

FREE AND INEXPENSIVE APPS FOR PEOPLE WHO NEED AUGMENTATIVE COMMUNICATION SUPPORTS

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Nobody in their right mind would try to keep up with the rapid growth of mobile device apps in the field of assistive technology. In the time it takes to write three of them, somebody somewhere has probably produced another new one.

Even in the narrower fields of apps for people who need augmentative communication supports, it is next to impossible to keep up with the number of new apps that keep popping up. So we have tried to produce, in the list below, not a *complete* list of apps for augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) users, but rather an *incomplete* list of some of the current favorites that a few key "app-a-holics" in the field of AAC are giving passing grades to.

We have tried especially to focus on apps that will not break anybody's bank, especially for people who don't happen to live in the ten richest countries in the world. While the number of mobile devices in poorer countries is not necessarily as high as in some of these rich areas, the rapid growth of mobile devices even in some of the poorest countries in the world cannot be denied, and the pace is only going to quicken.

Our list begins with over 25 totally free apps which, taken together, could provide a lot of new kinds of help for someone who may well never be able to afford one of the \$8,000 (US) speech generating devices currently on the market. We have also cut off our list at \$40.00 (U.S.), in hopes that it will prove especially useful for people with small pocketbooks but big ambitions.

We don't pretend to be able to give each app an accurate "grade." Instead, we have taken the cowardly way out and just shared relevant comments from AAC specialists, family members and a few users of AAC that may move the reader to find out whether an app offers features that may help a particular individual communicate more effectively. For each app, we have tried (1) to provide a brief description, (2) say what platforms it is

currently available for, (3) tell you its current cost, and (4) share some comments that might help you decide to look for more information about it.

We hope nobody will make the dangerous assumption that, just because this stuff is now so readily available, you don't need professional help in figuring out which apps with which features best meet the needs of a particular individual. (There are already enough so-called AAC specialists in schools, clinics and private practices around the world who resort to a "one-size-fits-all" approach when it comes to helping people find the right device or solution.) We need to constantly be asking the question, as Jessica Gosnell of Boston Children's Hospital has put it: "Are we finding the right technology for this person?" not: "Are we finding the right person for this technology?" We also are not making the equally dangerous assumption that mobile devices can serve as a "substitute" for a full-fledged speech generating device (SGD), *i.e.*, as a primary communication device, rather than as a starter device, a supplementary or secondary device, or a readiness device that can help prepare a young child to use an SGD at an earlier age and/or with a greater ability to "hit the ground running" in the use of an SGD.

A serious approach to matching an individual's communication needs and abilities to the features and characteristics of the mobile device and its apps still needs to be taken. We still need to follow a process in which a person's current *and future* communication needs and strengths are carefully evaluated and *then* matched to specific features of AAC symbols, strategies and tools. Although it may now be much easier to put the cart before the horse (and lots of people seem to be doing just that), you clearly are not going to get very far that way, and you could even end up going backwards.

There are lots of good folks trying to maintain up-to-date lists of assistive technology and special education apps around the world. (See, for example, <http://www.spectronicsinoz.com/article/iphoneipad-apps-for-aac>, (Australia) or <http://www.appsforaac.net/>, (U.K.) or <http://www.scribd.com/doc/47441495/Jeremy-Brown%E2%80%99s-App-Recommendations-for-Students-with-Autism>, or <http://momswithapps.com/>, or <http://www.babieswithipads.blogspot.com>, or <http://www.connsensebulletin.com/2011/01/apps-for-education-update/>, or .. http://www.itaalk.org/images/iTaalk_Top_30_Starter_Apps_for_Special_Education.pdf) We hope our list proves helpful, and we welcome feedback and suggestions.

Free Apps (All prices are in US dollars).

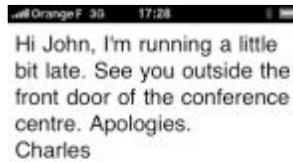
1. *Verbally* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/verbally/id418671377?mt=8#>)

- What is it? A text-to-speech app intended especially for people with AAC needs. Users type the phrase that they wish to convey, and Verbally speaks it. The app allows users to choose from several male and female voices and three different keyboard layouts. For ease of use, the app has a word predictor and two core grids – one for words and one for phrases. There is no need for an internet connection to use it, either.
- Platforms: iPad. Requires iOS 3.2 or later.
- Reviews: Verbally has received good reviews. Though the voices could be improved, the app's "purpose and functionality make it so valuable."



2. *Dragon Dictation* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/dragon-dictation/id341446764?mt=8#>)

- What is it? This voice recognition app lets users speak and instantly see their emails and text messages. The rate is 5 times faster than typing on a keyboard. Users can also dictate status updates on Facebook and Twitter, or send themselves memos. The app supports multiple languages besides English, including Chinese, French and Spanish.
- Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 4.0 or later.
- Reviews: The reviews of Dragon Dictation are excellent. *The New York Times* calls it "efficient." A hearing-impaired user said that no other app has "come even close to the ease and accuracy of Dragon Dictation." "The voice recognition is incredibly accurate. The only drawback is that you must be in a wireless environment, as the speech sample is sent to a large data base and compared to other speech samples."



Hi John, I'm running a little bit late. See you outside the front door of the conference centre. Apologies.
Charles



3. *Model Me Going Places* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/model-me-going-places/id347813439?mt=8#>)

- What is it? A visual teaching tool that helps children and teenagers who have autism or Asperger Syndrome navigate through social settings. The app offers six settings – hairdresser, mall, doctor, playground, grocery store, restaurant – and gives a series of steps that one would normally do in such a place. Text and audio accompany each slide.
- Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 3.0 or later.
- Reviews: This app has received excellent reviews from teachers and parents of children with autism and Asperger Syndrome. Its visuals “help others see clearer what is expected” in a given place and are “high quality.”



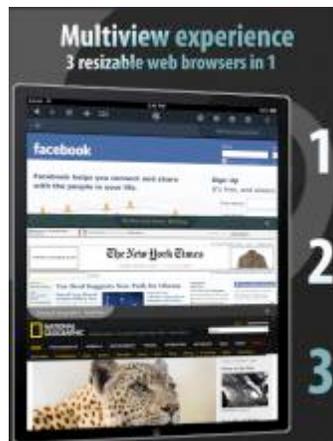
4. *iBooks* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/ibooks/id364709193?mt=8#>)

- What is it? An app that allows the user to upload and read books on his or her device. PDFs may be downloaded as well for easy reading. Texts can be sorted according to the user's preference; the app also includes a search feature and options for adjusting font size.
- Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 3.2 or later.
- Reviews: Users find iBooks a convenient alternative to readers like Kindle. They especially love the ability to print and export notes. Furthermore, the PDF feature allows users with AAC needs upload PDFs of communication boards that come out “clean and clear.”



5. *Knowtilus Navigator* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/knowtilus-navigator/id401450036?mt=8>)

- What is it? This app is all at once a web browser, text-to-speech device, writing tool, drawing tool, dictionary and translator. Users can browse the web in 27 languages, have the text read aloud and share content on social networking sites like Facebook and Twitter. Favorite websites can be organized with bookmarks as well.
- Platforms: iPad. **Note: Must be 17 or older to download app on iTunes.**
- Reviews: The feedback on this app is positive. Users call it an “all in one browser” and “feature-rich.” One person mentioned that the developer is very receptive to feedback and consumer concerns.



6. *Phrase Board* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/phrase-board/id380424676?mt=8#>)

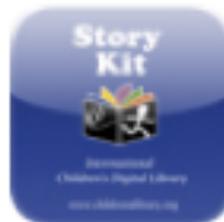
- What is it? This iPad app is designed for patients with speech difficulties. Users can indicate where and how much they hurt with scrollable lists and a chart of the human body. Phrase Board also lets users type custom messages, or even draw messages. The app is text-only.
- Platforms: iPad. Requires iOS 3.2 or later.
- Reviews: Reviews have been favorable, especially since the app is free. One user said Phrase Board “has all of the basic functions needed for a patient’s communication needs when speaking is not an option.” The main downside is the

lack of a speech functions, but as one user noted, “what makes it worth looking at is the free hand 'draw' feature that lets you draw with your finger if you don't know a word.”



7. *StoryKit* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/storykit/id329374595?mt=8>)

- What is it? An electronic storybook, the app enables the user to write and record stories, or even create a talking photo album. Users may upload their own images, draw pictures to go into the story, and record narration. The app comes with four “classic” stories – including “The Three Little Pigs” and “Goldilocks and the Three Bears” – but these may be “rewritten,” and users are free to create their own stories of any length.
- Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 3.0 or later.
- Reviews: StoryKit has received rave reviews, with one reviewer calling it “well-executed.” Users note that while children find the app entertaining, the app is ideal for all ages. A teacher commented that she has “finally” found an app that she can share with parents.



8. *IEP Checklist* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/iep-checklist/id348702423?mt=8#>)

- What is it? This app guides parents and teachers through the Individualized Education Program (IEP). Parents or teachers can make notes and lists of topics or concerns (the app allows users to store information on multiple students) and access them at a later time through the device or email. The app produces a PDF of the checklists.
- Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 3.1.3 or later.
- Reviews: Special education teachers “appreciate this reference tool.” While the specific legal requirements of IEPs are not covered on this app, parents, it is still a good “check and balance” tool.



9. *ABA Flash Cards - Action* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/aba-flash-cards-actions/id342235464?mt=8#>)

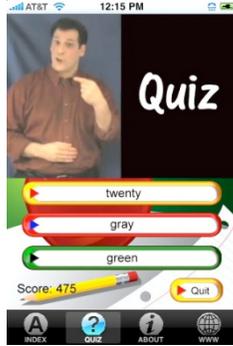
- What is it? A set of 52 visual and audio flashcards that demonstrate action words – such as “thinking,” “drinking,” “sleeping.” Classical music plays in the background to help keep the child’s interest and introduce him or her to classical music. These cards are designed to be used with visual learners or children with cognitive disabilities.
- Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 2.2.1 or later.
- Reviews: Reviews are generally positive, with parents calling the app “good education” with good audio and visual quality. One parent, though, said that the flash cards would work better with video action.

Sleeping



10. *Sign Language!* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/sign-language/id321202730?mt=8#>)

- What is it? This app teaches the American Sign Language (ASL) alphabet, colors, numbers and other words in video format. All words are shown in both ASL and word form, can be replayed, and can even be placed in an quiz feature.
- Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 3.0 or later.
- Reviews: ASL teachers praise the app, calling the videos “clear” and the overall interface easy to use. One reviewer mentioned that the app “helps with receptive and expressive skills using fingerspelling.” Overall, it is considered a good app for those wanting a basic introduction to ASL.



11. *Locabulary Lite* (<http://itunes.apple.com/app/locabulary-lite/id322448547?mt=8#>)

- What is it? A text-to-speech device that pulls location-based vocabulary and phrases from the GPS function on iPhone. Users can build their own sentences based on preferences and past word choices, and can choose from categories such as “Food” or “Moods” to simplify search.
- Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad; but GPS only works with iPhone.
- Reviews: This app has been well-received by users with and without communication needs. Many would like to see a wider choice of categories, as well as images, but overall feel that Locabulary Lite is a novel concept. People in the AAC field in particular believe it has the potential to be an essential tool for those with communication difficulties.



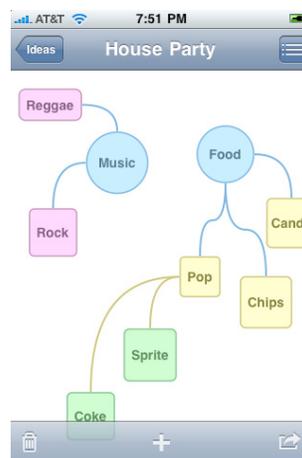
12. *iComm* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/icommm/id351726761?mt=8#>)

- What is it? iComm is a picture and voice app for children – either with disabilities or who are beginning to learn how to form sentences. Users can upload photos to match their children’s needs or interests, and even organize into 9 categories. An upgraded version (for a price) has 20 categories and a recording function.
- How much is it? Free, or \$7.99 for the full version.
- Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 3.0 or later.
- Reviews: Parents say iComm “gets children talking and interacting with technology.” A parent of a child with cerebral palsy writes that it has let her son communicate “more clearly.” One drawback is that there is no sentence construction option.



13. *Idea Sketch* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/idea-sketch/id367246522?mt=8#>)

- What is it? This is a mind-mapping app – users draw a map or chart, and then convert it to a text outline (or vice versa). The diagrams can be saved and emailed or uploaded to another app (and even Facebook accounts).
- Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 4.0 or later.
- Reviews: Reviewers say this app is an excellent brainstorming tool. It is easy to use, with “[j]ust enough options for basic structuring – 4 shapes, 5 colors.” While some report format glitches, they “are so minor you won’t be bothered by them too much.”



14. *NL Concepts Autism: Sort & Categorize* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/nlconcepts-autism-sort-categorize/id389743827?mt=8#>)

- What is it? An app that teaches users how to sort and categorize objects. This app targets people with Asperger Syndrome and autism.
- Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 4.0 or later.
- Reviews: Users like the quality and variety of images. A couple of parents noted that their children really like the sound the app makes when they get an item right. One limitation is that there is no audio recording; another user mentions that there is no way to adjust the number of categories shown at one time.



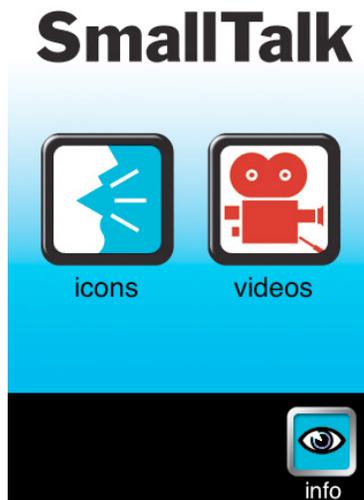
15. *iSign Lite* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/isign-lite/id292486900?mt=8#>)

- What is it? An app for people using American Sign Language (ASL). This is a demo version of *iSign*, which has more than 800 3-D ASL gestures. *iSign Lite* has 25 of those gestures. The gestures can be sorted to the user's preference and even arranged in a "quiz mode."
- How much is it? The Lite version is free; the full version is \$4.99.
- Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 3.0 or later.
- Reviews: The reviews of both versions have been positive. It has an "excellent interface, timing, vocabulary and animation" and provides a portable guide to ASL. Users should note that it only offers ASL, so international users might not find this app useful.



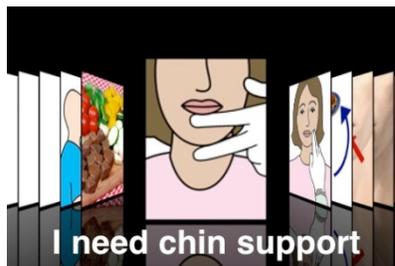
16. *SmallTalk Aphasia* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/smalltalk-aphasia/id310102858?mt=8#>)

- What is it? This app contains phrases and images to help people who have difficulty speaking. Users select the word or phrase, then let the app "speak." They can personalize the vocabulary as well. There is also a mouth-positioning feature that helps the user practice speaking at his or her own pace.
- Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 3.0 or later.
- Reviews: Users call this app "a real find for folks with communication challenges." Although the vocabulary is "limited," and there is no gender option, reviewers agree that the app is easy to use and facilitates communication for those with special needs.



17. *SmallTalk Dysphagia* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/smalltalk-dysphagia/id337184701?mt=8>)

- What is it? A communication app specifically intended for people with dysphagia; it contains a bank of 50 phrases and words based on eating equipment, meal assistance, diet, medication and other treatments. There are 4 video demonstrations of treatment techniques for swallowing.
- Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 3.0 or later.
- Reviews: A user with dysphagia says that it “fills an important void.” Equally appealing is the ability to customize the app to one’s needs.



