

Useful Apps for AAC

Proloquo2Go V1.6 www.proloquo2go.com £129.99



Pros:

- U.S Text to speech voices (+4 British voices available to download) V 1.5 needs 4th Gen iPod Touch/Phone or an iPad
- 8000 SymbolStix symbols included
- A large vocabulary with grid or list views
- Lots of pre-made pages of vocabulary to get started with
- Also has a typing view with self-learning multiword prediction. This uses a separate large lexicon of words.
- Easy to edit with in-built symbols or take photos and put them directly onto buttons (with iPad2 with camera) or take them from camera roll or photo library.
- Automatic grammar functions e.g. conjugation of verbs and plurals for nouns
- You can access recently spoken items easily and save them for future use
- Lots of customising possible e.g. item size, colour, interaction with screen, editing restrictions

Cons:

- You cannot edit the word predictor dictionary (although it deletes misspelt learned words eventually)
- There are no key guards or alternate access options e.g. scanning at present, so you need to have good fine motor control.
- The UK text to speech voices are not great (Lucy, Graham etc) and you cannot install Cereproc voices e.g. Scottish Voice Heather
- For assessment situations, you cannot save separate backups of different 'users' of the software (with personalised vocabulary). There are work rounds for this e.g. doing a Full Backup and setting different 'User Spaces' as Home Page for each pupil

TapToTalk www.taptotalk.com around £62

Pros:

- Can be used on Nintendo DS, iPod/iPad, Android devices.
- \$99.95 (about £62) **per year** to use on one or all devices.
- Tap To Talk Designer, where you make pages, is on the web, so you can access your pages anywhere with an internet connection
- A Tap To Talk can hold 12 albums. (each with 100s of pictures)
- Has a library of over 2,500 pictures. You can add your own pictures but you may have to resize them (2mb limit).
- You can generate speech from English, Italian, French, German and Spanish descriptions with limited text-to-speech function
- A selection of voices (incl English- in several accents) available.
- TapToTalk Web, iPhone, iPod touch, iPad and Android Apps can display text in any language
- You can use Tap To Talk on one device or several different ones as the subscription covers them all.



Cons:

- Only generates text to speech from picture descriptions.
- Sound quality of your own recordings is **poor**
- Programming is quite different from 'traditional AAC devices.' This might be hard to get your head round. Parents/people new to AAC seem to like it.
- You cannot do any editing on the devices, or recording.
- Transferring up to date amended versions could be an issue to manage (different devices having different versions).
- To make changes you need access to the password protected "designer" and need to decide who has this responsibility.
- iPod/iPad app version does not give you any additional control over settings/programming and you still can't record directly into it or edit on the device- does support Portrait and Landscape orientations though.

TapSpeak Choice £99.99 for iPad

www.conleysolutions.com

Pros:

- You can have 1-56 buttons on a board
- Supports Landscape and Portrait orientations
- One and two switch scanning using 'Switch Box for Predictable' (£89- Therapy Box) or one switch scanning using iPad touchscreen.
- Variety of scan settings, auditory feedback (recorded message) or scan feedback (click)
- Drag and drop page editing
- Mayer-Johnson 4500-symbol core library included.
- Starter libraries available (N.B. You cannot 'take a photo' within the app) You can use saved photos taken on the device (in Camera Roll) but not from the Photo Library.
- Tap/Touch configurable for a student's motor skills. Tap response is configurable, so you can adjust touch screen sensitivity.



Cons:

- Buttons are added in rows –spacing can't be adjusted.
- Not able to link boards-Yet (there will be a 'link' feature, "back" button and a "home" button in future updates)
- No text to speech-Yet (only recordings) (there will be a free option and an extra cost option with high quality voices, available with future updates).
- Can't change background colour-Yet. (Goosen's colour code system will be built in and you can create your own backgrounds, with future updates).

Changes with current update to v 1.1.2

- Moving from Board to Library to Library Picker is now easier (buttons on toolbar rather than using 'swipes.'). Play lock has been added to settings so that clients do not edit pages with these new buttons.
- Tells you beside title of page what functions you can use on that page, which makes it easier to follow.

SoundingBoard for iPhone, iPod Touch and iPad. £34.99

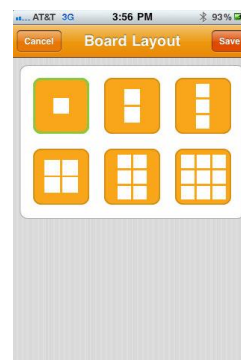
<http://www.ablenetinc.com/soundingboard>

Pros:

- Create custom boards using Ablenet symbols or your own photos directly on the device. **Very easy to programme.** A 'Help' section takes you through it.
- 1-9 buttons on a page you can move buttons around the page.
- 14 Pre-loaded boards to get you started
- Virtually unlimited capacity for pages
- Boards can be easily linked (from Version 2)
- 100s of symbols in the built-in Ablenet Library
- Record messages directly onto the button, of any length
- Use your own photo library (incl. Camera Roll) to create pages or take new photos on iPhone/iPod Touch (4th Gen with camera) or iPad 2 and use them on the spot in your pages.
- It was the first AAC app to incorporate scanning switch access.
- You can scan both the 'Boards List' and 'Board Display Screens,' (symbol pages).
- One and two switch scanning. Will work with "Blue2 Bluetooth switch" from Ablenet (around £90, available at www.ablenetinc.com).

Cons:

- Limited scan settings- you can set the rate of the scan only (not pattern, order etc).
- No text to speech
- Interface does not fill entire screen on iPad.
- Only supports Portrait orientation.



**TouchChat for iPod Touch, iPhone and iPad (TouchChat -AAC £99.99
TouchChat-AAC with WordPower £199.99) HD versions available for iPads**



<http://www.silver-kite.com/touchChat/>

Pros:

- 5 synthesised U.S text to speech voices
- Tilt to expand message feature
- 4 page sets are included:
 1. Vocab PC by Gail Van Tatenhove- with 12 button page layout for adults and adolescents. Includes interactive sentences, activity vocabulary and naming words
 2. MultiChat 15 -for school aged children with emerging language skills (story- telling and visual scenes pages included)
 3. Spelling-a QUERTY keyboard pageset with 4 word prediction buttons and some pre-stored phrases
 4. Primary-a page set designed for children with vocabulary for home, school and general communication. Uses words, phrases and sentences
- Create your own page sets using any number of buttons and 30 button actions e.g. speak message, clear display, play an audio file etc
- Over 10,000 SymbolStix are included or use your images or photos from Camera Roll or Photo Library
- Has an iShare site from which you can download additional page sets from the TouchChat Community (6 month subscription of £36)
- WordPower is available as an in-app purchase (around £90)-it's a special version of the popular word-based vocabulary by Nancy Inman. Contains two page sets-'WordPower 24' with core words, nouns, adjectives, grammar and prediction (24 buttons) and 'WordPower 24 with Phrases' using carrier phrases and semantic categories rather than being purely word-based.
- iEssence, redesigned from the ECO, Vanguard and Vantage 'Essence' vocabulary is also available at around £60. This is more for acquired conditions e.g. MND, as you need the ability to read and spell.

Cons:

- No alternative access e.g. scanning, yet.
- No UK voices and some pronunciations are wrong and hard to correct (you can also use your own voice recordings).