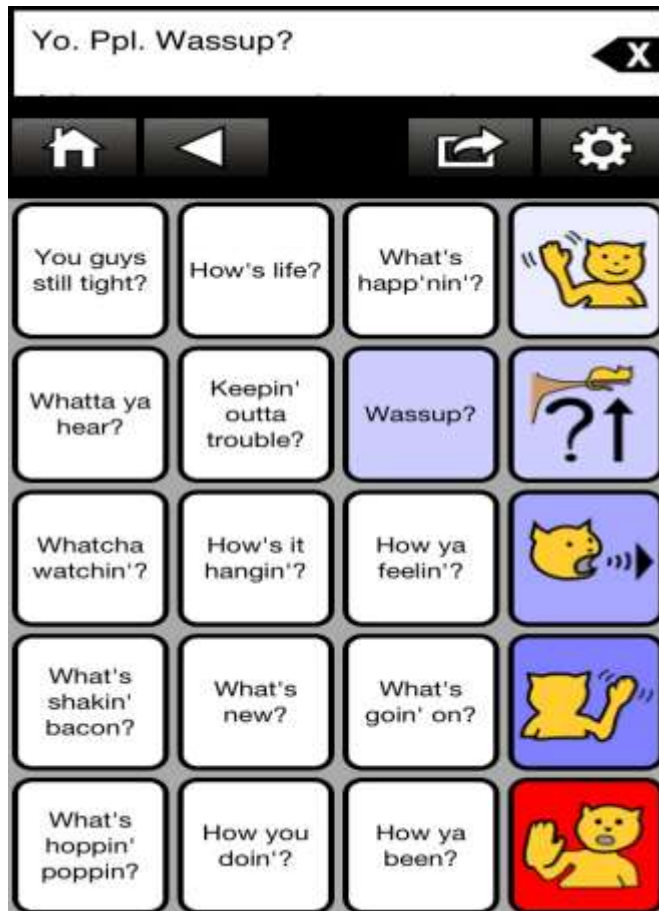
- Free
- Both female and male voices
- provides a vocabulary of pictures and videos that talk in a natural human voice
- mouth-position videos for practice and self-cuing



Fat Cat Snappy Chat



- .99



- Designed to keep conversation going
- Real voice to provide 160 phrases
- Geared to casual conversations of kids
- Quick snappy comebacks
- Integrates with your e-mail, Twitter, instant messaging, and texting

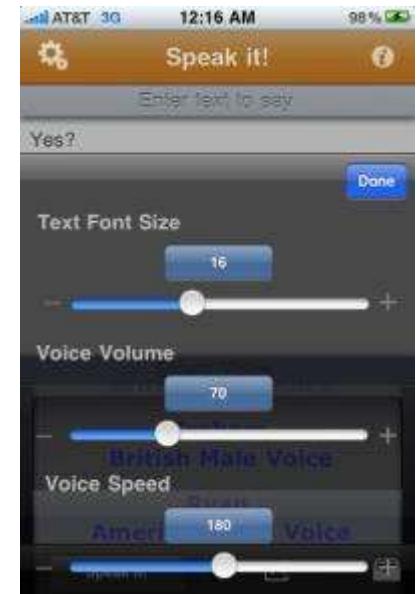
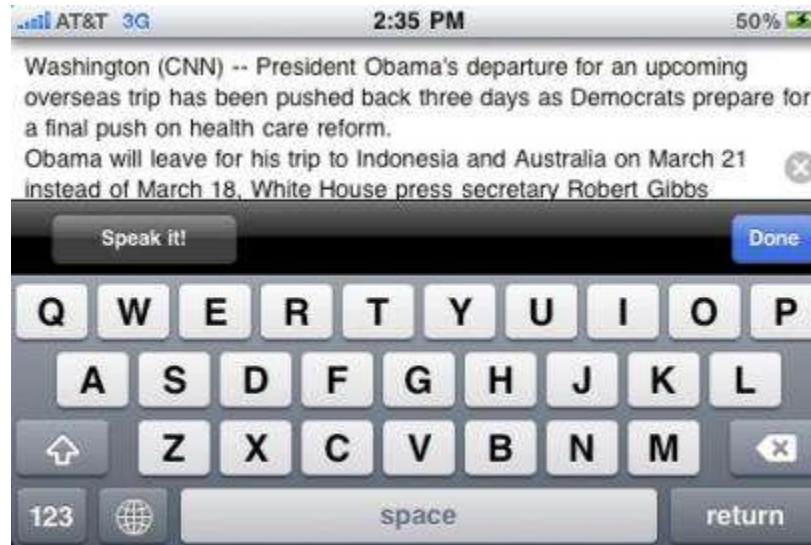


