

June 2021



Edition 63

Editor 's Desk

Dear friends,

“Staying positive does not mean everything will turn out okay. Rather, it means you will be okay no matter how things turn out.” —*Unknown*.

So true and very much apt in these tiring times.

Stay safe ,stay healthy !

Regards

Bhavna Botta

<http://www.connectspecial.in/>

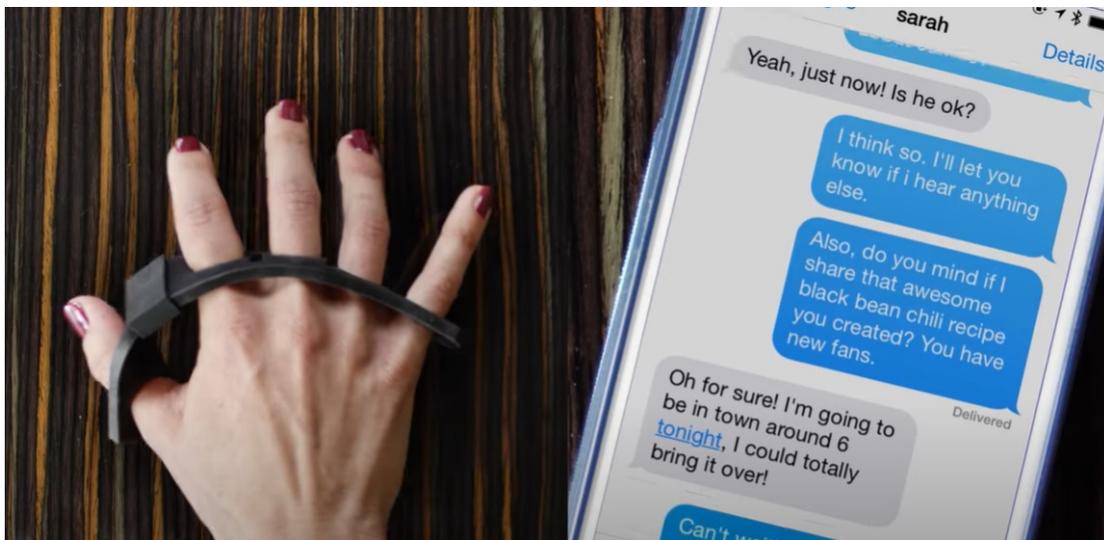
Innovative ideas

Accessible Keyboard Breakthrough: Tap and Wearable Keyboards

Recent developments have added yet another incredible and versatile option for those seeking an accessible keyboard: A tap keyboard fits around the user's fingers, which is connected through five rings and only requires limited finger movement and the use of one hand. Tap keyboards transform any surface into a keyboard you can 'type' on.

The company leading the charge with the innovation is [Tap](#), who crowd funded the wearable, brass knuckle keyboard.

<https://youtu.be/gtSQT8lS4vo>



Picture shows the wearable keyboard on fingers and as the person taps on a table the message gets typed on the phone screen

