

Expression Connection

Assistive Technology and Augmentative Alternative Communication Services

The popular DSCBA Expression Connection educational program is in its 9th year providing communication systems, strategies, education, and techniques to individuals who have Down syndrome or co-existing Down syndrome and Autism, as well as their caretakers and education professionals.



Many people of all ages who are non-verbal or have limited language have benefitted greatly from Expression Connection services which provides alternative means to express basic needs, make choices, interact while learning and much more. Assistive Technology (AT) can also successfully provide independent ways to access classroom curriculum such as reading, writing, and math.

We are proud to have a menu of services to choose from through DSCBA Partner/Consultant and SLP/AAC Specialist Kati Skulski.

AT-AAC Services

- 1. Referral:** A free 30-minute phone consultation regarding the needs and questions of the client.
 - 2. AAC/AT Introduction:** A meeting of up to two hours with team members to explore equipment at the DSCBA's Lending Library that supports communication, reading, writing, and math.
 - 3. AAC Evaluation:** A comprehensive evaluation of up to 20 hours utilizing the individual's full communication capabilities (nonverbal, verbal, and aided communication). The assessment includes collaboration with all team members (home, school, community), system/device trials, formal and informal testing, etc. Recommendations for communication systems, goals, services, and an intervention plan will be provided.
 - 4. AT Evaluation:** An evaluation of up to 20 hours regarding specific challenges with traditional writing tools, written language composition, reading, math, and organization. The assessment includes collaboration with all team members (home, school, community), system/device trials, formal and informal testing, and more. Recommendations for AT tools/systems, intervention plan, goals, and services will be provided.
 - 5. Implementation Consult:** A consultation for individuals and teams who have systems and tools but want support integrating them into the individual's day to day routine, whether that is in school, home, work, or other.
 - 6. Action Plan:** Develop a plan to implement recommended tools and strategies.
 - 7. Coaching:** Learn about evidence-based partner strategies, teaching tools, and methods that facilitate use of AAC and AT tools.
 - 8. Tech Support:** Learn how to use, program, and feel comfortable with AAC and AT technology.
- * Services listed above are fee-based and provided at the DSCBA office in Danville or in the individual's home, school, or community environments.

* Limited scholarships provided by DSCBA are available with application submittal and approval.

For more information about this program please contact Kati Skulski: email kaskulski@gmail.com or call 510-381-9992



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Connecting Families for More than 20 Years

Down Syndrome Connection of the Bay Area • www.dscba.org

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DEVICE

WEBSITE



Step-by-Step with Levels

www.ablenetinc.com

Designed for pre-recording a series of message sequences to be used throughout the individuals day, or program messages to correspond to the activities planned in the home, community, and/or classroom.

Go Talk One

www.attainmentcompany.com

Single message recordable device. These devices can be mounted to a location or carried around for mobile communication.



Talking Block

www.ablenetinc.com

Talking-Block is a single-message communication device. The large size is suitable for people with visual or motor skill impairments. It can be used in a range of communication, speaking, and listening activities.



Go Talk 4, 9, 20

www.attainmentcompany.com

Lightweight and rugged; message capacity at five recording levels; three "core messages" which stay the same on each level; 4, 9, 20 locations.



SuperTalker

www.ablenetinc.com

8 Levels; can be configured with one, two, four, and eight grid formats. 16 minutes of digitized recording time. Switch jacks for single and multiple sequential message output.



Talking Photo Album

www.attainmentcompany.com

Speech output album that holds standard 43 x 63 photos. The Talking Photo Album includes a total of 24 pages, each with an individual message capacity of 10 seconds. Insert photos or picture/text cards into the transparent sleeves and record corresponding messages. User squeezes Play button to activate speech.



iTouch

www.apple.com

4.4" (l) x 2.3" (w) screen with communication and educational apps ranging in complexity. Please see applications list, next page.



iPad

www.apple.com

9.5" (l) x 7.31" (w) screen with communication and educational apps ranging in complexity. Please see applications list, next page.



Accent 700

www.prentrom.com

7" tablet with dynamic displays and Unity software.



NovaChat 8

www.salttillo.com

NOVA chat 8 is a communication system that offers the well-known Chat software on an Android platform.

Please see more applications and requirements, next page



APPLICATION

COMPATIBILITY

SCREEN SHOT



AAC Genie

iPad

Requires iOS 10.2 or later

AAC Evaluation Genie is an informal diagnostic tool that is intended to assist speech-language pathologists and others with identifying skill areas that relate specifically to the language representation methods commonly found on augmentative communication systems. The purpose of AAC Evaluation Genie is not to identify a particular speech generating device, but rather build a framework for selecting an appropriate augmentative communication device for ongoing evaluation and / or device trial.



GoTalk Now Plus9

iPad

Requires iOS 8.1 or later

GoTalk NOW has all the essentials of an effective AAC app, like adjustable page layouts, customizable navigation, recorded and text-to-speech capabilities, and an included symbol set. But we sweated the details to create unique and compelling features that clearly separate NOW from other AAC apps.



LAMP

iPad

Requires iOS 8.1 or later

LAMP Words For Life™ is a full English vocabulary augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) language app that combines the power of the PRC Unity® language system with Language Acquisition through Motor Planning (LAMP™) principles and strategies. LAMP Words For Life™ app is symbol based for those who are not yet literate; however, those symbols are paired with text to support literacy development. The vocabulary, structure, and teaching approach are based on research and years of implementation with individuals with autism and other developmental disabilities.



Pictello



iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch

Requires iOS 9.3 or later

Everyone loves to tell fun, engaging, and imaginative stories. Go ahead and make a social story or visual schedule for a child with autism or a slide show of holiday pictures for your friends - Pictello makes it a breeze to create and share! Whether you use the included natural-sounding Text to Speech voices, or record your own voice, Pictello is the perfect tool for visual storytelling.



ProLoQuo2Go



iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch

Requires iOS 10.3 or later

Proloquo2Go is an award-winning symbol-based communication app that gives a voice to those who cannot speak. Over 175,000 people already use this AAC app as a powerful tool for expressing themselves and increasing their communication skills and language development. Its innovative features let users, parents, teachers and therapists quickly personalize the app.



TouchChat HD with Word Power



iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch

Requires iOS 8.1 or later

TouchChat HD is a full-featured communication solution for individuals who have difficulty using their natural voice. TouchChat is designed for individuals with Autism, Down Syndrome, ALS, apraxia, stroke, or other conditions that affect a person's ability to use natural speech.



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