Speak it!



- Copy emails, documents, web pages, PDF files, and more; paste them into Speak it!, and have the text spoken back to you.
- Email text to speech files
- Make announcements over PA system
- Endless phrases and possible uses
- \$1.99





All About Me Storybook

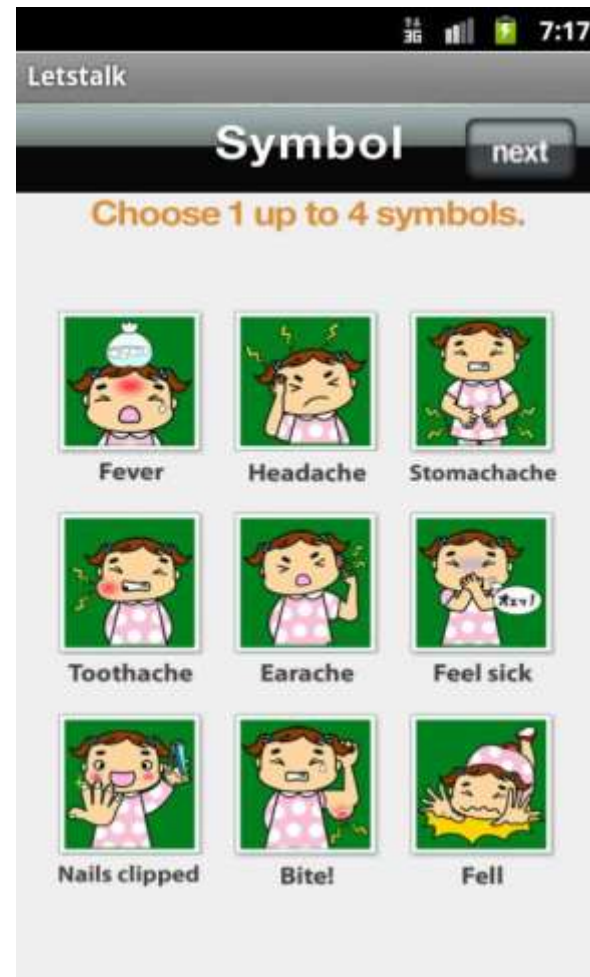
- \$2.99
- Create your own storybook
- Import pictures
- Multiple Users
- Lock Pages
- Change order of chapters
- Great for learning personal information



LetsTalk



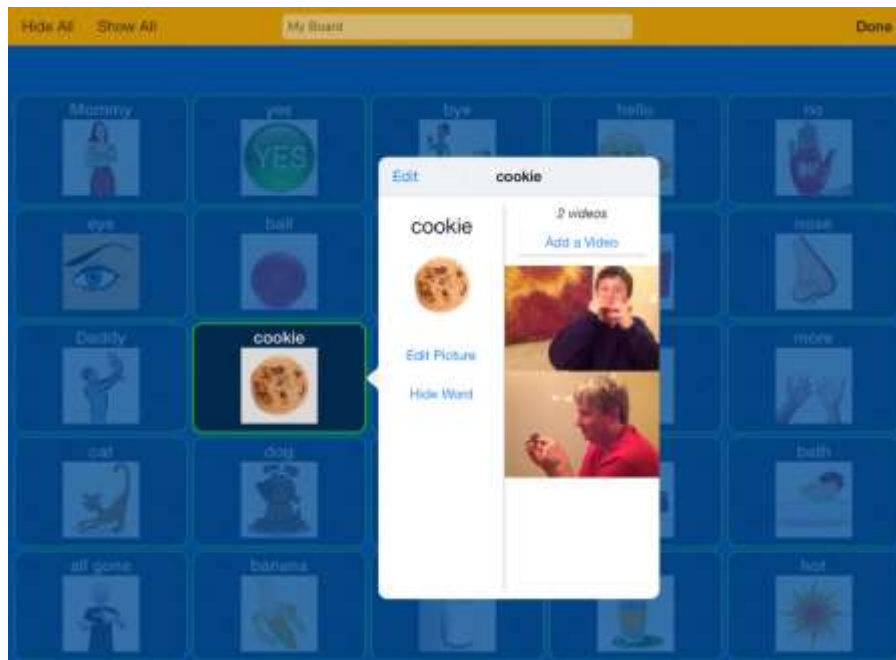
- Android
- \$3.99
- make the original icons with a microphone and camera functions
- focused to express basic requests
- 2 Modes
 - Supportive Mode
 - Self- Use Mode



