

Having a Voice

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

Ideas for Secondary School Students:

- Greet others
- Have conversations with peers in the hallway
- Order at a fast food restaurant
- Introduce family, friends, teachers, guest speaker
- Give directions for a science experiment
- Provide messages for an improvisation class in drama
- cheer for the high school team
- 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 day!”

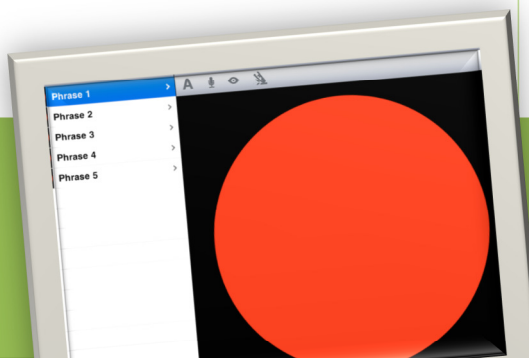
Quick Messages

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.

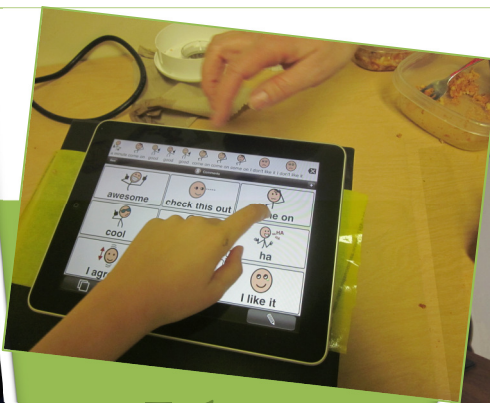
Having a “voice” allows a student to actively participate in on-going activities. As well, language is used in a functional framework and helps the student to learn the meanings of words and phrases in context. A student can use a voice output device to:

- 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

Yo, come over here!
Check this out!
Hi Mom. I've got some mustard on my shirt. Guess how that happened!
I have a new tune on my iPod.
Look in my bag!

Terminate an activity

Done!
Time to move on.

Greetings and Closings

Hey 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 done with it!
I can't deal.

Actively Participate in a Group

Today we're going to ...
Let's listen to ...
Get out the following ingredients...
Here is my interview with Mrs....



Asking and Answering Questions

What's that?
When are we going?
I watched TV last night.
I have to go to an appointment