

iPad
vs
Dedicated Speech
Generating Device

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Presenter's Background



- Bachelor's degree in Biological Engineering
- Worked in the Assistive Technology field since 2005
- Currently employed with Signal Centers since 2018 working on the Tennessee Talks Grant.

Topics for today



- Cost analysis
- Alternative Access Options
- Implementation and durability in a classroom

Ipad communication Apps



- Words for Life(LAMP)(iOS)
- Snap + Core first (iOS and windows)
- Proloquo2go(iOS)
- Touchchat and Touchchat with wordpower (iOS)
- Proloquo4text(iOS)
- Grid 3 software(iOS)
- Coughdrop(iOS, android, Kindle fire)
- Many many many more

Tobii Dynavox Dedicated devices



Device

- I-110
- EM-12
- I-13 and I 16(eye gaze)

Software

- Snap + Core first
- Communicator 5
- Compass
- Grid 3
- Gateway
- PODD

Prentke Romich Devices



Device

- Accent 800,1000,1400
- Via Pro and Prio mini(Words for Life only)
- Accent 1400 with eyegaze
- Novachat 5,8 & 10

Language software

- Touchchat
- Touchchat with WordPower
- Words for life
- Unity
- Encompass

Specifications



- iPad

- Weighs ~1.5 lbs
- Screen size 10.2 inches
- ~ 10 hours of battery
- Purchase external speakers for sound amplification

- Dedicated device

- Weighs 3-6 lbs
- Varies from 5 inch to 14 inches
- Sound amplification included
- Drop tested to insurance specifications for medical devices
- 10 hours of battery time

Warranty and Technical supports



- Ipad with communication app
 - 1 year limited warranty for iPad(accidental damage not included)
 - Limited technical support for communication app
- Dedicated device
 - 2-3 year warranty of entire device
 - Tech support
 - Local tech support and training from local representative.
 - Insurance coverage of repairs

Accidental damage



On a dedicated device, the issues I have seen have been battery charge, screen freeze, and software glitches.

If acquired through insurance then repairs are covered by warranty and insurance covers repairs after warranty.

Implementation



- Use of device in classroom is the same.
- Available to student at all times
- ALS-Aided Language Stimulation
- Safety of device by user or others in the classroom.

Play vs Communication



iPad

- Most children cannot differentiate using the same device to play games and communication.
- Total abandonment of communication

Dedicated device

- This device is only for communication.
- Device is locked if purchased by insurance. (unlocked for a fee)

Alternative Access methods



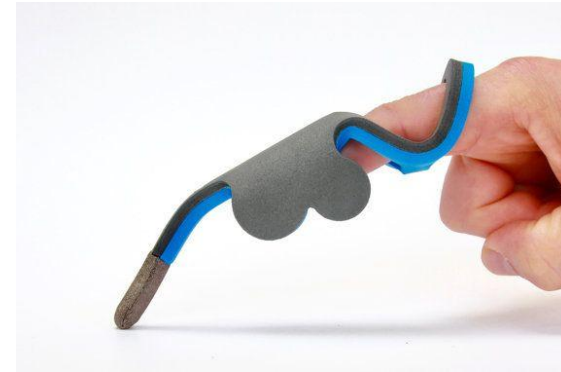
iPad

- Stylus
- Switches(adapter needed)
- Head gestures
- Alternative Mouse(adapter needed for non Bluetooth)

Dedicated device

- Stylus
- Switches
- Head control
- Alternative mouse
- Eye gaze

Stylus



Switch Control for iPad



Switch control of iPad



- Block scanning

Gliding cursor



Switches Dedicated Device



- Direct connection to device
- Wireless switches can be used
- Variety of settings
 - Auto vs Manual
 - One step vs two step

Head gestures iPad



- Head gestures can be given a task
- Examples:
 - Open mouth
 - Smile
 - Turn head to the left.

Head control dedicated device



- Small camera attachment that looks for a specialized bright dot placed on user head; the head movement moves tracker on screen. Selection is done by hovering.
- Requires good head control

Eye gaze dedicated device



Infrared camera tracks eye movement. Good head control is needed as well as isolation of eye movement from head movement.



Cost analysis iPad



Product	Cost
Ipad	\$329
Communication app	\$50-350
Case	\$30-50
External speaker	\$30-50
Additional warranty(accidental damage)	\$49
Out of warranty repair cost	\$250-450

Cost of Dedicated device



Device	Cost
Device with communication software	3000-8000
Device with eyegaze is	13000-18000
2-3 year warranty	included
Case	included
Sound amplification	included

Dedicated devices can be acquired through the student insurance company. A report from an SLP with her Clinical Competence Certification is required.

Which to choose?



- Funding source
- Access method
- Language software
- Time frame
- User behavior/preference

Funding



- My child/student has a completed AT/AAC evaluation.
- How do I pay for the device?
 - Private insurance
 - Medicaid
 - Other funding sources

Funding Language



- **Durable Medical Equipment** – This is medical equipment that is ordered by a physician (wheelchairs, speech generating devices, etc.)
- **Medicaid** – Joint federal and state program to assist with medical costs for some individuals with low incomes.
- **Medicare** – Federal insurance program for individuals 65 and older and some younger individuals with disabilities.
- **SGD** – Speech Generating Device
- **CMN** – Certificate of Medical Necessity
 - State specific form completed by a doctor or therapist

Funding Language



Deferrals and Denials

- **Deferral** – The insurance company is holding off on making a decision regarding the device coverage.
 - Frequently more information is needed
 - The therapist working with you will need to provide additional information to address the reason for the deferral

- **Denial** – The insurance company decides not to authorize payment for the requested device
 - Look at other funding options
 - You may file an appeal for private insurance companies

Device Funding Through Insurance



- A licensed therapist will need to complete an evaluation and will assist with submitting the evaluation to your insurance company.
- Many device companies will assist the therapist with submitting the evaluation to your primary and/or secondary insurance company.
- If you receive a denial from either the primary or secondary insurance company, ask the company from the device you are procuring and the therapist to offer suggestions on how to revise the evaluation and device application for reconsideration.

Alternative Funding Tips



- Many of the grants will not approve tablets but will approve dedicated speech generating devices.
- Many grants and alternative funding agencies may require proof that your insurance will not cover the device/equipment (insurance denial letter).
- Evaluations usually need to have been completed within the past year by a nationally licensed therapist (SLP with ASHA credentials for AAC devices, OT or PT with national credentials for AT equipment).
- Financial records are required for some of the grants with financial components.

Lending of Equipment



- TN Talks (www.tennesseetalks.org)
- Equipment (www.riddicksride.org)
- <https://www.at3center.net/> Find state contacts to gain more resources regarding state AT programs.

Full Funding PPT



For more information regarding funding, visit the
TN TALKS website

Databases of Funding Sources



Websites with lists of programs, grants, and medical support.

- [Funding \(especialneeds.com\)](http://especialneeds.com)
- <https://www.everythingspecialneeds.org/grants>
- <http://www.kidspeech.com/programs/special-needs-grants/>

Additional Resources



Article on how to find grants for children with special needs

- <https://www.sapling.com/5303697/government-grants-children-special-needs>

Blog about grants for special needs children and free things.

- <https://www.lovethatmax.com/2015/04/free-things-for-kids-with-special-needs.html>

Questions

