App/Device Name:Big Mack

Manufacturer: Mayer-Johnson

Website: http://www.mayer-johnson.com/bigmack-communicator

Pros:
- There is a large button that allows the child to activate the device, good for visual and motor support
- Good for visually impaired clients
- easy access if it's on a desk
- Could easily be placed on a wheelchair if there was a tray

Cons:
- child may just constantly repeat/continue to press the button
- difficult to check for comprehension
- limited on expressive output
- you need someone to record for each time

Portability: This device would be easy to use when it is placed on a flat surface such as the tray of a wheelchair. Because of its size, it would be awkward to carry around in your hands, especially if the client has motor difficulty.

Cost: $145.95

Selection and access:
- Direct Selection
    - Physical Pressure/Depression - the child will have to put pressure onto the button to vocalize

Output: Digitized speech. Cannot be used to convert text to speech. The output is limited. There is only one verbal output choice. The only type of visual output that can be given would be unaided symbols such as gestures or manual signs from the listener.

Feedback:
- Tactile Feedback: the client will have to have direct contact with the device surface to vocalize
- Proprioceptive Feedback: The client applies pressure against the switch in order to activate it and hear the message.

Symbol representation:
- one large button
- able to change different colors of the button to help with visual acuity

Display options:
- able to change the color options for the button to make it visually appropriate for the clients

App/Device Name: LITTLE Step-by-Step Choice with Levels

Manufacturer: Mayer-Johnson

Website: http://www.mayer-johnson.com/step-by-step-choice-with-levels

Pros:
- Able to record multiple messages
- able to change the colors to make it appropriate for the client
- Switch are multiple switches. Teacher can record while child has switch with cord. (can change the message)
- Main piece can be placed under a wheelchair/chair and the switch with a cord can be placed accessible on top of wheelchair.

Cons:
- smaller target for the client to press
- facilitator has to move the levels for the client
- You can not scan through the 3 recorded messages without flipping the "levels". This may be difficult for someone who has trouble with their fine motor skills.

Portability: This switch can be mounted to any surface to make access easier. A switch can also be added to the device to increase portability.

Cost: $197. 96

Selection and access:
- Direct Selection
    - Physical Pressure/Depression - the child will have to put pressure onto the button to vocalize

Output:
- Digitized speech. Cannot be used to convert text to speech. The output is limited. There is only one verbal output choice. The only type of visual output that can be given would be unaided symbols such as gestures or manual signs from the listener.

Feedback:
- Tactile Feedback: the client will have to have direct contact with the device surface to vocalize
- Proprioceptive Feedback: The client applies pressure against the switch in order to activate it and hear the message.

Symbol representation:
- one large button - but able to change the levels for different messages
- able to change different colors of the button to help with visual acuity

Display options:

- able to change the color options for the button to make it visually appropriate for the clients

App/Device Name: Proloquo2go

Manufacturer: AssistiveWare

Website: http://www.assistiveware.com/product/proloquo2go

Pros:
- you can create your own folder/theme/make it appropriate for the client
- you can work on categorizing
- picture and words are included
- user friendly so clients can learn to create their own icon
- appropriate for all ages
- can search the internet for pictures, use person photos
- allows you to put different word types together
- dependent on the child/client, it is sensitive to touch and easy for pointing
- Adjust layout and sizing
    - buttons can be different sizes
    - you can insert blank buttons to space out (so they do not hit incorrect)
- the words are read out as you make a sentence
- Automatically conjugates the verbs

Cons:
- The cost of the app and the iPad together can be expensive
- If the iPad gets damaged, the app would not work
- You have to make sure you type in the entire word before clicking done, otherwise the words would be misspelled
- The different pictures might have to be mixed (i.e.line drawings and actual pictures) which may be confusing or difficult for someone with a visual processing deficit.
- In order to create a sentence, you have to switch back and forth between folders
- dependent on the child/client, sensitivity of the iPad may be an issues. may just impulsively hit all the buttons
- Specific words have to be put in, if not programmed the child can not find a word

Portability: Able to mount the Ipad onto a wheelchair. Also, you can get a protective case with a strap that the child/adult can wear for protection of the Ipad device

Cost: $249.99 (app)

Selection and access:
- **Dynamic:** Categories/folders that open to a new set of words when activated
- **Physical contact:** touch as in pointing in communication book or using IPad

- **Release Activation:** releasing from contact with a symbol for selection

Output:
- **synthesized speech:** text to speech
1. **Visual Output:** the listener can look at the message displayed on the screen in order to clarify

