



The World of A.T. Assistive Technology



Educational Equity For All

February 2019



February 12, 2019, 03:00 pm CST - 60-minutes
TITLE: **Go and Show Vocabulary Instruction -Active Core Vocab Techniques to Increase Student Engagement**

February 28, 2019, 11:00 am CST - 60-minutes
TITLE: **Invigorative Instruction to Engage and Advance Young Learners with Severe and Multiple Disabilities – Part 1**

https://www.ablenetinc.com/resources/live_webinars/

Communication Devices

A Guide to Single & Multi-Message Devices

Single Message Devices
Single message devices can be used as communication aids, or to make classroom displays more accessible. Perhaps the most common are LITTLE and EDGEMARK, which offer up to 12 minutes of recording time and are sturdy enough to withstand daily classroom use!

Multi-message Devices
Multi-message devices, often known as Step-by-Step, can record sequential messages. So, rather than a single message, you can record a series of messages or sounds which are triggered in the order they are recorded.
If you record one message they can be used as single message devices, or it is often worth paying a little more for a multi-message device to give you the flexibility to use both.

Handy Tips
If you have LITTLE or EDGEMARK check on the left hand side for a levels button. This sliding button allows you to move between levels.
You can record 3 sets of messages (1 set per level) which is a useful tool if you only have 1 device and want to use different messages in a short space of time.

How to use them Effectively in the Classroom?
Single and multi-message devices are fantastic tools to teach skills in social interaction and communication across the curriculum.
CALL Scotland has created a poster and accompanying booklet 20 Ways to be Excellent! to give you practical ideas and help you plan motivating and challenging learning experiences, all linked to Curriculum for Excellence. You can download the poster and booklet for free from: www.callscotland.org.uk/downloads/posters-and-booklets

Step By Step Levels with Gameplay/Step-by-Step Choice with Levels
Step-by-Steps with Gameplay offer 3 different levels of functionality to a step-by-step.
Level 1 randomizes the message selection, so any of the words or phrases you pre-recorded will speak.
Level 2 randomizes the message selection in the same way as Level 1, but then eliminates the message once it has been selected and beeps since all the message have been played.
Level 3 allows you to skip through messages by pressing quickly. So, to get to the third message recorded, press 3 times, 4 times to get to the fourth, etc. This feature is also available by itself on a Step-by-Step Choice device.
See CALL Scotland's 20 Ways to be Excellent poster and booklet for ideas to use the Step-by-Step Levels with Gameplay in the classroom. <http://www.callscotland.org.uk/downloads/posters-and-booklets>

Don't Forget!
Always ensure your devices are labeled with a symbol or photograph to help your learner understand the meaning of the recorded message. LITTLE and EDGEMARK now come with different coloured switch tops which screw on and off. You can use the spare coloured tops to make tactile labels which are best attached using a hot glue gun.
Use the clear plastic snap switch caps to hold labels on your device. Beware that if you laminate your labels, they may make the snap switch cap pop off more easily.

<https://goo.gl/WoPw4r>



<https://practicalaac.org/tag/core-vocabulary/>



Tell me how you feel - learning to label emotions
How did you learn to label your emotional state as “sad” or “tired”? This blog is full of strategies for teaching the spoken words for feelings - especially for AAC users.

Pictures don't tell the whole story

We can use stories where characters have specific emotions. “Elmer can't catch Bugs Bunny - I think he's frustrated!” Using movies or books has advantages over photos of facial expressions. Research shows that it can be difficult to identify emotions from photos. There's not enough information in a single picture: no body movement, tone of voice, breathing, or posture. A video of someone during an emotion is much clearer than a photo of his face.

Other great sources of picture books about feelings that you can use in your teaching are Childhood 101: 16 Awesome Kids Books Exploring Feelings and Emotions and Imagination Soup: Picture Books That Teach Emotions. <https://goo.gl/fhUJrb>



TalkingBrix

TalkingBrix are thin, lightweight communicators with built-in magnets that are

perfect for carrying in a pocket or placing around the room! <https://goo.gl/HtGgoM>

EDUCATIONAL EQUITY FOR ALL
Giving kids what they need to succeed.

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FEATURED IDEA OF THE MONTH PCS AND PECS What's the difference?

- PCS are picture communication symbols
- PECS is a formalized program for using symbol supports for communication.

Picture communication symbols (PCS) are designed to convey a particular meaning, not just an object. Messages can be presented and generated through different types of media such as individual cards, paper charts and communication boards, computer display programs and voice output devices.

Core and Fringe Vocabulary: What It Is & How to Use It

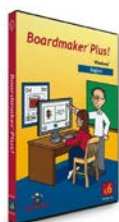


Core Vocabulary

- High frequency words that can be used in a variety of situations and with various communication partners
- Make up about 75-80% of the words we use everyday
- You cannot form a sentence without using core words
- You can create a sentence using only core words
- Often more difficult to visualize
- Usually includes pronouns, helping verbs, prepositions, articles, and common verbs
- Examples include – I, he/she, like, play, have, on, open, help, more, can, do, it
- Sentences using only core vocabulary – “I like to play”, “I need help”, “you can do it”

Fringe Vocabulary

- Words more specific to a situation – mostly nouns
- Cannot be used across a variety of situations
- Cannot form a sentence with only fringe words
- Can visualize the fringe vocabulary words
- Examples include “pig”, “school”, “teacher”, “pizza”, “TV”, “dinosaurs”



Eliminate the need to wait on someone else to make your pictures for you. Boardmaker is a complete special education platform that supports education, communication, access and social/emotional needs of students who learn and communicate differently. At home, at school, or in a clinical practice, Boardmaker drives your student’s success.
<https://goo.gl/1htkhR>

WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

- <https://goo.gl/GTwy4L>
- <https://goo.gl/eKLG3Q>
- <https://www.signedstories.com/>



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Free Assistive Technology Webinars



SETC webinars are at 3:30pm Pacific, 6:30pm Eastern unless noted.

- February 5 Proloquo2go App
- February 7 Designing UDL lessons using the Google Chrome Platform
- February 12 AAC 101 for Paraeducators: Speaking the Vocabulary of AAC
- February 13 AT/AAC in the IEP: Accommodations, Assessments, Tools,
- When does a UDL become AT?
- February 14 AT Chatter: UDL Implementation and Resources at 11:30AM
- February 20 CCN/Complex Bodies: Building meaningfully activities with
- switch users/AAC for older students looking at transition
- February 21 Assessment Accommodations
- February 25 Getting Bookshare Up and Running in Your District
- February 28 Implementing PODD in a Life Skills Classroom



- Interactive Display Housekeeping
- Your Interactive Display With Other Technologies
- Varying the Classroom Routine
- Creating Interactive Display Lessons

<https://goo.gl/q2mx78>

Interactive Whiteboard Activities

- [StarrMatica](#) - Enjoy StarrMatica's free site for free K-6 reading and math activities or upgrade to a paid subscription for access to over 5,000 interactive activities
- [PBS Learning Media](#) - search by grade level
- [Crickweb](#) - educational interactive resources for ages 4-11
- [EdHelper.com](#) - Just pull these up on your board and write away!
- [National Library of Virtual Manipulatives](#) - fantastic math manipulatives
- Starfall - great activities for lower elementary
- [56 Interesting Ways to Use Your Interactive Whiteboard](#)