Editor 's Desk

Dear friends,

We are shaped by our thoughts;

We become what we think.

When the mind is pure,

Joy follows like a shadow that never leaves

-**Gautama Buddha**

A powerful quote, much needed in today's situations.

Stay safe, stay healthy!!

Regards

Bhavna Botta

http://www.connectspecial.in/

Inclusive ideas

Samsung Good Vibes, Relúmĭno Apps

Samsung's Good Vibes was developed in India to help deafblind people use their smart phones to communicate with others in two ways. The application uses Morse code to convert vibrations into voice or text, and vice versa.

Download the Good Vibes application from the Google Play Store and the Samsung Galaxy Store. In addition to this, Relúmĭno, developed by Samsung employees, is part of the company's C-Lab plan and can be used as a visual aid application for people with low vision. The app allows people with low vision to zoom in and minimize images, adjust colour contrast and brightness, highlight image outlines and invert colours.
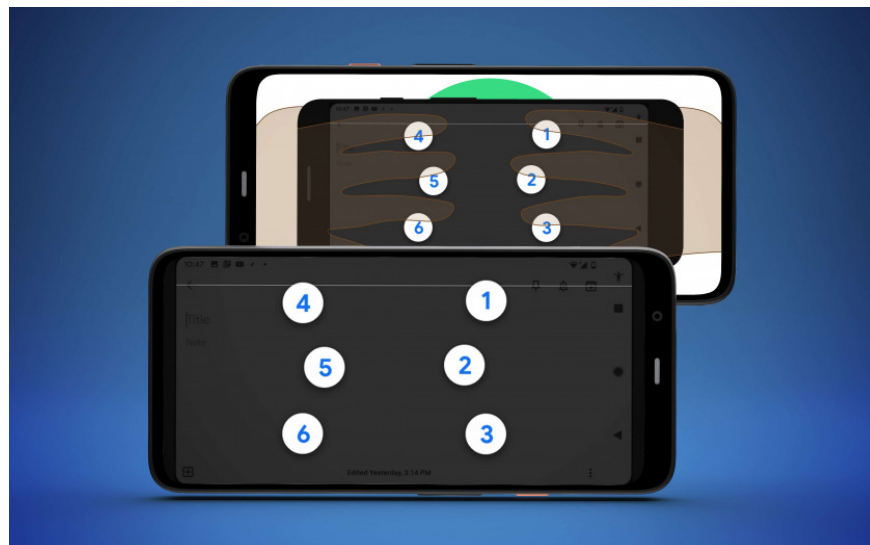

Picture shows person typing on the phone using morse code

TalkBack" Braille Keyboard On Android

Google attaches great importance to assistive technology (AT), so much so that it designed the "TalkBack" Braille keyboard on Android, which allows visually impaired people to type on their phones without additional hardware.

The keyboard has a six-key layout, and each key represents one of six braille dots. It supports Braille Grade 1 & Grade 2 and is currently only available in English. You can turn on the "Talkback" Braille keyboard through the "Accessibility" section of the Android phone settings. The keyboard supports all devices running Android 5.0 or late

Picture shows six key layout on the mobile screen -one,two and three on right side and four ,five ,six on left side

Innovative ideas

Honda Built Shoe Navigation To Make Walking Easier For The Visually Impaired

Originally featured in

Access and Inclusion through Technology

 In Japan, Honda has established a startup accelerator called IGNITION, which aims to develop new mobility business ventures with funding and marketing. The first company to be launched from this accelerator is called Ashirase, and aims to develop an in-shoe navigation system to help support the visually impaired with walking and routines. The company hopes to have a viable product to market before the end of March 2023.

The device fits around each foot, and includes a motion sensor attached to the outside of the shoe. Pairing with a smart phone app, the device will vibrate based on routes set in the app. The left side of the left foot will vibrate to indicate a left turn (and the opposite for a right turn), while the toes of each foot will vibrate to maintain a forward trajectory.

Picture shows a person putting on a black shoe with a small white box which is the navigator attached to it

CommBoards Lite -

AAC Speech Assistant

https://youtu.be/gLfNumn9oC4
https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.shmoontz.commboards.lite&hl=en&gl=US

Commboards is an AAC Speech Assistance app that enables children and people of all ages with limited verbal abilities to express themselves and more easily communicate with the world around them, by utilizing a proved system of communication boards.

It can benefit people with Autism, Aspergers, and other common conditions related to verbal self-expression.CommBoards can be used in almost any situation, like schools, hospitals, and even during flights. After downloading CommBoards,   no internet connection or mobile contract is necessary for continuous use.

CommBoards' image bank contains a rich collection of easy-to-understand imagery,as well as the option to add existing images from the device or take new photos with the device camera. Natural pronunciation of sounds and easy to understand images make it user friendly.

AAC speech communicator

A free app for Android

A smart pictogram-based speech communicator for people with speech disabilities.

An Android application for people with speech disabilities, a generic and easy to learn communication method for anyone with speech disabilities that forms grammatically correct sentences from a list of pictograms clicked and reads them (text-to-speech).

The application includes 5000 icons obtained from arasaac.org, where 900 are properly categorized, and others are accessible through search.

Other features include:

·recent phrases and pictogram history (each category lists most used ones on top) accessibility

·for easier identification icons tagged with the 6 SPC colors (actions, names, descriptives etc)

·option to display text in capital letters

·compatibility with both Tablets and mobile phones

Cboard

Cboard is a free AAC web application for children and adults with speech and language impairments, aiding communication with symbols and text-to-speech. Cboard works on modern browsers and is available on a wide variety of platforms, including desktops, tablets and mobile phones. Cboard can be edited depending on the needs of each user. You can delete, add, or rearrange content through the settings section of the app. Off line support is available on Google Chrome (desktop & android). With more than 3400 symbols from the Mulberry Symbol Set, you can create your own custom boards for different situations in life.