18. *NeoSpeech: NeoPaul* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/neopaul/id334254353?mt=8#>), *NeoJulie* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/neojulie/id334272012?mt=8>), *NeoKate* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/neokate/id332623803?mt=8>)

- What is it? These NeoSpeech apps are natural-sounding, text-to-speech devices. Paul has the voice of a US male; Julie and Kate have the voice of a US female. The app also permits text-to-speech in Japanese, Korean, Mandarin Chinese and Spanish. Texts may be typed or pasted, and can be stored in a library.
- Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 3.0 or later.
- Reviews: Many users have noted that this app is ideal for people who cannot speak. Others like the “natural” voices and how users can adjust the speed and volume of the sound.



19. *Talk Assist* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/talk-assist/id329338159?mt=8#>)

- What is it? A text-to-speech app that allows users to “speak” by typing a message and then having it read aloud. The phrases may be saved, and a bookmark feature lets users store favorite phrases for frequent use.
- Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 3.0 or later.
- Reviews: Reviews say that Talk Assist has a “simple” interface and is overall a good app. However, users would like to see an option for a female voice. Another user wrote that Speak It (which costs \$1.99, see below) is a better app despite the price.



www.mubaloo.com

20. *SmallTalk Intensive Care* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/smalltalk-intensive-care/id403057381?mt=8#>)

- What is it? An app to help patients with speaking difficulties (whether because of an impairment or because of an operation) express their needs to medical care providers in the ICU. Users choose from picture-based vocabulary to “speak” phrases like, “I am in pain,” or “I want to be comforted.” The pictures that match the words make this app useful for non-English speakers as well.
- Platforms: iPhone, iPad, iPod Touch. Requires iOS 3.0 or later.
- Reviews: Reviewers found the app useful for the ICU, though one user said that the interface “was not great.” The pictures are self-explanatory and make the app a convenient tool for non-native English speakers.



21. *Bubble Snap* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/bubble-snap/id285646135?mt=8#>)

- What is it? A game where users can “pop” bubbles with a tap to the screen, simulating the real-life addiction! Players can pop bubbles one-by-one or all at once.
- Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 3.1.3 or later.
- Reviews: Users call Bubble Snap “fun” and much like the real thing. For AAC users, it is easy to use and can teach and develop sensory detail.



22. *Talking Roby* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/talking-roby-the-robot/id395677840?mt=8>)

- What is it? Roby is a robot that users can play with, poke and talk to. Roby repeats what users say and even reads text that they type in. Users can make videos of Roby and either store them or upload them online.
- Platforms: Android; iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 3.0 or later.
- Reviews: Users find Roby “enjoyable” and entertaining – good for children, too. A reviewer commented that it can help children with AAC needs learn cause-and-effect relationships.



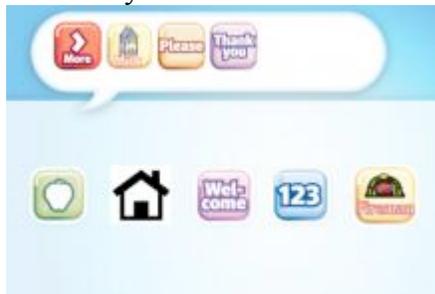
23. *Talking Tom* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/talking-tom-cat/id377194688?mt=8#>)

- What is it? Similar to Talking Roby (see above), Tom is a pet cat that users can “pet,” poke, take care of and even talk to. Tom repeats what users say and responds to their taps. Users can even make videos of Tom and upload to the Internet, or simply save to their library.
- Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 3.0 or later. Android (supports App2SD for all versions)
- Reviews: Reviewers find it “fun” and entertaining.” For AAC purposes, one user noted that it is a useful way to teach cause-and-effect.



24. *Spubble Lite* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/spubble-lite/id408355153?mt=8#>)

- What is it? Spubble Lite was created specifically for people with AAC needs. Users tap on individual words to “speak,” and can then drag them into a “spubble” (speech bubble) to make a complete sentence. There are 5 categories – food, people, places, numbers and “general” (“yes/no,” “thank you,” etc.) – and 150 words to choose from.
- Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 4.1 or later.
- Reviews: While reviewers like the simple interface, one user did suggest expanding the vocabulary offered.



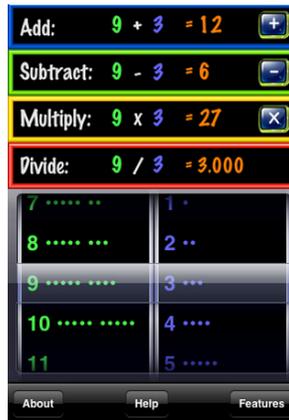
25. *SpeakPad* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/speakpad/id367250475?mt=8#>)

- What is it? A text-to-speech app that can speak a typed message in 22 languages and 42 voices. This app will read aloud web pages, emails, and other documents, and it lets the user save, edit, share and even Tweet their own texts.
- Platforms: iPad. Requires iOS 3.2 or later.
- Reviews: One user SpeakPad called it “the best text-to-speech app I have ever seen.” The voice quality to said to be very good, although users do not have the ability to save voice files. Another user commented that the buttons should be larger and pointed out that the app cannot upload PDF files.

The logo for SpeakPad, featuring the word "SpeakPad" in a white, sans-serif font centered on a dark, circular background with a subtle glow.

26. *SpinCalc* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/spincalc/id303631690?mt=8#>)

- What is it? Ideal for users with dyscalculia, SpinCalc helps with basic math functions. There is no keyboard, only two wheels; users see how the two numbers rolled are added, subtracted, divided and multiplied together.
- Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Require iOS 2.0 or later.
- Reviews: The app is “a great tool for learning math” and helpful for children learning math skills as well.



27. *Virtuoso Piano* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/virtuoso-piano-free-2-hd/id304075989?mt=8#>)

- What is it? A music app that lets users “play” a grand piano on their device. Users “slide” their fingers over the keys to play six octaves on the digital piano. The sound quality is that of a concert grand piano.
- Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 3.1 or later.
- Reviews: Users are impressed with the sound quality and easy interface. The mother of an autistic child said that it keep her son entertained and occupied. Some users, though, did complain that the app freezes often.



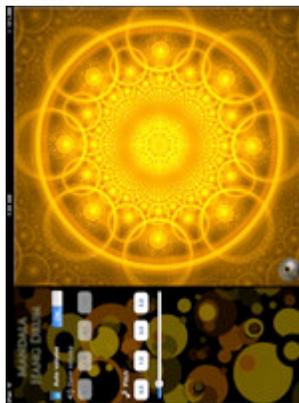
28. *Bump* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/bump/id305479724?mt=8#>)

- What is it? Bump allows users to share contacts, music, apps and messages just by “bumping” another user’s phone or device. Once contacts are added, the user can send them messages from any location.
- Platforms: Android; iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 3.0 or later.
- Reviews: Users say that Bump is easy and convenient; it processes the information quickly and offers another way to chat. Some users reported problems “bumping” between Android and iPhone versions, and when sharing music files.



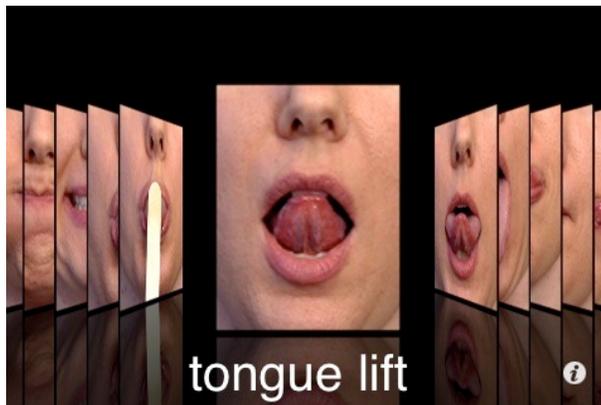
29. *Mandala Hang Drum* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/mandala-hang-drum/id398378894?mt=8#>)

- What is it? This app simulates a hang drum. Users can “play” it by tapping the screen and adjust the tone and volume.
- Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 3.0 or later.
- Reviews: The reviews have been mostly positive, and concerning AAC, a user noted it was good for fun and for developing sensory skills. However, several users complained of the sound quality and said that they would like to see a choice of skins for the drum.



