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Communication Apps and Core Language

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Disclosure Statement
Annie Geibel, Rebecca Goldwasser and Stacey Justice have NO proprietary interest related to the SpeechPathology.com presentation entitled Communication Apps and Core Language
Learner Outcomes

- After this presentation, you will be able to:
  - Define core language
  - Describe the advantages and challenges of each of the communication apps discussed
  - Describe how to apply core language while using the communication apps during therapy activities

Review of Core Language
What is Core Language?

- A small set of words with the highest frequency of use both in conversation and in written text
- Research has found that 80% of words spoken are core and the remaining 20% are fringe.


Core is made up of...

- Pronouns
- Verbs
- Auxiliary Verbs
- Prepositions
- Adjectives
- Determiners

Fringe consists of...

- Nouns
- Places
- Names
- People


2003 Banajee Study

1. I 16. In
2. No 17. Here
3. Yes / yea 18. More
5. The 20. Off
6. Want 21. Some
7. Is 22. Help
8. It 23. All done / finished
9. That
10. A
11. Go
12. Mine
13. You
14. What
15. On

These core words comprise 96.3% of the total words used by toddlers in this study.

3 Communication Ability Levels

- Emergent Communicator
- Context Dependent Communicator
- Independent Communicator


Emergent Communicator

- Needs simple, concrete pictures
- Activities must be highly motivating
- Example core words to target:
  - More, want, stop, go, help, I, you, eat, drink

Context Dependent Communicator

• Spontaneously communicates his or her own wants and needs
• Understands more abstract pictures
• Has some beginning literacy skills
• Example core words to target:
  • *Hot, cold, small, big, little, he, she, make, this, that*

Independent Communicator

• Same literacy skills as peers
• Can communicate on a variety of topics in a flexible, novel way
• Needs a variety of core words
• Needs ALL grammatical markers

GoTalk NOW Application

What is GoTalk NOW?

- Customizable, low cost application for iPad, iPad mini and ComLink ProSlate
- Modeled after GoTalk Communication Device
- Digitized and synthesized speech in over 20 languages
- Category based layout: standard, scene, express pages available

GoTalk Options

- GoTalk Lite
  - 1 book, 5 pages, no sharing
- GoTalkNow
- GoTalkStart
  - Five communication pages, no sharing
  - 60 voices, 30 languages
- GoTalk NOW Plus
  - SymbolStix Library, Ready-Set-Communicate Book
  - Acapela text-to-speech English Voices
- GoTalkDynamic
  - Includes case
- TactileTalk Toolkit


Features Continued...

- 1-25 locations- linking/navigation is completely customizable
- Multiple editing options: move, size, crop, color, combine, zoom, hide
- Video and music options
- Auditory Cues
- Multiple communication book option
- Keyboard
- Keyguards and cases available
- Data tracking & locking feature
- WiFi Sharing in some version
- Scanning and switch capabilities
- Variety of symbol options available

What is Scanning?

**Direct Selection:** pointing with a body part such as a finger, hand, or toe, or through the use of a pointing device such as a beam of light, headstick, or mouthstick. Those with severe physical impairments may need to access systems by using a switch. The switches can be turned on with a body part, puff of air, or wrinkle of an eyebrow.

**Scanning:** one type involves the use of lights on a system that pass over each choice and the user activates a switch to stop the light and pick a choice, other types are auditory scanning and scan patterns (such as row/column, quadrant, step, and linear). Scanning requires less motor control but possibly more cognitive skill than direct selection access.

**Types of scanning:**
- Automatic, or one-step
- Auditory
- Visual
- Step, or two-step scanning


What Does it Look Like?

[Image of GoTalk Start interface]

CONTINUED
Touch-Based Editor Continued…

Visual Scene Display
Using GoTalk with Core Word Activities

- Book: I, like, it, is, again, read, more, what, there
- Script: I like it, read again, read more, what is, it is there, read it, more there, what is there

Reading a Book
Core Activities Continued...

