Touch Chat

AAC application for iPad
6/5/2014
Learning Objectives

- Become familiar with Touch–Chat vocabularies, including multi-chat 15 and word power 20
- Learn how to customize vocabularies through programming buttons, importing photos, making and linking pages and how to locate the Help option for on-line support
- Discuss evidence based implementation for Augmentative communication (AAC) using Touch–chat app
Touch Chat

- Touch chat is a full-featured communication application for individuals who have difficulty using their natural voice: www.touchchatapp.com
- Multiple vocabularies, including phrase based, core word and categorical language organizations
- Can be used with direct touch, switch scanning
- Web-based support
- Multiple in-app purchases
- Similar to the vocabularies on the dedicated device, Novachat.
Augmentative Communication and Early Intervention: Myths and Realities, Romski & Sevcik, 2005

- Comprehension emerges as early as 9 months and by 12–15 months the child on average understands 50 words
- First 50 receptive words include people, games and routines, familiar objects, animals, body parts, and actions
- AAC is an INTERVENTION APPROACH, both aided and unaided
Myths about AAC

1. AAC is a last resort
2. AAC hinders / stops further speech development
3. Must have a certain skill set to benefit from AAC
4. SGD’s are only for children with high cognition
5. Children must be a certain age for AAC
6. There is a representational hierarchy for symbols
Four Roles for AAC

- Augment natural speech
- Primary mode for output
- Provide INPUT /output mode
- Serve as language intervention strategy
More evidence for use of AAC with infants / toddlers

- The Use of Augmentative and Alternative Communication Methods with Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities: A Research Review, Branson & Demchak, 2009
  - Early access to AAC can assist a child in using intentional behaviors recognizable to caregiver
  - Improved communication 71% / 97% using a variety of AAC methods with birth to three population
  - Pictures more closely resemble their referent than signs
  - Kids learn PECS faster than signs
AAC and other treatment techniques

- AAC is not mutually exclusive of other techniques (like PROMPT)
- AAC is not a last resort
- AAC can be used to promote comprehension (input)
- AAC can be a bridge to speech production
- AAC is a TREATMENT approach
Evidence for AAC use with older students

- Developing Expressive Communication Skills for Non-verbal Children with Autism, written by Susan Stokes under a contract with CESA 7 and funded by a discretionary grant from the Wisconsin Dept of Public Instruction

- Augmentative Communication and Early Intervention: Myths and Realities, Infants and Young Children, 2005, Vol.18, No. 3, pp.174–185; Romski and Sevcik
Evidence for AAC use with older students (2)


Vocabulary Options

Included with $149 Purchase

- **VocabPC (Landscape and Portrait)**– Designed by Gail Van Tatenhove, PA, MS, CCC–SLP for adults and adolescents with developmental disabilities. 12 location set up.

- **Primary (Landscape and Portrait)**– Designed for children. Has vocabulary for home, school and community, uses words, phrases, and sentences.

- **Spelling**– QWERTY keyboard page set with 4 word prediction buttons and a few pre–stored phrases

- **Multichat 15 (student, Adolescent, Adult)**– 15 symbols per page with minimal navigation. Uses a combination of logical linking and core words.
In–App Vocabulary options for purchase: Word Power

- Developed by Nancy L Inman, M.A.T., CCC–SLP
- Uses generative core based sentence production
- Available in 20(simply), 24(phrases), 30, 42 and 42 basic, 48 and 80 symbols per page.
- Is available as an in–App purchase for $149.99 or can be bundled with TouchChat for $299.99

- Word power is available on almost ALL dedicated communication device platforms and represents a powerful CORE vocabulary option
**Additional Vocabulary Options**

**Talk About AAC**
- Designed by Mirah Shah M.S., CCC-SLP
- For emerging learners
- Core word development/assessment
- Symbols on every button
- 12 locations
- In-App purchase for $49

- **Pixon**
  - 60 location static communication boards.
  - Can customize from over 2,800 symbols
  - Adapted from the Pixon Project Kit

**Gateway**
- Created by Joan Bruno, Ph.D., CCC-SLP
- Has both core and fringe words
- Used with both children and adults
- Theme based pages
- Open areas for easy customization
- In-App purchase for

- **Spanish vocabulary and voices**
  - $89.99
  - 9 different Spanish Vocabulary files.