30. *SmallTalk Oral Motor Exercises* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/smalltalk-oral-motor-exercises/id337145605?mt=8>)

- What is it? This app is designed for those with weak mouth, tongue or lip muscles and/or poor oral coordination. It contains videos of cheek, lip, palate and jaw exercises to help build the oral musculature. Each video is individual, so the user can focus on the ones he or she needs the most.
- Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 3.0 or later.
- Reviews: A reviewer who previewed this app at an American Speech-Language and Hearing convention said that it looks “great” for people with speaking difficulties.



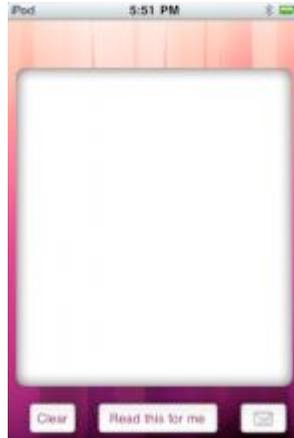
31. *Vocal Zoo* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/vocal-zoo/id330374653?mt=8#>)

- What is it? This app lets children experience the sounds and sights of a zoo by choosing an animal and playing its sound. Users pick from 69 different animals, and can play them individually or in a chorus. The pictures are real, not drawn, for full effect.
- Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 2.2 or later.
- Reviews: Parents find this to be an entertaining app for their children. It is described as “fun,” educational and appropriate for kids aged 6 months to 12 years.



32. *Read It* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/read-it/id334815187?mt=8>)

- What is it? A text-to-speech app that will read any content pasted to it. The user can also email the audio files.
- Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 3.0 or later.
- Reviews: This app is “simple” and effective. Some users find the voice difficult to understand.



33. *SmallTalk Conversational Phrases* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/smalltalk-conversational-phrases/id403058584?mt=8#>)

- What is it? A bank of basic conversational phrases – such as greetings, requests and well-being. The phrases are in list form and can be reordered depending on the user’s needs. It is designed for people with aphasia and speech-language pathologists contributed to its development.
- Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 3.0 or later.
- Reviews: The app is called “generally appropriate” for people with aphasia, although a limitation is that it has no feature for sentence construction.



34. *SmallTalk Daily Activities* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/smalltalk-daily-activities/id403060140?mt=8>)

- What is it? This app functions as a bank with vocabulary and phrases related to daily activities – dressing, grooming, leisure, etc. This is intended to help patients with aphasia communicate with their family and caretakers.
- Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 3.0 or later.
- Reviews: SmallTalk Daily Activities is “appropriate” for those with aphasia, although there is no sentence construction option and phrases cannot be added to the app.



35. *My Talking Phone* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/my-talking-phone-free-text/id385793450?mt=8>)

- What is it? A text-to-speech app that lets the user type and talk with the device's keyboard. Users can adjust the pitch and speed of the voice.
- Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 3.0 or later.
- Reviews: Users find My Talking Phone "simple" to use; however, several reviewers complained that the app had a lot of ads.



36. *SmallTalk Pain Scale* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/smalltalk-pain-scale/id403058256?mt=8>)

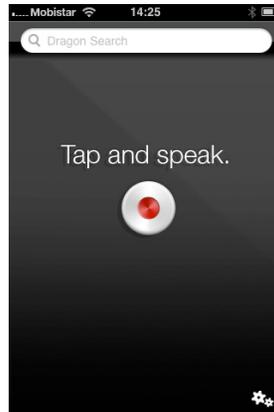
- What is it? This app contains a series of images and pain descriptions that let the user communicate the type and level of pain. It is designed for people with aphasia, apraxia and dysarthria.
- Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 3.0 or later.
- Reviews: Some reviews mentioned that this app does not allow for sentence construction, or any editing. However, it does allow for a great deal of specificity by offering vocabulary for "body parts, positional words, and pain-related adjectives (dull, sharp, aching, radiating, etc.)."



37. *Dragon Search* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/dragon-search/id341452950?mt=8>)

- What is it? This app lets users search the web and other mobile device content by voice. The user says aloud the object to search, and the app draws up results from search engines, iTunes, Wikipedia and other popular sites.
- Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 4.0 or later.

- Reviews: One user says that Dragon search has great voice recognition and is easy to use. Others, though, have reported that the app does not work but instead takes the user back to the home screen.



Also check out Voice Over (<http://www.apple.com/accessibility/voiceover/applications.html>), which comes with every new Mac OS X and is on most iPhones – it can be turned on from Settings/General/Accessibility. This option is specifically intended for people with vision impairments, and it reads aloud button names, text messages and more.

Apps priced \$0.99 to \$10.99

1. Answers: YesNo (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/answers-yesno/id337470555?mt=8>)
 - What is it? This app has two large, colored buttons to easily allow a nonverbal person to respond to “Yes-No” questions. A voice reads aloud the word. The app was specifically designed for people with autism and other communication difficulties. ([A newer, HD version](#) lets the user choose from 5 different voices and make up to 6 custom buttons.)
 - How much is it? \$0.99 (\$1.99 for HD version)
 - Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 3.1 or later. (HD version requires 3.2 or later.)
 - Reviews: The parent of a son left mute and quadriplegic after a stroke said that the app was easy to use and gave him a “consistent” way to communicate.



2. *A Special Phone* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/a-special-phone-3-0-compatible/id308770594?mt=8#>)

- What is it? This app, specifically designed for people with disabilities, helps the user make phone calls with a single tap or shake. The user enters up to six contacts, and shakes the device once to get the first contact, twice to get the second, *etc.* The app reads the name aloud for verification, then dials the number automatically. For other numbers, the user taps the screen until each number in a desired telephone number is selected.
- How much is it? \$0.99
- Platform: iPhone. Requires iOS 3.0 or later.
- Reviews: There are no reviews available at this time.



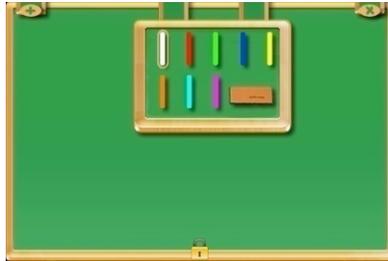
3. *Broca's Voice* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/brocas-voice/id310093914?mt=8#>)

- What is it? A text-to-speech app that allows users to type in English sounds rather than letters or precise spellings. The app also reads the word aloud as it is being typed, instead of waiting for the user to type in the entire word or phrase.
- How much is it? \$0.99
- Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 4.0 or later.
- Reviews: A user notes that while Broca's Voice sounds clear when the user is typing the message, it sounds unclear when it is playing the message back in its entirety.

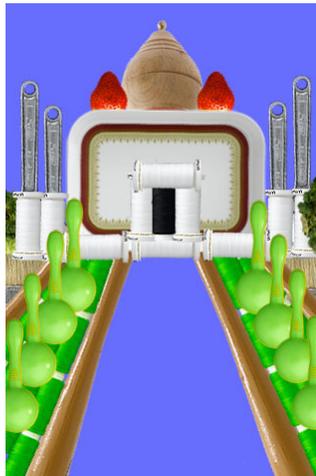


4. *Chalkboard Pro* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/chalkboard-pro-darkgreen/id334608390?mt=8#>)

- What is it? A “drawing board” that lets the user doodle, draw or type. Screens resemble a chalkboard and can be saved. Users write with “chalk” available in 8 different colors.
- How much is it? \$0.99
- Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch. Requires iOS 2.2.1 or later. [A separate version is available for the iPad](#) at the same price.
- Reviews: Parents say that the app is entertaining for their children. However, there is no speech option.