WordToob



- \$19.99



- Language learning and video modeling
- Customizing the app with personalized videos
- Pre-stored board with the 25 words most 2-year-olds know
- Pre-stored board with common emotions



Scene and Heard



- Interactive context based communication aid and learning tool
- Build own scene and import or take pictures
- Record your own voice
- Designed to cater to a range of needs
- Has some built in scenes to try
- \$49.99



Tobii SonoFlex



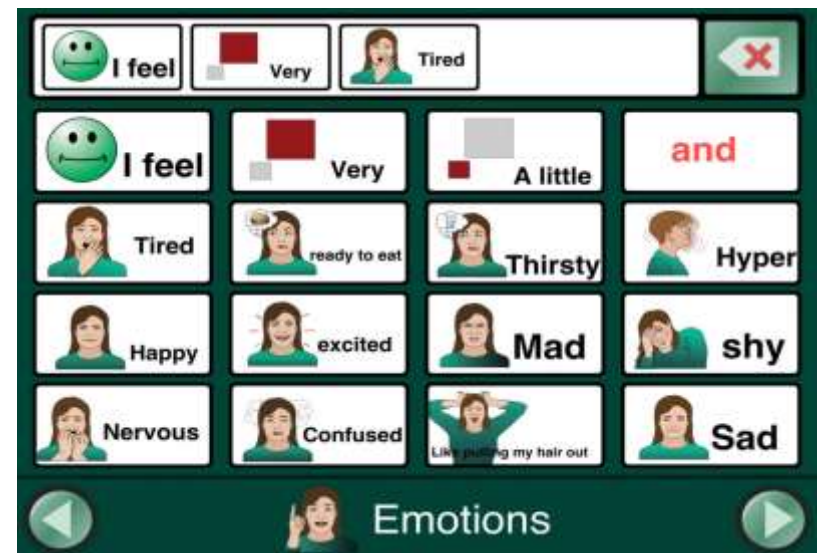
- Available for the iPhone, iPad, Android, Kindle Fire, PCs and SGDs
- Combines core, quick-hits & situational vocab.
- 50 pre-made context packages
- Intuitive programming
- Structure w/ flexibility
- Full App: \$99.99
- Lite vers.: Free



