APPS for Communication

CESA 5 SLP Conference

March 4, 2012

Judi Cumley
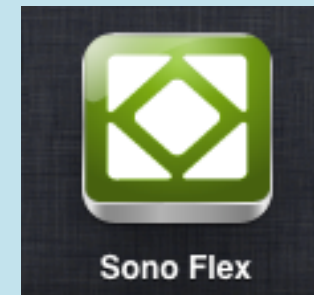
cumleyj@cesa5.org

The Basics.....

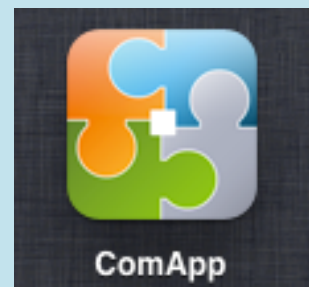Look for Communication Apps that have

- Core Vocabulary

- Pre-existing symbol set

- Ability to organize, edit, customize EASILY!

- Develops Language & functional communication

pp. 8 &12

"Anybody" can create an app

- Over 75% of AAC Apps are developed by persons with little to no background in communication (Fonner & Marfilius 10/11)
- "Talking Pictures"

p. 9

Even apps for emergent communicators should allow the student to....

- Refuse things

- Obtain things

- Engage in social interactions

- Ask questions/get information
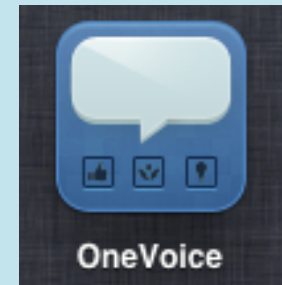

p. 8

Communication Competencies
(Janice Light, 1989)

- Operational Competence
  - Development of technical skills needed to operate the system, navigate to new messages, etc.

TouchChatHD   p. 12
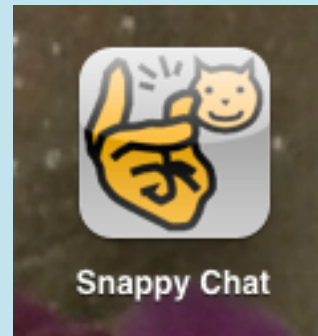
Communication Competencies

- Linguistic Competence
  - The mastery of language; understanding of words and how they can be combined to form new meanings

p. 11

Communication Competencies

- Social Competence
  - The understanding of social rules in communicating
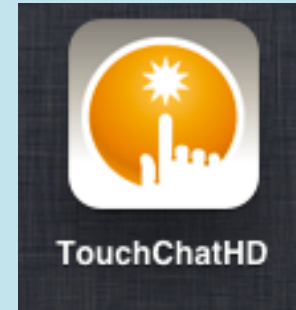

p. 9

Communication Competencies

- Strategic Competence
  - Make the most of what you have….use your available vocabulary, facial expressions & other strategies
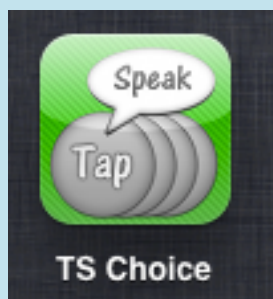

p. 11

Full Featured AAC Apps should have

TouchChatHD

- 1 or more page sets
- Symbol system the includes vocab from all parts of speech
- Dynamic linking to pages
- Ability to create, customize, edit pages & messages
- High quality voices
- Access to spelling (word prediction a +)
- Examples include…. Proloquo2Go, Sono Flex, Speak for Yourself, TouchChat HD (with Word Power if applicable)