Global Symbols Board Builder

Communication Boards the easy way

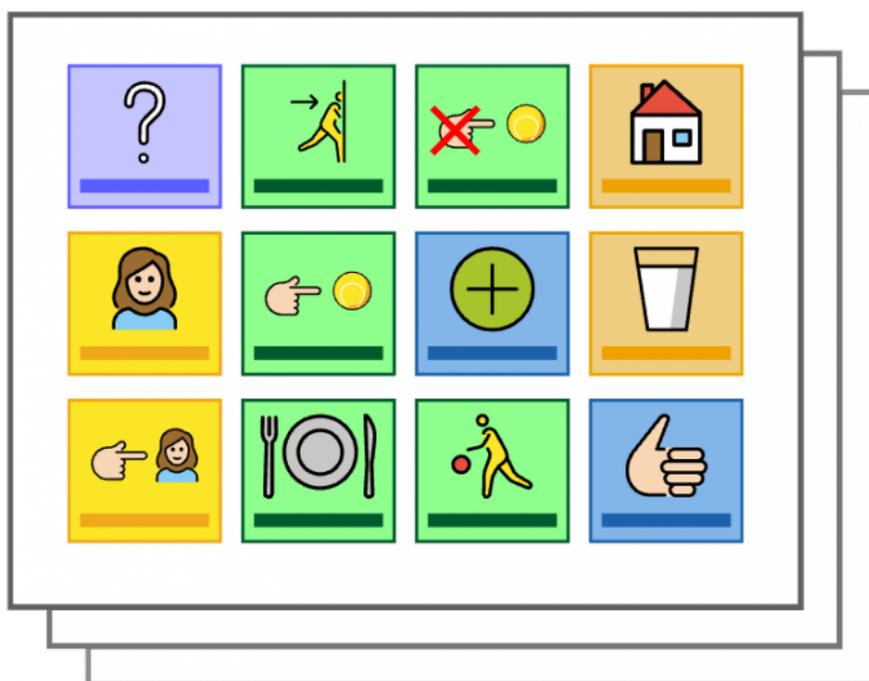
Originally featured at

http://www.accessandinclusion.news/?edition_id=ae30bbc0-c13c-11eb-9af5-fa163ed80008#/

<https://www.closingthegap.com/global-symbols-board-builder-communication-boards-the-easy-way/>

Symbol boards made easy now!!! Create boards to aid communication using thousands of free images from our library, and even your own. Design, build, save and print communication boards on line. The best part is everything is stored safely in your Global Symbols account, thus helping **The creators** to manage and publish Symbol Sets, **For communicators** to exchange pictures to create conversations and **For everyone** to discover, mix, match and make symbol use personal.

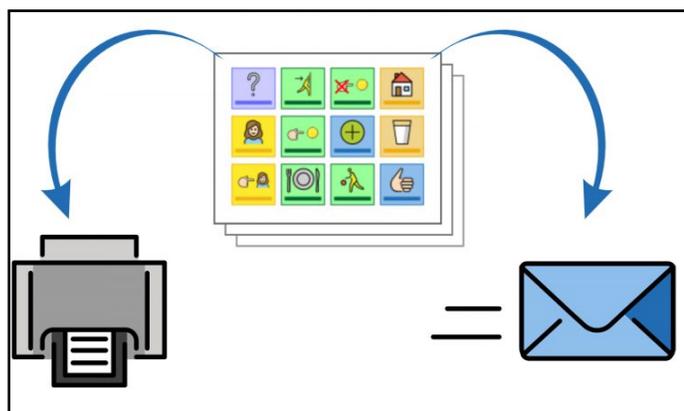
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Picture shows 12 grid colour picture symbol board

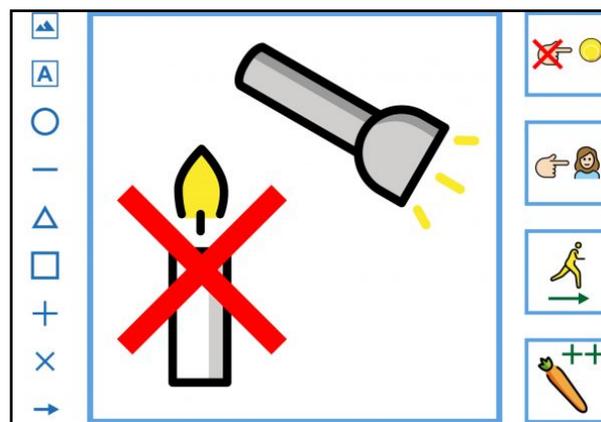
One can make Communication boards the easy way to aid communication with thousands of free images. Everything is stored safely in your Global Symbols account. One can start with a template or make own layout. Quickly find the symbols you need by searching thousands of free images from popular symbol sets on Global Symbols. Store your own photos and images in Board Builder and use them throughout your boards. Customization of boards with your favorite colors and preferred fonts gives easy access. Easily re-arrange boards and link between boards to create communication books .

Create your own symbols in seconds by combining shapes, text, symbols and even your own pictures. Quickly convert boards to PDF so they can be easily shared with anyone. Print boards to your preferred paper size, import and export boards in OBF and OBZ formats.



Picture on left shows that the communication board can be shared by mail and also downloaded and printed

Picture on right shows the editing features



Inclusive Ideas

Voice over

Voice over is an industry-leading screen reader that describes exactly what's happening on your device. Auditory descriptions of on screen elements help you easily navigate your screen through a Blue tooth keyboard or simple gestures on a touchscreen or trackpad. And with unique rotor gestures that function like a dial on the trackpad, you can make content such as websites a breeze to browse.