5. *Faces I Make Lite* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/faces-imake-lite/id357230884?mt=8>)
- What is it? An app that lets users make faces for entertainment. It has over 150 objects to choose from, so the app encourages creativity, especially for children. The images can be rotated, layered and then uploaded to the Internet.
 - How much is it? \$0.99
 - Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 3.0 or later.
 - Reviews: Reviewers says this app is good for fun and for those who enjoy art. One reviewer, a mother of an autistic child, says that her son is “intrigued” by it.



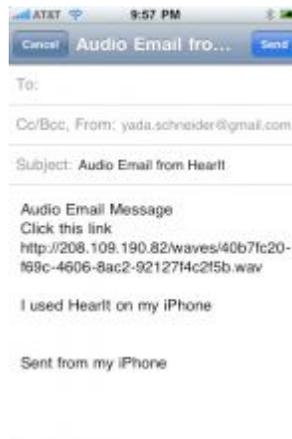
6. *HAL The Talking Calculator* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/hal-the-talking-calculator/id387970918?mt=8>)
- What is it? HAL is a big-button talking calculator. Users customize it by color (19 schemes) and numeric fonts (13 styles).
 - How much is it? \$0.99

- Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 3.2 or later.
- Reviews: Users with and without AAC needs find the app useful and a “lifesaver.” One user said HAL was a good app for demonstrating how talking apps can be used as assistive technology.



7. *HearIt* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/hearit/id347501943?mt=8#>)

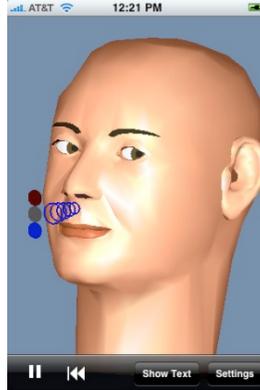
- What is it? A text-to-speech app. Users type in text, listen to it, then email or send as a text message. One voice, female, speaks the text aloud.
- How much is it? \$0.99
- Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 3.0 or later.
- Reviews: Some reviewers have said that the app does not work, or takes a long time to play the audio. Otherwise, it is “very good” and “[d]oes exactly what you expect.”



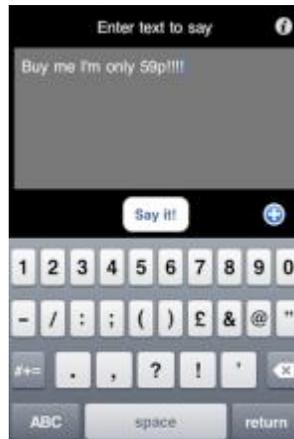
8. *iBaldi* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/ibaldi/id365360515?mt=8>)

- What is it? iBaldi is a 3-D character that reads imported text and demonstrates the matching mouth and facial movements – particularly intended for the deaf and hard-of-hearing, people with autism and adults learning the English language.
- How much is it? \$0.99
- Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 3.1.3 or later.

- Reviews: Reviewers call iBald “helpful,” although one SLP mentioned that it does not teach phonemes in isolation, which may be a limitation for some teachers.



9. *iSayIt* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/isayit/id331494818?mt=8>)
 - What is it? A text-to-speech app that lets the user change the pitch and speed of the output voice. The words and phrases can then be saved for later use.
 - How much is it? \$0.99
 - Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 3.1 or later.
 - Reviews: Several reviewers say that the voice quality is poor. However, there is praise for the save function, which can be useful for conversations.



10. *iSpeakIt* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/ispeakit/id407816734?mt=8#>)
 - What is it? A text-to-speech app that reads aloud text, emails, articles and other documents – without needing to copy and paste the text. It turns images and web pages into text, and lets the user email both text and audio file.
 - How much is it? \$0.99
 - Platforms: Android, iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 3.0 or later.
 - Reviews: One user said that the voice quality is “inaudible,” but the majority of reviewers call it “helpful” and easy to use. A woman noted that it was particularly helpful for her husband after a surgery left him unable to speak.



11. *Speak!* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/speak/id307968849?mt=8#>)
- What is it? Speak! is a text-to-speech app that lets the user type and speak. Users can also send emails, save messages and do not need to be connected to the internet for use.
 - How much is it? \$0.99
 - Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 3.0 or later.
 - Reviews: Reviews describe the app as “simple,” though it only plays one voice.



12. *Speaking Images* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/speaking-images/id320238523?mt=8>)
- What is it? This app features a collection of vocabulary with the appropriate illustrations. The vocabulary is sorted by category (such as “Food” and “Clothing”). The user picks a word to be read aloud.
 - How much is it? \$0.99
 - Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 2.0 or later.
 - Reviews: One reviewer calls this app “a wonderful concept,” particularly for people with autism. However, most reviews point out a “limited” vocabulary and a lack of customization and sentence construction features.



13. *Talk4Me* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/talk4me/id412195507?mt=8#>)

- What is it? This is a visual app that features words and images from five categories (actions, animals, clothes, food, leisure time). The user selects a word and taps it to “speak.” Users can add and edit categories, import their own pictures, and record voices to go with the pictures. This app supports Spanish as well.
- How much is it? \$0.99
- Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 4.2 or later.
- Reviews: Reviewers note that there is no feature for sentence construction. Also, after a word is spoken, the user has to re-navigate out of the image to select a new word.



14. *TextToSpeech* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/texttospeech/id339347087?mt=8#>)

- What is it? A text-to-speech app that lets the user type-and-speak, and then email any text (even as an audio file).
- How much is it? \$0.99
- Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 3.1.2 or later.
- Reviews: Overall, reviews for this app are positive. However, users would like to have more voice options, and one user mentioned that the text display “is only a fraction of the screen size.”



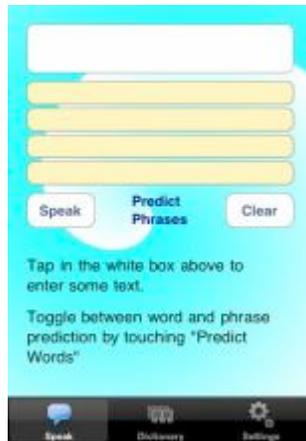
15. *BigNames – Large-Text Contact List* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/bignames-large-text-contact/id305591358?mt=8#>)

- What is it? This app transform an existing contact list into large text, so that the numbers and names are easier to read.
- How much is it? \$1.99
- Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 3.0 or later.
- Reviews: No reviews are available at this time.



16. *Easy Speak* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/easy-speak/id382620857?mt=8#>)

- What is it? A predictive, text-to-speech app. It has a dictionary with over 4000 words and phrases that can be modified based on the user's needs.
- How much is it? \$1.99
- Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 3.1.3 or later. Must be downloaded from iTunes.
- Reviews: The father of a special needs child praised the app's "portability" and called it a "good effort" towards making iPod/iPad devices more AAC-friendly. A criticism was that the pronunciation was limited to British English.



17. *iDress for Weather* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/idress-for-weather/id385227220?mt=8#>)

- What is it? Created as an assistive app for people with cognitive disabilities, *iDress for Weather* shows a “closet” of weather-appropriate clothes for the daily forecast. Users enter their zip code or use GPS to set the location. In the morning and afternoon, the app displays clothes according to the daily high; in the evening, it shows clothes to go with the next day’s projected weather. The app uses images rather than sounds, so non-English speakers can use it as well.
- How much is it? \$1.99
- Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 3.0 or later.
- Reviews: Parents say that this app “is definitely a must for families with young kids.” They find it a useful way to teach children how to dress for the weather.



18. *iEarned That* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/iearnedthat/id366144564?mt=8#>)

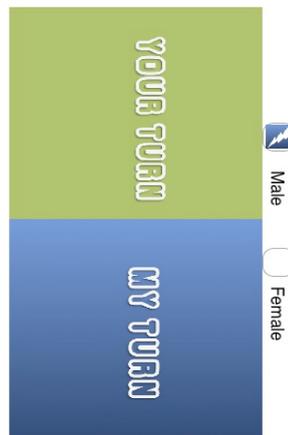
- What is it? An app that uses positive reinforcement to help teach desired behaviors or skills. The parent, teacher or therapist selects a behavior/skill to teach, along with a tangible reward. The app creates a “puzzle” of an image of the reward, and the child gets a “piece” for each successful completion of that behavior.
- How much is it? \$1.99
- Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 3.1.2 or later.
- Reviews: The reviewers find the app effective as a positive reinforcement tool; with it, “kids are actually focused on reaching the goals we set.” One user says

that it is not only useful for her autistic students, but also for her niece who has ADHD.