- Ball Popper: I, it, do, more, like, happy, where, go, now
- Script: I like it, go now, do more, I happy, where go, now go, more go, it go

Ball Popper Board
GoTalk NOW Video Example

Proloquo2Go
All About Proloquo2Go

- Is on version 4
- Has 23 predesigned templates from 9-144 icons
- Three levels of core vocabulary: emergent, context-dependent, and independent
- To set up a user, you can use a wizard set up
- Can support the user using correct grammatical structures
- Support learner through motor planning with having certain core vocabulary throughout all the folders


All About Proloquo2Go Continued…

- Uses SymbolStix images
- Can hide buttons as one is learning vocabulary
- No linking
- Can use real photos
- Has over 40 different synthesized voices or can use recorded speech
- Need to know categorization
- Actions are categorized by body, thinking, telling, sensing, etc.
- Also has actions A-Z
- Newest version comes in Spanish as well as English

Who Can Use Proloquo2Go?

- Any adult or child who needs a core based language system
- Need to understand categorization and some unusual categorization
Using Proloquo2Go

- Can be used on any i-device or ComLink ProSlate
- Icons can be customized with Google images or Photos
- One can add icons as needed to customize to individual
- Home button on bottom
- No special clear button
- Can turn animation and gestures off
- Access can be direct or scanning
- When using direct access it can be when touched or release, also can have dwell time


Proloquo2go Screen Shot
Another Screen Shot of Proloquo2Go

Activities to Teach Core on Proloquo2Go

- Cars-Emphasize words go, stop, it, that, I, want, like, more, red, blue, up, down

Script for playing with cars:
- I want the red car
- Car go up
- I like it.
- I don’t want the train
Home Page then Things to Vehicles

Vehicle Page
Vehicle Page

TouchChat HD – AAC with WordPower
• By Silver Kite
What is it?

- Communication app created for use by individuals who need an alternative or supplement for natural speech
- Updates happen frequently – please check the website for new features and the most recent version
- Universal app for i-devices, the ComLink ProSlate and the NovaChat (the app is slightly different on the NovaChat)
- Provides English and Spanish options in one app (Hebrew for additional cost)


What does it look like?

SpeechPathology.com

Continued
### WordPower 24 with Phrases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Block</th>
<th>VEHICLE</th>
<th>WEATHER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>APPLIANCE</td>
<td>CONTAINER</td>
<td>FURNITURE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOLIDAY</td>
<td>HYGIENE</td>
<td>JOKES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH</td>
<td>MONEY</td>
<td>MUSIC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PARTY</td>
<td>READING</td>
<td>SCHOOL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPORTS</td>
<td>TECHNOLOGY</td>
<td>TOOLS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEALTH</td>
<td>KITCHEN</td>
<td>NATURE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPACE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

### WordPower 24 with Phrases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Block</th>
<th>VEHICLE</th>
<th>WEATHER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COLOR</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRACTOR</td>
<td>TRAIN</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BICYCLE</td>
<td>MOTORCYCLE</td>
<td>AND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAR</td>
<td>VAN</td>
<td>BUS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMBULANCE</td>
<td>POLICE</td>
<td>FIRE ENGINE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JEEP</td>
<td>GARBAGE</td>
<td>TAXI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRUCK</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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CONTINUED
### WordPower 48

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ABC 123</th>
<th>PEOPLE</th>
<th>QUESTN</th>
<th>PLACES</th>
<th>SOCIAL</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>GROUPS</th>
<th>DESCRB</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>clear</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>me</td>
<td>any</td>
<td>every-</td>
<td>but</td>
<td>or</td>
<td>good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>.</td>
<td>my</td>
<td>can</td>
<td>to</td>
<td>a-</td>
<td>and</td>
<td>at</td>
<td>more</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Delete word**: want, it, do, ACTIONS

- "s you, is, be- drink, eat, of on, they your, -s -ing, -er, -est, have, play, want, out, with.

