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Editor 's Desk

Dear friends,

What is the difference between an obstacle and an opportunity? Our attitude towards it. Every opportunity has a difficulty, and every difficulty has an opportunity.

-J. Sidlow Baxter

Wishing you all a very happy New year!!!!!!!

Regards

Bhavna Botta

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

Inclusive ideas

Here are some apps which are very promising and could bring positive inclusion

Voice4u AAC

This Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) app provides a picture-based communication system for people with speech challenges. Voice4u was created to solve an unmet need for people with autism and other speech disabilities. It comes pre-loaded with more than 180 icons; and you can make your own icons to expand the built-in library, record your own voice and even print matching picture cards. It takes less than 5 seconds to create an icon in any language. The app can also automatically select an image, a category and record voices in 30+ languages by machine learning algorithms. Ideal for non-verbal people, people in the autism spectrum, stroke victims, and anyone who struggles with communication.

<https://voice4uaac.com/>



Spoken AAC

Spoken uses predictive technology to simplify communication for people with aphasia and other speech and language disorders. It's an entirely new kind of augmentative and alternative communication that predicts the words you want next.

Instead of limiting users to simple phrases and icons, the app predicts the next words you're likely to use so you can quickly build complete sentences. . You build real sentences quickly.

It utilizes state-of-the-art machine learning predictions and next-generation text-to-speech to help people who have trouble communicating

Spoken also learns your patterns and improves over time so users can communicate in their unique voices. It's available for both iOS and Android devices.

<https://spokenaac.com/>

Choice works

Choice works is ideal for people who are looking for a healthy way to address their feelings or to help them with routines. This means that it's particularly suited to children or Autistic individuals, who may struggle to verbalize their emotions while placing importance on routines generally. There are four sections to the app: Schedule, Waiting, Feelings, and Feelings Scale. The "Waiting" section is ideal for those who struggle in social situations because it normalizes actions such as turn-taking and not interrupting conversations.

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/choiceworks/id486210964>

Voice Dream Reader

This is a fantastic app that is constantly developing to provide the best experience for individuals who may have trouble with their sight or learning differences that make visual reading difficult for them. With synchronized highlighting of words in time with the text-to-speech aspect, means that those in the latter category can follow along more easily.

<https://www.voicedream.com/reader/>

Machine learning to make sign language more accessible

Originally featured at

http://www.accessandinclusion.news/?edition_id=942a6d90-553c-11ec-b70e-fa163e6ccaff

<https://blog.google/outreach-initiatives/accessibility/ml-making-sign-language-more-accessible/>

Welcome to SignTown! An interactive experience where you can learn sign language with a little help from AI. Like how to order at a restaurant ('milk tea?'). Or checking into a hotel and requesting shampoo or soap.

How does it work? All it takes is a webcam and machine learning to detect your body poses, facial expressions, and hand movements.

Google has spent over twenty years helping to make information accessible and useful in more than 150 languages. And our work is definitely not done, because the internet changes so quickly. About 15% of searches, we see are entirely new every day. And when it comes to other types of information beyond words, in many ways, technology hasn't even begun to scratch the surface of what's possible. Take one example: sign

The task is daunting. There are as many sign languages as there are spoken languages around the world. That's why, when we began exploring how we could better support sign language, we started small by researching and experimenting with what machine learning models could recognize. After 14 months of testing with a database of videos for Japanese Sign Language and Hong Kong Sign Language, we launched SignTown: an interactive desktop application that works with a web browser and camera.

SignTown is an interactive web game built to help people to learn about sign language and Deaf culture. It uses machine learning to detect the user's ability to perform signs learned from the game.

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