19. *iTake Turns* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/itake-turns/id357229392?mt=8#>)

- What is it? This app teaches children with disabilities the skill of taking turns. The user taps a button to indicate “my turn” or “your turn.” The phrases are read aloud, with a choice of a male or female voice.
- How much is it? \$1.99
- Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 3.1.2 or later.
- Reviews: Parents of children with disabilities and special education teachers like this app. An SLP said that it “keeps attention span going,” and another reviewer called it “a good addition to the tools for treatment of children with disabilities.”



20. *Peekaboo Barn* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/peekaboo-barn/id300590611?mt=8#>)

- What is it? A cause-and-effect app that teaches children motor skills like swiping, tapping and anticipation. Children open the barn by tapping the screen, and they hear the animal’s name (in English or in Spanish) as well as the sound it makes.
- How much is it? \$1.99
- Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 3.0 or later.

- Reviews: There are many positive reviews for Peekaboo Barn. One user says that it “is excellent for engaging young children.” Other parents say the same, and that the app is “worth the money.”



21. *QwikList Voice*

(http://www.androidzoom.com/android_applications/productivity/qwiklist-voice_crea.html)

- What is it? This app allows the user to create lists, text messages, and Google calendar events by speaking into the device. The app transfers the vocal input into text. The app can be programmed to send the user reminders, and even create grocery lists by scanning the items’ barcodes.
- How much is it? \$1.99
- Platforms: Android
- Reviews: User feedback has been positive; the app “almost always translates correctly” and is useful for list-making and texting. Some users reported that the app froze on their devices, and that the app takes a long time to translate vocal input into written output.



22. *SynthSpeech Text to Speech* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/synthespeech-text-to-speech/id373481329?mt=8#>)

- What is it? SynthSpeech is a text-to-speech app that lets users type or paste (including from eBooks and web pages) and then have them read out loud. Users can choose from 5 voices (all English) and use the soundboard feature to change the pitch, stretch and variance of the voice.
- How much is it? \$1.99
- Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 2.2.1 or later.
- Reviews: One reviewer said that there is sometimes a delay before the App “speaks.”



23. *Speak it! Text to Speech* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/speak-it-text-to-speech/id308629295?mt=8#>)

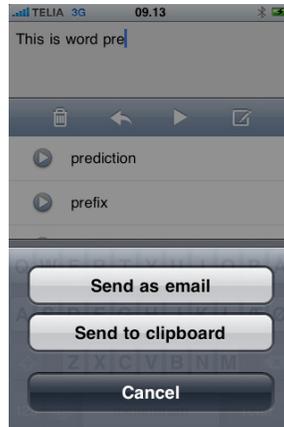
- What is it? A text-to-speech app that allows users to copy articles, emails, PDFs and other documents to be read back to them. Users can also type their own text and hear it spoken. Speak it! lets users send audio files, save phrases and choose from a choice of voices (other language versions, including French and Spanish) may be purchased for an extra \$0.99).
- How much is it? \$1.99
- Platforms: Android, iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 3.0 or later.
- Reviews: The MDA has called Speak it! “useful” for people with disabilities. Other user feedback is overwhelmingly positive, with one reviewer calling its voice quality “on par” with Kindle. Some expressed difficulty copying and pasting a large amount of text, but were pleased with the app’s overall quality.



24. *Typ-O* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/typ-o/id370829089?mt=8#>)

- What is it? A word prediction app targeting people with dyslexia or who need to improve their spelling skills. An audio function allows the user to hear a word or sentence before selecting it. Entered text can be proofread by the app before it is sent out in an email or text message.
- How much is it? \$1.99, and [an HD version just for iPad](#) costs \$9.99 – it offers four voice choices, file management and spell check.
- Platform: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 3.0 or later. (HD version requires iPad 3.2 or later).

- Reviews: A parent finds the tool useful for her daughter’s spelling skills and says she “can’t tell the difference between this and the \$400 software our school district uses.”



25. *Web Reader* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/web-reader-text-to-speech/id320808874?mt=8#>)

- What is it? A text-to-speech app that reads website content, PDFs and other documents. The voice is adjustable and offered in a male and female version. Favorite websites can be bookmarked for quick access.
- How much is it? \$1.99
- Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 3.1.3 or later.
- Reviews: Users highly recommend this app, although it is important to note that it does not integrate with eBook readers like Kindle. eBooks may only be read if they are already on a web page.



26. *YES/NO Bilingual* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/yes-no-bilingual/id356655278?mt=8>)

- What is it? This app functions as a communication board for yes/no questions. The board is in English and Spanish, and offers a choice of male and female voices in both languages.
- How much is it? \$1.99
- Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 3.1.3 or later.
- Reviews: This app has been well-received, with positive feedback from bilingual SLPs. Another user said that “[p]eople with communication disorders need tools like this to express their opinion.”



27. *ACT Spell* (<http://ax.itunes.apple.com/us/app/act-spell/id379976080?mt=8#>)

- What is it? An education and therapy app that lets users create their own programs to target specific vocabulary and/or motor, visual and neurological skills. The app provides audio feedback, button adjustability and a word bank. The user selects the letter that completes a target word, phrase or sentence.
- How much is it? \$2.99
- Platforms: iPad. Requires iOS 3.2 or later.
- Reviews: While users think that the word to be “spelled” could be in larger font, they generally give this app positive reviews. A father wrote that it is very good for his autistic son, and another reviewer remarked that it “paves the way” for other apps targeted to people with special needs.



28. *Dance Party Zoo* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/dance-party-zoo/id409705938?mt=8#>)

- What is it? An app that teaches basic motor and balance skills. The child selects an animal and a song from the iPhone/iPod music library, then dances to the music. The animal mimics the dance, and the app then displays how well the child followed the music’s rhythm.
- How much is it? \$2.99
- Platform: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 3.0 or later.
- Reviews: The parent of an autistic child says that her son’s eye contact improved after he began playing with this app. Other parents agree, and also note that it keeps children’s interest.



29. *Look into My Eyes 1: Restaurant* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/look-in-my-eyes-1-restaurant/id349835339?mt=8>);

Look into My Eyes 2: Car Mechanic (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/look-in-my-eyes-2-car-mechanic/id351230614?mt=8>)

- What is it? These games target children with Asperger Syndrome and autism, and they teach them how to make eye contact with other people in a social setting. Each version features a game in which the child must “interact” with images and make eye contact at the same time. Children earn points for responding quickly and making contact, and the points buy items that can be used later in the game.
- How much is it? \$2.99
- Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 3.0 or later.
- Reviews: Parents reviewing these games say that their children’s eye contact has improved after use, and that the children find the games entertaining.



30. *Speech with Milo: Verbs* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/speech-with-milo-verbs/id405441288?mt=8#>)

- What is it? A speech therapy app that can be used by speech therapists and parents alike (there is a special set of instructions and tips for each). Milo the Mouse “performs” a variety of action verbs, so that children can learn new verbs without traditional flashcards.
- How much is it? \$2.99
- Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 3.0 or later.

- Reviews: The reviews for this app are exceptional. Parents of autistic children say that the app has been very effective for teaching verbs and keeping the children engaged. One user writes: “Having had a professional speech pathologist work with my son, this program emulates and compliments the therapy lesson in ways I haven’t been able to find in any other program on the app store.”