- **Hebrew Vocabulary and voices**
  - $149.99
  - 8 different Hebrew vocabulary files.
Navigating through all the different versions

- **TouchChat–Lite**– For iPhone or iPod touch. NO VOICE $9.99
- **TouchChat–AAC**– Full program for iPhone or iPod touch $149.99
- **TouchChat–AAC with WordPower**– Full program with another power communication system called word power $299.99
- **TouchChat HD Lite**– For iPad and iPad mini NO VOICE $9.99
- **TouchChat HD–AAC**– Full program for iPad or iPad mini $149.99
- **TouchChat HD–AAC with WordPower**– Full program of both TouchChat vocabularies and WordPower vocabularies $299.99.
- **TouchChat Windows Editor**– Allows you to create and modify page sets on the computer and then transfer them to an idevice, altchat, or chatPC using ishare. A subscription to ishare is necessary. Cannot use PCS $59
- **ishare**– Is a subscription to a large server that allows you to store files, access shared files and upload specific page sets. $59 for six months.
- **In–App purchases**– a variety of different add ons to enhance the app. Not a stand alone. Different prices.
Programming / modification

Select a vocabulary
Copy a vocabulary
Editing a button
Importing photos
Hide / show buttons
Create a page / link a page
Back up/ restore / Windows editor
Settings
iShare pages
Help button for support
Creating pages

- **Edit**
  - You can either make one from scratch or duplicate one and rename it

- **To make one from scratch**

- **Copy page**
  - Import from another vocabulary option or **duplicate** the one you are on
  - Once **duplicated** then go to **load another page**.
  - **Find the page** and select it. The name of it will show up in the red bar (copy)
  - Select **done**
  - Then go to **menu** and **edit page layout**
  - Here you can **rename** it and make changes to it.
  - **Click save** when you are done

- **Add new page**
  - Name it
  - Put number of rows and columns
  - Select or import images
  - **Click save** when you are done
In iTunes you can back up your device
Can import (bring in) pages and vocabulary sets
Can export (send out) pages and vocabulary sets
Only works on PC
Importing from the device using iTunes

- Attach device to PC and open iTunes
- Select the device and go the Apps section
- Scroll down until you see TouchChat in the File Sharing area and Click on TouchChat
- Click Add
- Locate the file you wish to add to your device and click open
- You should see that the file has appeared in the touch Chat documents section
- Now on your device go to the Vocab file section
- Select menu in the upper right and Import/Export file
- Select the file you wish to import then hit save on the top right of the screen
- Your imported files should appears in the Vocab file list
Exporting to the device using iTunes

- Connect device to a PC and open iTunes
- On the device go to Vocab File section and tap on the Menu in the top right
- Choose Import/Export a Vocab File
- Choose the vocab file you want to export
- Name the file that you are exporting and tap save
- In iTunes on the PC click on the device and go to the apps section
- Scroll down until you see TouchChat in the File Sharing area
- You should see the vocab file that you are exporting. Highlight the file and click on the save to button
  A window save box will appear. Select the folder where you want to save the file.
iShare

- iShare is a subscription for storage. It allows you to share page sets between devices and it also enable you to store your personal page sets in a private folder.
- iShare is free for the first year after that it is $59 per 6 months.
- On iShare you can post page sets you have made and download page sets that others have posted.
- To access iShare [www.ishareservices.com](http://www.ishareservices.com)
Aided language stimulation using the Touch Chat app

- Modeling
- Backward chaining
- Custom activity pages
- Home program by printing pages through windows editor or screen shots
Examples

- Show custom page sets
Summary & Questions

- Touch Chat is a powerful treatment approach accessible to a wide range of students with complex communication needs
- Questions?
Further Information

Touch Chat Suite
www.touchchatapp.com

Saltillo Corporation
www.saltillo.com
1-877-397-0178

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