Feedback:
- **Auditory Feedback:** the client can hear which button he is pressing so he/she knows they choose the right one
- **Proprioceptive Feedback:** The client applies light pressure against the Ipad in order to activate it and hear the message.
- **Tactile Feedback:** contact with the device surface

Symbol representation:
- images from the app
- can use real life images
- can take pictures with the Ipad used to represent the symbol
- Aided symbols- can either be concrete or abstract (real pictures or line drawings stored in the app)

Display options:
- able to adjust the brightness on the Ipad (Apple display options)
- change the colors
- add white blanks around symbols to help with scanning
- change the amount of symbols on a page

App/Device Name: Cheap Talk

Manufacturer: Enabling Devices

Website: http://enablingdevices.com/catalog/assistive_technology_devices_used_in_education/cheap-talks-accessories/cheap-talk-8-6-level-communicators

Pros:
- adaptable for each session dependent on what goals you are working on since you can change the pictures and recordings
- Lights up while scanning to keep track
- able to adjust scanning speed
- able to adjust volume

Cons:

- only eight messages
- no auditory feedback
- large size so may be difficult to transfer or carry dependent on the client
- tedious of changing the picture (printing, cutting, constantly adding new pictures)
- it may be difficult to find symbols for abstract concepts

Portability:
- The device can be mounted on a surface because of the suction cups that are attached. Once attached it will move.
- The switch can be placed anywhere in order to make a selection
- You would not be able to carry this device in your hands

Cost: $325.95

Selection and access:
- Direct Selection
  - Physical Pressure/Depression - the child will have to put pressure onto the button to vocalize

Output:
- digitized speech-natural speech has been recorded

Feedback:
- visual feedback-lights up when you make a choice
- proprioceptive feedback

Symbol representation:
- Aided symbols
  - can be line drawings or actual pictures, or a mixture of both

Display options:
- able to change pictures when appropriate
- can do eight or less messages on the device
- the device lights up with a light when the client choose the desired picture
- the device lights up and can beep when the client choose the desired picture

App/Device Name: Springboard Lite

Manufacturer: Prentke Romich Company (PRC)

Website: https://www.prentrom.com/products

Pros:

- ■ easy to transport [handle]
- ■ durable
- ■ can create visual scenes and add digital photos

Cons:
- ■ Hard to type
- ■ hard to program/navigate
- ■ small visual screen
- ■ could be heavy for a young child
- ■ not visually ideal [colors, fonts, size, etc.]
- ■ will only have voice if the voice is recorded. There are no pre-recorded words

Portability:
- ■ could be heavy for a young child to carry
- ■ has a handle to hold
- ■ can be mounted to assistive motor devices (wheelchair)

Cost: $2,595.00

Selection and access:
- ■ **Dynamic:** Screen changes as you click on a category/button
- ■ **Direct Selection:** Physical contact
- ■ **Activation strategies:** release activation

Output:
- ■ **Digitized Speech**
- ■ **Visual Output-** the sentence can be viewed on the screen

Feedback:
- ■ tactile feedback

Symbol representation:
- ■ Aided symbols
    - ■ can be line drawings or actual pictures, or a mixture of both

Display options:
- ■ Several page options
- ■ Able to change the amount of icons on a page
- ■ 1 to 36 icons on a page
- ■ size depends on the number of icons you choose

App/Device Name: PECS
Manufacturer:
Website: http://www.pecsusa.com/index.php
Pros:
- ■ Alot of available word choices

- Multiple choices for pictures for same word
- easy to use
- you can make your own sets
- color pictures
- preset sizes and layouts for photos
- can replace pictures/ binders if lost or broken easily, instead of rebuying device
- enhances carry over

Cons:
- tedious when creating a board
- can lose pictures
- can only use the available verb form, unless you make a new picture card
- long process with multiple stages
- have to carry around the binder and add in pages for each content area

Portability:
- the binder may be heavy to carry around
- if the pictures are not attached properly, they may fall off the pages and get lost

Cost: $153.00

Selection and access:
- Fixed/static - Although the icons can be moved around they are fixed on the sheet.
- physical - dependent on the stage - may have to pick and give

Output:
- no verbal output
- only (hard copy) visual output

Feedback:
- tactile

Symbol representation:
- *aided pictures*
  - *some pictures have symbols other images are pictures*

Display options:
- you choose the display options: size, how many,and what image(s)
- you are able to personalize
- you can create sentences, phrases, or single picture