GoTalk Apps



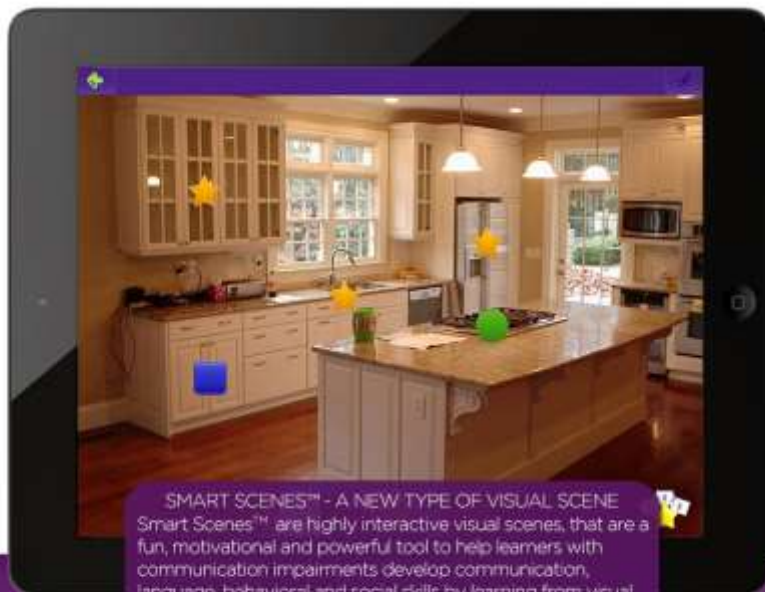
- Attainment Company
- GoTalk Now- Free
- GoTalk Start- \$19.99
- GoTalk Now- \$79.99
- GoTalk Now Plus- \$149.00
- Adjustable page layouts
- Recorded and text-to-speech capabilities
- Plus uses both SymbolStix and The GoTalk Image Library
- Import pictures



AutisMate



- AutisMate Lite- Free
 - AutisMate- \$149.99
- Visual Supports
 - Create Contextual Environment



SMART SCENES™ - A NEW TYPE OF VISUAL SCENE
Smart Scenes™ are highly interactive visual scenes, that are a fun, motivational and powerful tool to help learners with communication impairments develop communication, language, behavioral and social skills by learning from visual scenes, visual stories, visual schedules and video modeling.

Visual Scene Displays (VSDs)

Full Sentence Builder

Video Modeling

Visual Schedules

Visual Stories

Content Library

GPS Enabled



TouchChat



- Designed for individuals with Autism, Down Syndrome, ALS, apraxia, stroke, or other conditions that affect a person's ability to use natural speech
- Able to import your own pictures or take pictures
- Works on Apple and Android systems
- Over 10,000 symbols included
- Create videos
- \$149



RocketKeys



- Use special settings for unusual hand positions
- Hear comprehensive auditory prompts for blind users
- \$159.99
- Customizable talking keyboard
- Build own keyboard by choosing the exact keys, size, layout, colors, prediction, and voices



- Accessibility for users with complex needs
- Optional stabilization smoothes the shakiest input
- Optionally select keys by hovering instead of tapping
- Select keys with one finger, many fingers, a whole hand, or fist



Proloquo2go



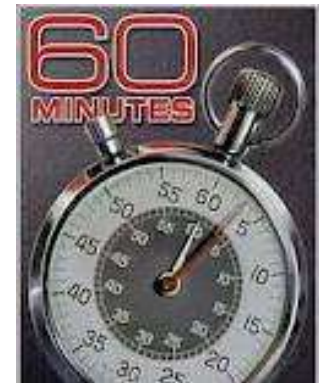
<http://www.proloquo2go.com/resources/article/introductory-videos>



Proloquo2go

60 Minutes TV Show, Oct.23, 2011

- <http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=7385686n>
- Or google: "60 Minutes Autism Augmentative Communication"





- Lite Version
- \$199.99
- create low-tech, highly customized visual communication boards
- print communication boards onto adhesive labels and stick the images onto ProxTalker SoundTags to give them voice
- Print or email boards
- Includes SymbolStix and Widgit libraries (over 27,000 symbols)



LAMP Words for Life



- \$299.99
- combines the PRC Unity language system with Language Acquisition through Motor Planning (LAMP)
- designed to meet the communication needs of children with autism
- provides a consistent motor pattern for words and a systematic way

- Collaborate with others iSharePRC





Resources

TFL AppFinder

Search by:

✓ App Name

✓ Categories

- Book
- Education
- Environmental Adaptations
- Hearing
- Cognition, Learning, Developmental
- Navigation
- Personal Care and Safety
- Productivity
- Communication
- Therapeutic Aids
- Vision





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Welcome to Tools for Life

Tools for Life, Georgia's Assistive Technology Act Program, is dedicated to increasing access to and acquisition of assistive technology (AT) devices and services for Georgians of all ages and disabilities so they can live, learn, work and play independently and with greater freedom in communities of their choice.

