

Tech For Tykes



Low Tech Communication Needs

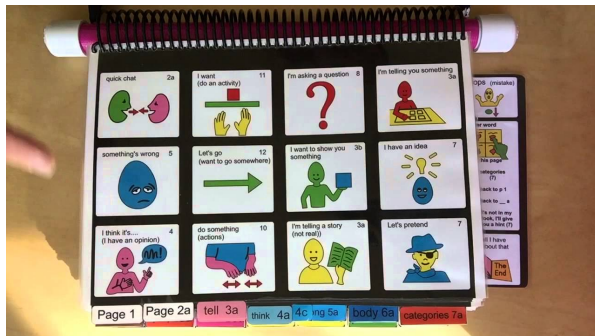
Did you know?

Assistive technology includes low-tech communication devices that...

- help a child who cannot use verbal speech to express ideas, thoughts, and feelings to everyone they interact with during the day. It can be used to help children to communicate their wants and needs, comment, protest, and express themselves.
- can be simple adaptations (like picture boards and books, simple switches that talk), or more complex electronic communication devices. This Tech Tip will focus on the more simple or “low-tech” communication systems.

Did you also know that the use of communication devices does not interfere with a child’s speech and language development? In fact, research shows the opposite to be true!

Here are some items from the [Loan Library](#) that can help children with communication needs!



[PODD 12 Per page Communication Book](#)

This communication book includes a sophisticated organization and vocabulary. It supports a range of communication functions typically seen in the expressive communication of 2-3 year old children. These functions include: requesting, cessation, recurrence, asking questions, giving opinions, complaining, protesting, expressing feelings, labeling, describing, and informing.

Communication partners and users require training in the customizing and use of PODD books. Access to consistent support from a therapist or teacher with augmentative and alternative communication expertise in the area of aided language stimulation is highly recommended. This book can also be used for children who require indirect access such as partner assisted scanning.

[Demonstration Video](#)

[GoTalk Dynamic with Tactile Talk Toolkit](#)

Creating a communication system for children with complex needs, especially those who are visually impaired or with multiple disabilities, can be challenging and time-consuming. TactileTalk Toolkit can help. It focuses on communication and literacy skills by combining tactile symbols with voice output. Tangible symbols represent objects, activities, places, people and concepts, like a spoon for eating and bells for music. Several objects are organized on a transparent sheet with borders and other symbols made with a special tactile paint. These sheets function as overlays for an iPad screen, corresponding to preprogrammed pages in the GoTalk NOW App using the TactileTalk Communication Book. Students feel the object for reference and tap the screen for a corresponding voice output. For example, tapping the bells image to play "I'd like to listen to music".



[Testimonials and Demonstration](#)

[Four Compartment Scanning Communicator](#)



This communication device allows the use of small real objects, photos and pictures to be paired with recorded voice for communication. This is one of several popular compartment scanning communicators in the loan bank. This model offers two scan modes and 12 levels, and either automatic or inverse scanning with an external switch. Each compartment has its own switch for direct selection and four 5-second messages per level. Super-sized: 28"L x 11"W x 4"H. Weight: 3 lbs. View a video below to see how it works.

Scanning Communicators Demonstration Video

BIG Step-by-Step Communicator

The step by step allows a user to record a series of messages to this talking device and then activate the large 5-inch switch top to play each message back one at a time. The messages are played in order of recording and feature four minutes of recording time. Simply activate and your first message plays. Once finished, activate again to play the next message. Perfect for telling stories, having a conversation, or completing activities with multiple steps. This large activation surface is recommended for persons who require a larger target area. Powered by a replaceable 9 volt battery, BIG Step-by-Step never needs charging and can last for weeks or even months on a single battery.



Step-by-Step Demonstration Video

Step-by-Step Implementation Video

101 Ideas for using switch for communication Implementation Guide

These and many other Assistive Technology items are available for loan for children receiving early intervention services in Colorado. Part C [Early Intervention AT Consultants](#) as well as designated [SWAAAC Team Coordinators](#) (school based AT providers) are able to check out items from our [loan bank](#).

Assistive Technology Partners, University of [Colorado Denver, 1224 5th St., Denver, CO 80204](#)
303-315-1280, FAX – 303-837-1208
www.assistivetechpartners.org | www.techfortykes.org