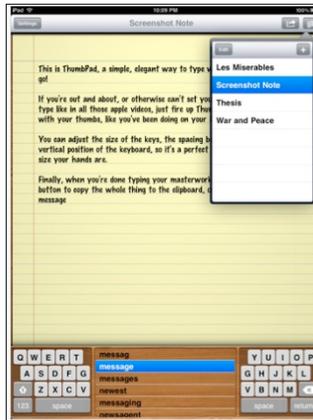
31. *Turn Taker* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/turn-taker/id399113420?mt=8>)

- What is it? An app, developed by a behavior analyst with 10 years’ experience with children with autism, that teaches children how to take turns. Parents or caregivers set a time limit for each turn; a finger image and a “Your turn/My turn” voice indicate when each child’s turn is up.
- How much is it? \$2.99
- Platforms: Android; iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 3.0 or later.
- Reviews: The app is described as “simple, but nicely designed.” By teaching autistic children how to take turns, “fills a good niche in the world of autism.” A limitation is that the settings must be reset for each use.



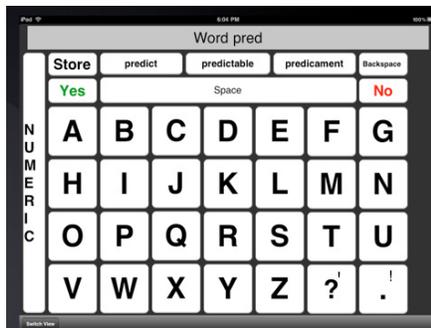
32. *ThumbPad* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/thumbpad/id363590057?mt=8>)

- What is it? ThumbPad is an adjustable keyboard that lets the user change the keys’ space and size according to his or her preference. A word prediction feature allows for ease of typing with thumbs only. The text can be sent as well.
- How much is it? \$3.99
- Platforms: iPad. Requires iOS 3.2 or later.
- Reviews: This app “does exactly what it says and does it very well.” Users say that it helps save time and effort with typing. A limitation is that helper words cannot be customized to user preference.



33. *iMean* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/imean/id364906155?mt=8>)

- What is it? A letterboard with large, easily read letters, created by the parent of an autistic child. Users can choose from the QWERTY keyboard or ABC form. iMean also has a word prediction feature that offers three choices.
- How much is it? \$4.99
- Platforms: iPad. Requires iOS 4.2 or later.
- Reviews: A speech pathologist said that iMean was a great help to her students – the large letters allowing for better accuracy. The negatives of this app are that there is no sound, and the word prediction function was tailored to the creator’s child and not individualized.



34. *iReward* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/ireward/id324643198?mt=8#>)

- What is it? This app functions as a motivational tool for children with special needs. Parents and/or teachers select the behavior that they want to teach, the reward they will give for “mastering” that behavior, and the number of times the behavior must be completed in order to receive the reward.
- How much is it? \$4.99
- Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 3.1.3 or later.
- Reviews: This app has received good reviews from therapists and parents of special needs children. The parent of an autistic child said that it was much more convenient than relying on a Velcro board and tokens to teach/reward behaviors. The customer service gives “quick response and is very helpful.”



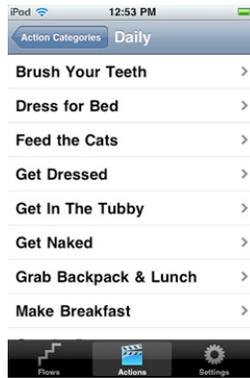
35. *Time Timer* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/time-timer/id332520417?mt=8#>)

- What is it? This app displays a red disk that gets smaller and smaller as time runs out, instead of showing the time like a typical clock (although the time can be displayed by choice). The user sets the timer according to the activity length. There are ten alarm sounds to choose from, and can also be programmed to vibrate when time runs out.
- How much is it? \$4.99
- Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 3.0 or later.
- Reviews: Users find Time Timer “useful,” and the father of an autistic son says that the visual timer helps his son get a better grasp on the concept of time. Some users have noted that the app cannot be used outside of the application, so if a person switches to another program while the timer is still running, the app will not work.



36. *Visules* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/visules/id322543961?mt=8#>)

- What is it? Designed by the parent of a child with Autism Spectrum Disorder, Visules displays checklists and individual cues to help a person with special needs work through a process. The user can program the app to break down the steps of a process or show a “do-to” list that can be “checked off” as each task is completed. This app is visual only, no audio.
- How much is it? \$4.99
- Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 3.0 or later.
- Reviews: Aside from the lack of audio, reviewers like Visules for its simple interface. An occupational therapist writes that it “is the best offering to date for a simple visual-communicator.”



37. *TalkForMe* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/talkforme/id380884939?mt=8#>)

- What is it? This app is intended for both world travelers and people with communication difficulties. It lets the user add an unlimited number of pictures and phrases, sort them into relevant groups, and then play the phrase aloud. The phrases can be translated into more than 30 languages.
- How much is it? \$5.99
- Platforms: Android, iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 3.2 or later.
- Reviews: A reviewer says that TalkForMe “helps those with speech difficulties.” Its creator, whose son has dystonia, says the app has made a difference for his son and should have “potential” for others with communication needs.



38. *Verbal Victor* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/verbal-victor/id411749775?mt=8>)

- What is it? Verbal Victor is an AAC app created for people with emerging communication skills and/or developmental delays. The app has two modes. In the administrator mode, which lets a caretaker select 2, 4 or 6 buttons on the screen, or create new buttons and record the words to go with them. In the user mode, the patient selects and plays the words he or she wants to say.
- How much is it? \$6.99
- Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 4.2 or later.
- Reviews: Users say that this app has “a lot of potential,” and is a great concept. However, some had problems uploading pictures. Several iPad users also complained that the app needed to be better formatted for that device. Another user, a parent of an autistic son, said that items are not adjustable, but stay in the order in which they are placed – forcing the user to navigate through several pages before choosing a specific item.



39. *AutoVerbal Talking Soundboard PRO* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/autoverbal-talking-soundboard/id368727888?mt=8#>)

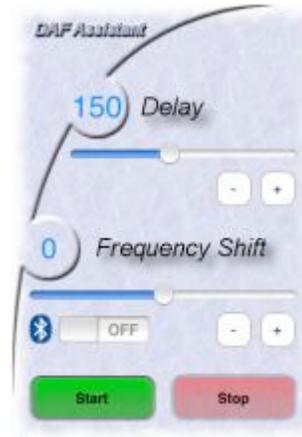
- What is it? A text-to-speech app that allows users to create their own messages or choose from built-in phrases, and play them back to others. The app has hundreds of built-in phrases from 16 categories, but also lets users customize specific messages or commands according to their needs.
- How much is it? \$9.99
- Platforms: iPhone, iPad, iPod Touch. Requires iOS 3.0 or later.
- Reviews: Caregivers and special needs instructors like this product. One user considered it “a long term major tool” to help a stroke victim who had difficulties speaking; another remarked that it was “a great additional tool” to help her non-verbal autistic students communicate. While one reviewer thought some of the word choices were “odd” and not always practical, the overall consensus is that this app is helpful for those with speaking difficulties.



40. *DAF Assistant* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/daf-assistant/id309496166?mt=8#>)

- What is it? This app is meant for people who stutter. It uses Delayed Auditory Feedback (DAF) and Frequency-shifting Auditory Feedback (FAF) to help speakers control their speech fluency, pitch and rate – with the goal of improving confidence and speech skills. DAF delays the voice, while FAF changes the pitch. While the app cannot yet be used for phone calls, it can be used with Bluetooth or the Apple Earphones with Remote and Mic.
- How much is it? \$9.99

- Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch (2nd generation or later), iPad. Requires iOS 3.1.2 or later.
- Reviews: Users say it is “great” for stutters and would like to be able to use it for phone calls. One iPhone user had compatibility problems using a Bluetooth with the device.



41. *Expressionist* (<http://www.apptism.com/apps/expressionist>)

- What is it? Expressionist is a visual learning app that teaches over 120 common expressions and over 1000 nouns from 7 categories (common phrases/greetings, feelings/emotions, senses, health & well-being, actions/activities, requests, questions). The app teaches the expressions with a composite approach picture, instead of multiple pictures.
- How much is it? \$9.99
- Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 3.0 or later.
- Reviews: One reviewer called it “brilliant.” While some of the words are mispronounced, and “the artwork could be improved,” its composite picture approach “makes these concepts easier to understand” for people with AAC needs.