Tools for Life and the TFL Network work collaboratively together to accomplish our mission through:

- [AT Demonstration](#)
- [AT Evaluations and Assessments](#)
- [AT Funding Options & Education](#)
- [Access to the TFL AT Lending Libraries](#)
- [AT & Durable Medical Equipment Reuse](#)
- [AT Training \(Individual\)](#)
- [AT Training \(Groups\)](#)

2013 IDEAS CONFERENCE

2013 Institute Designed for Educating All Students Conference
June 3 - 6, 2013
Epworth by the Sea, St Simons Island

- [Submit a Proposal](#)
- [Conference Website](#)
- [Exhibitor Details](#)

WEBINARS

APR
18

[Free for All! Resources for Teachers and Students](#)

APR
24

[Assistive Technology and Adapted Recreation: A Perfect Match](#)

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APP FINDER



... Living, Learning, Working, and Playing.

AT ONLINE EXCHANGE

gTRADE [gTRADE, Georgia's Online Equipment Exchange](#), encourages members to offer AT and DME for sale or donation to others who may benefit from using technology unneeded by others.





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AppFinder

[About](#) | [Our Other Favorite Apps Databases](#) | [Helpful Links](#)

Welcome to the Tools for Life Database - Our Favorite Apps for Living, Learning, Working and Playing!

Search By:

Name:

OR

Category:
Please select...

Price:
 Free Up to \$4.99 Up to \$9.99 All

Device Type:
 All Android iOS Microsoft

[Add an App](#) | [Rate an App](#) | [Comments and Suggestions](#)

Version: 1.0

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[aTRADE](#) #TRADE Georgia's Online



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My Favorite Apps

You searched for: Learning, Cognition, and Developmental

Logo	Name	Category	Device Type
	<u>Tango Video Calls</u> Tango brings you free, high-quality mobile voice and video calls over 3G and Wi-Fi! Millions of people around the world are using Tango in an exciting new way. It	Learning, Cognition, and Developmental	iOS
No Ratings			
	<u>i-prompt</u> Professional Tele-prompting software for your iPhone or iPod Touch.	Learning, Cognition, and Developmental	iOS
No Ratings			
	<u>Dragon</u> Dragon Dictation is an easy-to-use voice recognition application powered by Dragon	Learning, Cognition, and Developmental	iOS
★★★★★ ★ 5 stars by 1 users			
	<u>iBooks</u> iBooks includes the iBookstore, where you can download the latest best-selling books or your favorite classics	Learning, Cognition, and Developmental	iOS
No Ratings			
	<u>Say Text</u> SayText reads out loud the text in the image. It is intended for the visually impaired users. SayText is a free spin off product from the DocScanner team.	Learning, Cognition, and Developmental	iOS

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AT ONLINE EXCHANGE

gTRADE [gTRADE Georgia's Online Equipment Exchange.](#)

encourages members to offer AT and DME for sale or donation to others who may benefit from using technology unneeded by others.