### WordPower 80

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>clear</th>
<th>-s</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>q w e r t y u i o p</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>. a s d f g h j k l</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Delete word**: Shift 123, z x c v b n m, bkp

- I me to, people, ? Space, PLACES, SOCIAL, TIME, GROUPS

- my is be- come, go, the a- and at

- it can do, drink, eat, that for in of more

- you your, ACTIONS, play, want, this on out, with any- or every- some- if
Advantages of TouchChat with WordPower

- Available in the app store (anyone can purchase for an i-device if necessary)
- User-friendly (organized layout, easy to edit and customize)
- Many vocabulary sets to choose from depending on needs/communication ability level
- Makes it easy for users to communicate in grammatically correct sentences
- Uses Symbolstix pictures (over 10,000 symbols included, or, can add photos or google images)
- “Hide mode” feature
- “Find word” feature
- Actions A-Z Index

Advantages Continued…

- Spanish vocabularies built into the price of the app
- Various English and Spanish synthesized voices are available, or, can use recorded speech
- Pages, grid layout, buttons, and symbols are all fully customizable
- Buttons can be dragged, copied and pasted
- Buttons are programmed with specific actions such as speaking a message, navigating to a different page or clearing the display
- Buttons can be programmed to play music or video files
- Can adjust button dwell time and release time


Lite Version Available!

- There is a lite version available without voice output.
- Great for SLP training and practice

Teaching the Basics

- Clearing the display
- Speaking the whole sentence (period or sentence bar)
- Using the “home” button and “back” button
- Locating vocabulary
- Using the Actions A-Z index

Core Language Activities

- Make requests
  - I want to eat ____
  - I want to play ____

- Make comments
  - I like it.

- Pronoun + verb + ing
  - Finding verbs in Actions A-Z index

- Adding grammatical markers (-s, -ing, etc.)
### I want to eat

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meal</th>
<th>Items</th>
<th>Food Groups</th>
<th>Meals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>breakfast</td>
<td>breakfast</td>
<td>DRINKS</td>
<td>MEALS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lunch</td>
<td>lunch</td>
<td>FOOD GROUPS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>snack</td>
<td>snack</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dinner</td>
<td>dinner</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>at</td>
<td>candy</td>
<td>cookie</td>
<td>fruit snack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>crackers</td>
<td>goldfish</td>
<td>pizza</td>
<td>pudding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cheese</td>
<td>chips</td>
<td></td>
<td>yogurt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### I want to play

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Items</th>
<th>Coloring Book</th>
<th>Crayons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wii</td>
<td>ball</td>
<td>coloring book</td>
<td>crayons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bike</td>
<td>blocks</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>with</td>
<td>cars &amp; trucks</td>
<td>doll</td>
<td>Legos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GAMES</td>
<td>playdoh</td>
<td>puzzle</td>
<td>slide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPORTS</td>
<td>trampoline</td>
<td></td>
<td>swing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- "s" | . | →
Actions A-Z Index

Core Language Activities Continued …

• Talking about emotions
  • I feel happy.

• Using cars, bubbles, etc.
  • Stop/go, up/down, my turn/your turn

• I want more/I am finished

• Asking/answering personal questions

• Using attribute + noun phrases
  • I want the blue car.

• Using social language (hello/goodbye)
Example Core Activity #1

- 4-year-old patient with Apraxia
- I like/don’t like it

Example Core Activity #2

- 4-year-old patient with Apraxia
- Asking/answering personal questions
What is LAMP

• LAMP is an app that uses the philosophy of Language Acquisition and Motor Planning. It is a therapeutic approach based on neurological and motor learning principles as well as clinical experiences that address the language development and communication needs of children with autism.

• The app was developed by Prentke Romich and uses Unity/Minspeak

LAMP Continued...