Mid-level AAC Apps should have

- Symbol set with vocabulary other than nouns
- Some pre-programmed pages for basic communication
- Text to speech voices (when included) should be fairly high quality
- Some examples...TapSpeak Choice, Expressive, Scroll and Speak, OneVoice, Augie

p. 12

p. 14

Communication Apps with web editing & support

- Uses the internet for editing (use the computer), storage, page sharing, etc.
- Pages are downloaded to the device
- Most editing is done on the web (subscription fee)
- Symbols are often clip art, emoticons or photos
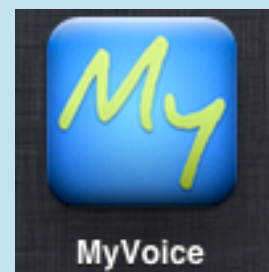- Some examples…Alexicom AAC, MyTalk, SymblyGo (no speech), Tap to Talk

Basic Communication

- Basic requests & other simple communication acts

- Most of the symbol/message set is nouns with carrier phrases ("I want")

- Recorded voice is usually the only speech output

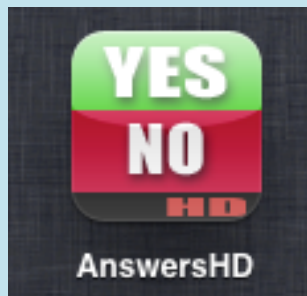- Some examples: Pic a Word, Speakall!, Go Talk Now, Grace (no speech), MyVoice

p. 7

p. 7

cumleyj@cesa5.org

Emergent Communication

- 1 or 2 messages

- Simple to use

- Recorded voice

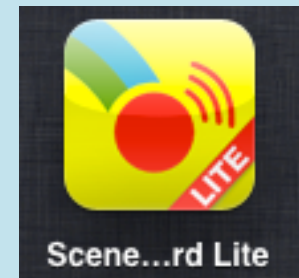- Some examples: AnswersHD, TS Button (Standard, Plus, Sequence) PlayButton

p. 9

p. 8

Scene Based AAC

- Uses visual scene display VSD with "hot spots" placed on locations in the scenes.

- Models language in context

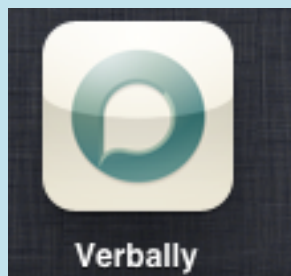- Some examples: Scene & Heard, Scene Speak, (TouchChat HD has VSDs in some page sets)

Scene Speak
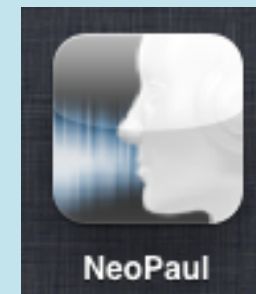
p. 11

Scene...rd Lite

p. 11

Text Only AAC

- Designed for literate users who type or can select pre-programmed written words or phrases.

- Some have word prediction

- Some save phrases for quicker access

- Some examples: Verbally, Locabulary Lite, NeoPaul (NeoJulie or Kate), Easy Speak, TouchChat with WordPower, Lingraphica apps
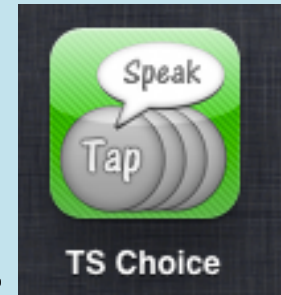
p. 14

Verbally

p. 6

Locabulary

p. 13

NeoPaul

Accessibility

TS Choice

- Most apps do not have full accessibility

Touch Settings (Duration/Hold) available on:

Proloquo2Go, TapSpeak Choice, TouchChat HD, Go Talk Now

Scanning available (using a Bluetooth switch) on:

Alexicom AAC, GoTalk Now, Tap to Talk, Tap Speak Choice, Sounding Board, Predictable, My Voice

Alexicom AAC

cumleyj@cesa5.org

Apps or features you want to see?

- Free AAC apps….

- Cost AAC apps…..

- Text Based AAC apps….

- AAC apps with other features…..

- Visual Schedule apps

- Language Stimulation apps….

- Resources?