AAC Comparison Chart: South Carolina AT Program

AAC App Comparison Chart

APP	reflects user's ability to speak	Auto Scrolling	Navigation available	Multiple on-line options	Category-based layout	chronological layout	Messages Pages first view	History of previous messages	Screen window	Individual message can be edited	Stylized and can be "highlighted"	One vocabulary provided	Items can be added	Complex items available	Text-to-speech voice	Background pictures	User initiated search for vocabulary	Text-to-speech output for messages can be turned on/off	Screen window, looks output can be turned on/off	Screen window, looks output can be turned on/off	OMG icons	Screen window	Messages link to other pages	Selected button color change or zoom	Pin and what screen	User centered navigation	Visual icons can link to other pages	Text	Text highlighting on read	Phone storage	Word completion or prediction available	Images can be blocked	Link to other words, services	Shorthand options	Spelling check	Screen core vocabulary words	Email and social media options	Editing, accessed under settings	Editing, accessed in app	Editing, performed on clipboard	Messages/Apps can be managed	Accessible, message queue below D, 4, 8, 16, 32, etc.						
Tap to Speak Button Plus	X			X		X			X		X	X	X		X		X	X		X																												
Answers: Yes/No				X								X			X					X	X		X																X									
Look-2-Learn					X																X		X	X																								
Tap to Speak Sequence	X			X		X			X		X	X	X		X		X	X		X		X																										
Verbal Victor				X					X		X	X	X		X		X	X		X			X																									
2Can Talk				X					X		X	X	X		X		X	X		X																												
ChoiceBoard Creator				X					X		X	X	X		X		X	X		X																												
urTalker Lite				X				X	X		X	X	X		X		X	X		X		X																										
urTalker Pro				X				X	X		X	X	X		X		X	X		X																												
Altr Talk				X		X			X		X	X	X		X		X	X		X																												
Gabby				X				X	X		X	X	X		X		X	X		X																												
Picture Can Talk				X					X		X	X	X		X		X	X		X																												
ComApp2				X					X		X	X	X		X		X	X		X																												
TalkRocket	X			X		X									X		X	X		X			X																									
One Voice				X				X	X		X	X	X		X		X	X		X		X	X																									
Sounding Board	X	X		X		X		X	X		X	X	X		X		X	X		X																												
PictureCanTalk				X		X		X	X		X	X	X		X		X	X		X																												
Augie				X		X		X	X		X	X	X		X		X	X		X																												
Tap to Speak Choice	X			X				X	X		X	X	X		X		X	X		X																												
Voice4u	X			X				X	X		X	X	X		X		X	X		X																												

AppsForAAC

AppsForAAC

full list

compare

about

blogs

search

This is a full list of all AAC applications available on the iPhone, iPod and iPad. Apps dedicated for the iPad and iPod are named Both + in the device column. If you wish to view this list without images (GB Pounds) click here and with images (GB Pounds) here. (US Dollars here or Australian dollars here)

For Device

iPod/iPhone/iPad
iPad
Both+

Type

Access
Education Support
Eye Pointing
Language Development
PECS
Photo Story
Phrase bank
Set Phrases
Symbol Grid System

Price




Is between

And

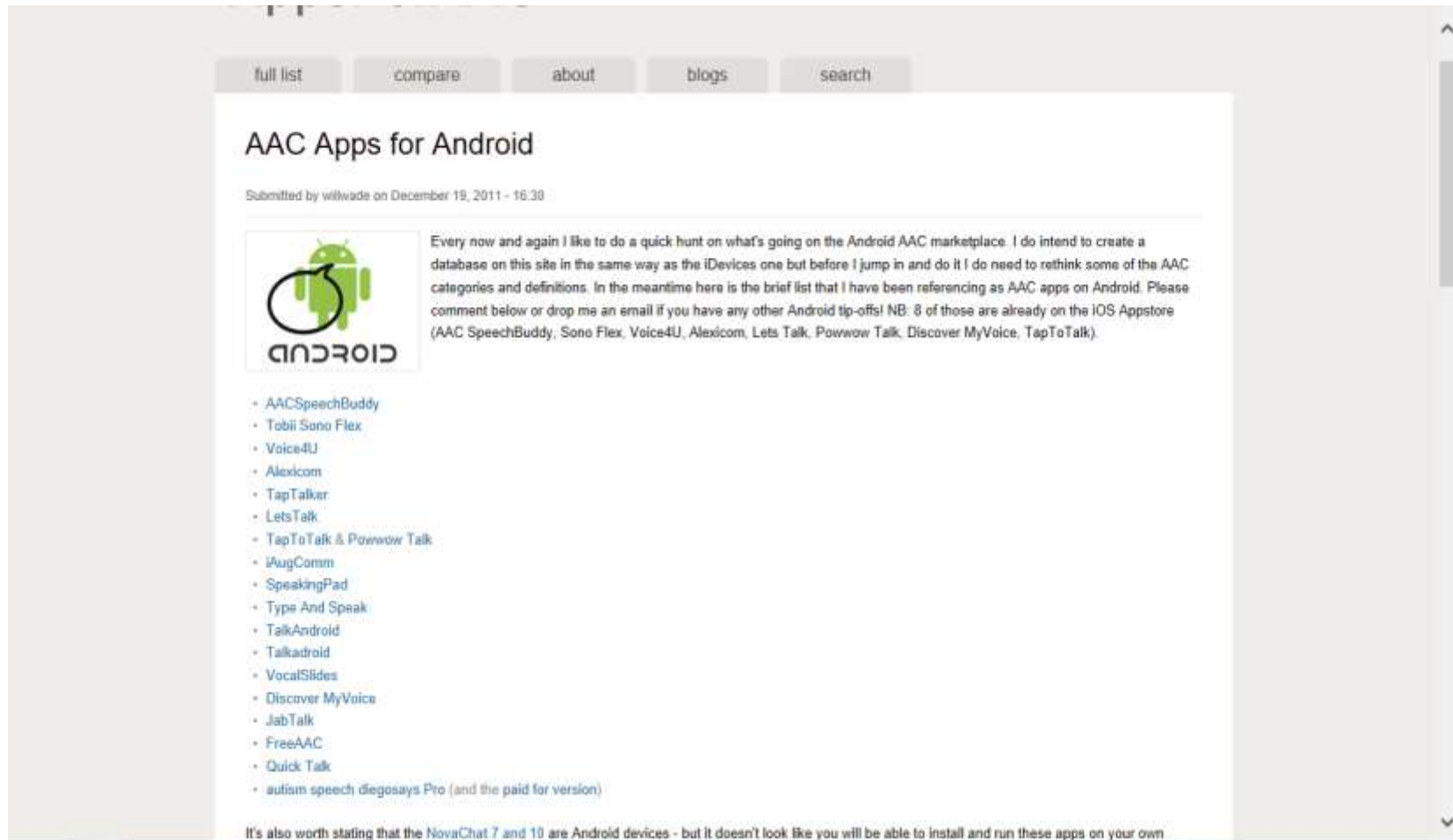
Items per page

20

Apply

Title	Device	Price	Speech	Symbols	Type	Rating	Updated	Compare
2CanTalk	iPod/iPhone/iPad	£10.49	Recorded	Photos	Symbol Grid System	n/a	Nov 19th 2011	 Add to compare
AAC - Scroll and Speak	iPad	£34.99	Recorded, Synthesised Unknown	Photos	Symbol Grid System, Text To Speech	n/a	Nov 30th 2011	 Add to compare
AAC Pocket	iPod/iPhone/iPad	£27.99				n/a	Apr 18th 2012	 Add to compare


AppsForAAC: Android



full list compare about blogs search

AAC Apps for Android

Submitted by wilwade on December 19, 2011 - 16:30



ANDROID

Every now and again I like to do a quick hunt on what's going on in the Android AAC marketplace. I do intend to create a database on this site in the same way as the iOS one but before I jump in and do it I do need to rethink some of the AAC categories and definitions. In the meantime here is the brief list that I have been referencing as AAC apps on Android. Please comment below or drop me an email if you have any other Android tip-offs! NB: 8 of those are already on the iOS Appstore (AAC SpeechBuddy, Sono Flex, Voice4U, Alexicom, Lets Talk, Powwow Talk, Discover MyVoice, TapToTalk).

- AACSpeechBuddy
- Tobii Sono Flex
- Voice4U
- Alexicom
- TapTalker
- LetsTalk
- TapToTalk & Powwow Talk
- iAugComm
- SpeakingPad
- Type And Speak
- TalkAndroid
- Talkadroid
- VocalSides
- Discover MyVoice
- JabTalk
- FreeAAC
- Quick Talk
- autism speech diegosays Pro (and the paid for version)

It's also worth stating that the NovaChat 7 and 10 are Android devices - but it doesn't look like you will be able to install and run these apps on your own

PrAACtical AAC



The screenshot shows the PrAACtical AAC website with the following elements:

- Header:** PrAACtical AAC logo with the tagline "Supports for Language Learning".
- Navigation:** PrAACtical Thinking, Strategy of the Month, Video of the Week, AAC e-Tool Box, Blog Love.
- Featured Article:** "92 Free or Lite Versions of AAC Apps" by Carole Zangari, published on July 10th, 2012. The article title is displayed in a decorative red and blue frame with the word "practical AAC" in a stylized font.
- Social Media:** Facebook (2,002 Fans), Twitter (380 Followers), and YouTube (94 Subscribers) icons.
- Awards:** Two circular award badges: "Runner-Up Best Individual Blog EDUBLOG AWARDS 2013" and "Finalist Best Ed Tech Blog EDUBLOG AWARDS 2013".
- Search:** A search bar with a "Go" button.
- Footer:** "AAC Posts from PrAACtical Week #5, January 2014".