- It can be used on i-devices and the ComLink ProSlate
- Uses icons that mean more than one thing. Example, Apple means eat and also means hungry.
- It comes in 3 levels 84 One Hit, Transition level-two hits, and 84 Full which supports all of the grammatical development
- Ability to hide buttons as you teach new vocabulary
- Does have linking feature
- Has a word finding function to help with caregivers and patients to find new words

Who Can Use LAMP?

- Adults or Children who need a core based system to develop novel language
- Can be used with children with Autism, but anyone with a variety of diagnoses can use it
- Need to understand that a word can mean more than one thing
- A fast way to communicate as all vocabulary can be reached within three hits
Screen Shot of LAMP

Core Language Sentence
Using LAMP

- Pictures can be modified to photos or Google pictures, but not suggested.
- Has a Clear button
- Only has direct access. However, can be access using touch or release. Also, has dwell times.

Teaching LAMP

- There is a learning curve
- Better to teach a few vocabulary at a time.
- Teaching resources are located on PrentkeRomich.com or Minspeak.com
- Have made materials to teach core verbs and adjectives. With some using the Minspeak pictures.

Script for using LAMP

Balls
- I want red ball
- I do
- I like red it is great
- Go ball
- My turn
- Finished

Screen Shot of LAMP
After Pressing “I” on the Home Page…

Color Page after Pressing Rainbow Icon…
### Page After Pressing Dice from Home Page

I want red

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Back</th>
<th>Menu</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dice</td>
<td>Game5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Play</td>
<td>Toss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Story</td>
<td>To play</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Match</td>
<td>Lose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clear</td>
<td>Win</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Toy Page

I want red

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Back</th>
<th>Menu</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dice</td>
<td>Block</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stock</td>
<td>Soil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ball</td>
<td>Bagon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stick</td>
<td>Stand up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sand</td>
<td>Ship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action</td>
<td>Stack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Puzzle</td>
<td>Pogo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Logo</td>
<td>Jumping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Puzzles</td>
<td>Stack box</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clever</td>
<td>Full pack</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SpeechPathology.com

Cincinnati Children's
“I” Page
I like

“It” Page
I want red
Video Using LAMP #1
  • Video using adjectives and some aided language stimulation

Video Using LAMP #2
  • Video of describing action and stating she was finished
Choosing an App: A Quick Review

GoTalkNow
- Emergent Communicators
- Low cost
- Easy to customize/edit
- Multi-lingual
- Switch access
- Small learning curve
- No literacy required
- Hide buttons
- Highest location available is 25

LAMP
- Motor Planning
- High learning curve
- Icons have multiple meanings
- Linking option
- Word finding function
- Hide buttons
- Core vocabulary built in
- Fast
- Pictures can be modified—not suggested
- Direct Access only
- Teaching Resources available
- High cost
- Support in learning grammatical structures

Proloquo2Go
- 3 levels of core vocabulary
- Support in learning grammatical structures
- Support provided through motor planning
- Easy to customize-photos, editing
- High categorization skills required
- Spanish/English
- No linking
- Hide button feature
- Direct selection or scanning option
- High Cost

TouchChat
- Easy to edit—copy, drag, paste
- Has the most vocabulary options for users
- Easy to communicate grammatically correct sentences
- Hide button feature
- Find word feature
- Literacy required for more advanced core pages
- Large selection of icons/pictures may also be used
- No scanning
- Spanish, English and Hebrew languages available
- High cost

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CONTINUED
## Creating a Core Vocabulary

### Activity:

- **Play doh**
- **Cars**
- **Pop Up Pirate**
- **Car Wash**

### Core Words:

- **I, want, that, it, fun, roll, go, get, my, roll, cut, pick, you, wow, again, do, big, little, like**
- **Go, I, want, it, you, fun, roll, push, fast, slow, big, little, drive, that, my, again, like, up, down**
- **My, your, go, pick, up, wow, turn, it, that, again, fun, like**
- **Water, go, I, like, you, drive, wow, loud, up, down, that, it, again, want**

I, want, that, it, go, again, like, my, your, you, get


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## Questions?
References:


