

Having a Voice

Students need a way to communicate so that they can be easily and quickly understood by others

Ideas for Elementary School Students:

- Greet others
- Recite numbers, days of the week, months of the year, numbers, poems
- Read a story out loud
- Introduce family, friends, teachers, guest speaker
- Give a spelling quiz the class
- Take attendance
- Give the weather report
- Direct a PE activity

Devices

BIGmack – says only one message, such as, “Hey, how are you doing?”



Step-by-Step Communicator – says a series of messages, such as,



“Hi Mrs. Smith.”

“Nice to see you!”

“Hope the good weather stays!”

“Hope you have a great

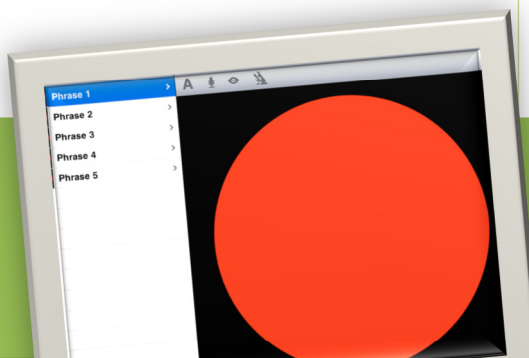
Quick Messages

Students who do not speak need ways to communicate with others. Often, messages need to be created quickly and on the spot. Even students who use a dedicated Augmentative-Alternative Communication (AAC) Device may need to have a quick message created for them.

Devices such as the BIGmack and Step-by-Step Communicator are effective tools to create situation-appropriate messages. Now iPad apps, such as TapSpeak Button and TapSpeak Sequence, offer the same ability in an up to date format. They have the added advantage of being able to save favourite messages.

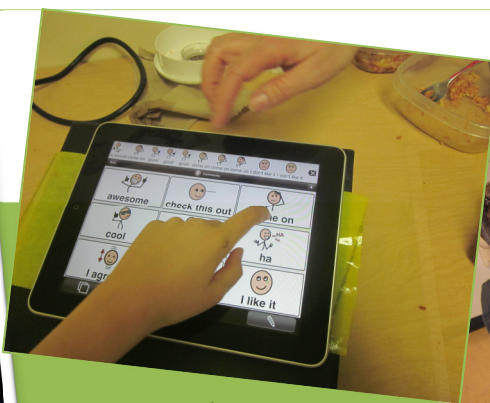
Having a “voice” allows a student to actively participate in on-going activities. As well, language is used in a functional framework and helps the student to learn the meanings of words and phrases in context. A student can use a voice output device to:

- gain attention
- ask for “more” of something that they enjoy
- ask and answer questions
- take turns
- give directions
- make comments



iPAD apps

TapSpeak Button and TapSpeak Sequence are quick ways to create ‘on the spot’ messages, and can be also saved for future use!



Ideas

Get attention or Initiate a conversation

Come over here!

Look what I did!

Hi Mom. I've got green paint on my shirt. Guess what I did today!

I have a surprise for you today.

Look in my bag!

Terminate an activity

I'm finished now.

All done!

Greetings and Closings

Hi there!

See you tomorrow!

Have Conversations

Guess what happened this weekend!

I got a new puppy

Her name is Pepper

Guess what colour she is

Do you have any pets?

Finishing

I'm all done!

Finished!

Actively Participate in a Group

The weather today is...

Let's sing...

*What comes next in this pattern?
Sandwich / milk / sandwich...*

Here is my report on the life cycle of a salmon...



Asking and Answering Questions

What's that?

When are we going?

I watched TV

I have to go home early