Rubric for Evaluating the Language Aspects of the AAC App (Parker & Zangari , 2012)



RUBRIC for EVALUATING the LANGUAGE of APPS for AAC: RELAAACs

DRAFT: 6/24/12



PURPOSE: This rubric is designed to help speech-language pathologists compare AAC apps on the dimension of language and communication. It should be used in conjunction with more comprehensive checklists that address a variety of app features, such as those developed by [Gosnell](#) (2011) and [Marfilus and Fonner](#) (2012). When selecting AAC apps for an individual, this rubric should be used in the context of a comprehensive AAC evaluation, which considers a range of strategies and tools. This version is an early draft. Feedback can be submitted to zangari@gmail.com.

App Name:

Evaluator:

App Version:

Date of Evaluation:

	DOES NOT SUPPORT 1	LITTLE SUPPORT 2	SOME SUPPORT 3	CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT 4	FULLY SUPPORTS 5
FUNCTIONAL COMMUNICATION LEARNING					
1. Object/action requests, choices	1: No capacity for making requests of desired objects or actions	2: Very limited capacity for prestored OR generative requests of desired objects, actions	3: Some capacity for prestored & generative requests of objects or actions	4: Fairly good capacity for prestored & generative requests of objects or actions	5: Excellent capacity for prestored & generative requests of objects or actions
How well does this app support requests for desired activities, people, and objects, and support expression of preferences?					
2. Other requests (help, attention, people, negotiation)	1: No capacity for more abstract requests	2: Very limited capacity for more abstract requests (prestored or generative)	3: Some capacity for more abstract requests (prestored or generative)	4: Fairly good capacity for more abstract requests (prestored & generative)	5: Excellent capacity for more abstract requests (prestored & generative)
How well does this app support other kinds of requests, such as asking for help or attention, requesting to be with certain people, and negotiating.					
3. Negation, rejection, protest	1: No capacity for prestored or generative negation	2: Little capacity for prestored or generative negation	3: Some capacity for prestored & generative negation	4: Considerable capacity for prestored & generative negation	5: Excellent capacity for prestored & generative negation
How well does this app support the expression of negative concepts? Think about its capacity for protesting, negation (not, dont, can't, won't), and rejection.					
4. Social interaction	1: No capacity for social interaction words	2: Very limited capacity for prestored OR generative for social interaction words	3: Some capacity for prestored & generative for social interaction words	4: Fairly good capacity for prestored & generative for social interaction words	5: Excellent capacity for prestored & generative for social interaction words
How well does this app support the development and maintenance of social relationships? Think about its capacity for greeting/leave-taking, small talk, partner-focused questions, compliments, and etiquette (e.g., Excuse me, I'm sorry, Thank you). Think about scripting and reciprocal exchanges/turn-taking, partner-focused questions, and appropriate means of initiating, maintaining, redirecting, and terminating conversations.					

Parker & Zangari, 2012

www.PRAACTAAC.info



**Our Question to You:
What have You Learned today?**



Contact



Carolyn Phillips

Director of Tools for Life

Carolyn.Phillips@gatfl.gatech.edu

Liz Persaud

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Disclaimer

This presentation is produced by Tools for Life which is a result of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, as amended in 2004. It is a program of the Georgia Institute of Technology, College of Architecture [COA], AMAC and is funded by grant #H224C030009 of the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), Department of Education. The contents of this presentation were developed under a grant from the Department of Education. However, those contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the Department of Education, Georgia Tech, COA or AMAC and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal government.