VoiceOver also gives descriptions in braille and makes working in braille easier and more efficient. You can use a refreshable braille display connected via Blue tooth to your Apple device or enter braille directly on the touchscreen using Braille Screen Input.

Braille is automatically converted to text in an on screen panel display on Mac so sighted people can follow along with Voice Over descriptions. And with over 70 refreshable braille displays compatible with iOS and iPadOS, and over 100 with macOS, you can find the right braille experience for you.

Eyes First Games Now Available, Play with Your Eyes!

Eyes First games on Microsoft Store for Windows, including Tile Slide, Match Two, Double Up, and Maze. With this release, people can now play the Eyes First games on Windows 10 PC using their eyes.

These games are powered by Windows 10 eye tracking APIs and can be used with or without Windows 10 Eye Control, a key accessibility feature for people with speech and mobility disabilities.

Download the free games today. Challenge yourself to complete the [Tile Slide](#) puzzle in the fewest number of moves; exercise your memory playing [Match Two](#); sharpen your math and strategic thinking playing [Double Up](#); and see how fast you can get your lost puppy home, without getting lost yourself, in the [Maze](#). Compete with friends and family for high score honors.

To play Eyes First games or to use Windows Eye Control, you need a compatible eye tracker device and Windows PC with Windows 10 April 2018 Update (version 1803) or newer. These games can also be played in the classic ways via mouse or touch.

<https://blogs.microsoft.com/accessibility/eyes-first-game/>

STORYSIGN

HELPING DEAF CHILDREN TO LEARN TO READ

Nominated for Children's BAFTA in 2019, Huawei's StorySign is a free app designed to help deaf children learn how to read and enjoy bedtime stories and literature. The app uses a combination of augmented reality and AI to translate popular children's books into sign language using Star, the friendly signing avatar. The pitch behind the StorySign app is to improve the learning experience for deaf children who struggle to learn to read. The StorySign app is available to download from the Google Play Store, Huawei App Gallery and iOS. StorySign is a free mobile app that aims to help deaf children read by translating the text from selected books into sign language.

HOW STORY SIGN WORKS

1. A child opens a selected reading book in front of them, then opens the app and holds the phone over the page.
2. Star, our friendly avatar, signs the story while the app highlights each word that she signs.
3. StorySign helps children and their parents to share the magic of story time while they learn to read and sign together.

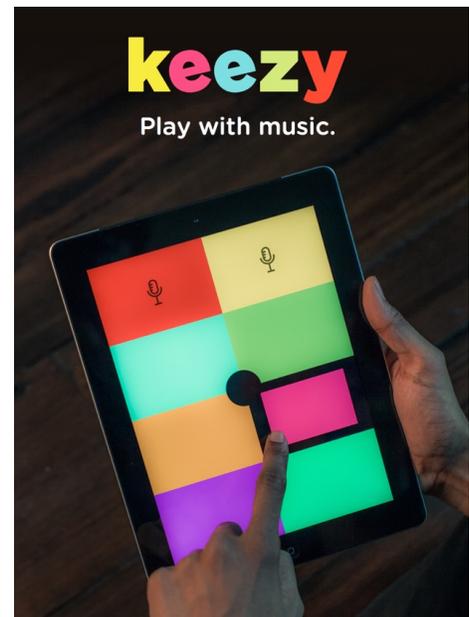
https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.storysign.storysign&hl=en_IN&gl=US

Picture shows text being highlighted along with the words being signed on the screen by the cartoon character



Keezy Classic

Keezy Classic is a sound-trigger app which allows for the recording of any sound into a color palette of 8 colored blocks. When a block is pressed, the corresponding sound plays. A major benefit of Keezy Classic is its flexibility, since the teacher can pre-record any instrument, word, or sound that might be needed.



Picture shows on screen 8 pre recorded color grids

Because Keezy's UI is so simple, it is great for students with special needs who may find other apps confusing. A teacher can even color-code sheet music for their students to match the colors on the Keezy screen, allowing for the student to play by color as a support or substitution for conventional notation reading.

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/keezy-classic/id605855595>

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