42. *First Then Visual Schedule* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/first-then-visual-schedule/id355527801?mt=8#>)

- What is it? A visual schedule app that provides positive behavior support to people with communication difficulties. Users create their own schedules – from routine activities to the steps in a therapy session. Schedules can be personalized with uploaded pictures and voice recordings, and easily modified as needs change.
- How much is it? \$9.99
- Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 4.0 or later (4.2 for iPad).
- Reviews: Special needs educators and parents have praised this app, with one father of an autistic son gushing that it “changed our lives.” Reviewers say that First Then helps with scheduling, relieving anxiety and helping with transitions. Although one user said that recording a voice and then attaching it to a picture was at first “tricky,” most users find the interface easy and effective.



43. *iConverse* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/iconverse-assisted-communication/id304852637?mt=8#>)

- What is it? An AAC app that offers 6 communication tiles expressing basic needs (bathroom, drink, food, sick, break, help) in both audio and visual form. A recording feature and a text-to-speech function let the user create his or her own buttons.
- How much is it? \$9.99
- Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 3.0 or later.
- Reviews: Reviews like the app overall, but would like to see more buttons and a sentence construction feature.



44. *iPACS* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/ipacs/id322441370?mt=8>)

- What is it? A personalized content management app that lets the user store and customize up to 600 pictures in 7 “color tabs” (categories). Users import pictures

from the web or take them with their iPhone camera, and also attach a voice recording if preferred. iPAC stands for “interactive picture assisted communication” and was intended for use in special education.

- How much is it? \$9.99
- Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch.
- Reviews: While users note that the pictures are small and the vocal quality is “low,” one parent remarked that it was a useful way for her special needs son to communicate.



45. *My Choice Board* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/my-choice-board/id384435705?mt=8>)

- What is it? A visual aid for showing preferences, especially designed for those with non-verbal autism or other communication difficulties. The user has a “choice board” of up to 6 images, and with the phrase, “I want” at the top, forms a sentence by picking the desired image. A voice can then read the sentence out loud. The boards can be saved and sorted depending on the user’s needs. Another feature shows a red X on an object if the object is unavailable.
- How much is it? \$9.99
- Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 4.0 or later.
- Reviews: Reviewers like the way that the app lets users customize boards to their tastes. According to one parent, it is a “great way to communicate wants” if a child has a communication disability. Users would like to be able to make more sentences with the app, though.



46. *My Pictures Talk* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/my-pictures-talk/id368388315?mt=8#>)

- What is it? This app lets the user take and/or import pictures and videos, then add voice recordings. The images and videos can then be organized into stories, talking photo albums or even demonstrations.

- How much is it? \$9.99
- Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 3.2 or later. For recording videos, the iPod Touch 4th Generation or iPhone 3GS and 4 are needed. For recording audio, must have either iPhone or the late 2009 model of iPod Touch (32/64 GB versions) or later; otherwise, a third-party microphone is needed.
- Reviews: An SLP remarked that this app has been a useful tool for planning lessons, organizing vocabulary and showing semantic relationships. Another special education teacher commented that it was easy to share pictures, and that it really helped engage her non-verbal students.



47. *Sign4Me – A Signed English Translator* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/sign-4-me-a-signed-english/id312882992?mt=8#>)

- What is it? This app teaches Signed English using 3-D animations. There are more than 11,000 words, and the animation fingerspells words not in the database. Users can type in words, phrases and complete sentences and see the animated figure sign them out.
- How much is it? \$9.99
- Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 3.0 or later.
- Reviews: Sign4Me has gotten positive feedback. The animations are of good quality – one reviewer called it “a graphic masterpiece.” While this is not a tool for teaching and learning formal ASL (there is no instruction on word order or signing space, for example), it is seen as a good tool for those wanting to strike up a conversation with a deaf or hard-of-hearing person.



Apps priced above \$9.99

1. *Look2Learn* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/look2learn-aac/id319600029?mt=8#>)
 - What is it? Look2Learn helps users express their needs and wants. With the phrase “I want,” users select from images to fill in the blank. The app comes with 80 images, which can be recorded over depending on the individual need. The app also has a voice to read aloud the sentence, but users can record over it as well.
 - How much is it? \$14.99
 - Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 3.0 or later. If recording on iPod Touch, must have an external microphone.
 - Reviews: An SLP “can’t express how much” she likes Look2Learn – it helps her preschool students tell what they want, and is extremely easy for them to use as well. One limitation is that the only sentence you can make with the app is “I want.”



2. *Pictello* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/pictello/id397858008?mt=8#>)
 - What is it? An app that lets users of all ages and skill levels create talking photo albums and books. On a single page, users can upload a picture and record up to five lines of text (or have typed text “spoken” by the app). While no Internet connection is needed to play or create stories, the stories can be shared through

the iTunes Sharing File or via WiFi on the Pictello Sharing Server (users can get an account for free).

- How much is it? \$14.99
- Platform: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 4.0 or later.
- Reviews: Users are raving about this app. *Autism Epicenter* gives it five stars, praising its “well-designed and pleasing to the eye” interface that makes it easy for autistic people to share their stories. Other reviewers like the voice quality and feel that they can make the albums and stories “personalized.” An SLP teacher who works with students with AAC needs commented that it can even be used to teach the steps to a process.



3. *Scene Speak* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/scene-speak/id420492342?mt=8#>)
 - What is it? A communication app that creates visual scene displays to help with memory, speech or order. The user uploads images and arranges them in a “sound area,” a visual scene that follows a theme – for example, the doctor’s office. The user can record a phrase to go with an image relating to that theme (such as “I’m in pain” for a health care setting). The app includes five preloaded voices (but the user can record his or her own audio as well) and eleven generic, modifiable scenes (including the doctor’s office, the bedroom, and a “What hurts?” body chart). Scenes can be combined to form a “book” of a certain theme.
 - How much is it? \$14.99
 - Platforms: iPad. Requires iOS 3.2 or later.
 - Reviews: Users like this app a lot, deeming it well-worth the price. A Speech Language-Pathologist writes that it both “enhances language skills” and gives “a voice to my non-verbal students.” Reviewers praise the ease with which a user can customize the app, as well as the positive support and receptiveness from the developer.



4. *TapSpeak Button* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/tapspeak-button/id359998293?mt=8>)
- What is it? A convenient switch that records and plays messages. The user can record and store an unlimited number of phrases of unlimited length. Created by the father of a child with both cerebral palsy and cortical vision impairment (CVI), this app is ideal for AAC patients.
 - How much is it? \$14.99
 - Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 3.1 or later.
 - Reviews: This app has received good reviews from parents of children with AAC needs, as well as from Speech Language Pathologists. One mother said that it gives her daughter a “voice to be able to tell her teacher what she has done;” an SLP said that “it has real potential” for her students. Users like the ability to store unlimited messages, though a few mentioned they would like to be able to play multiple messages at once. Overall, users find it helpful and simple.



5. *Assistive Chat* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/assistive-chat/id379891874?mt=8#>)
- What is it? This text-to-speech app is specifically designed for people with AAC needs. It uses word prediction to minimize the number of keystrokes needed to type a phrase – allowing the user to communicate at a more efficient pace. Other convenient features include 3 voice choices, large font and buttons and a favorites list to store commonly-used phrases.
 - How much is it? \$24.99
 - Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 3.1 or later. Manufacturer recommends iPad for people with accessibility issues, because it has a larger screen size.
 - Reviews: Users find the word prediction feature “fantastic” and “significant” in allowing people with speech difficulties hold a conversation. A customer with ALS said that it had a “simple” and accessible interface. One reviewer mentioned that his app did not work with his iPhone 3GS internal speaker (Assistive Apps,

the company who makes the app, recommends it especially for iPad), although it was fine with regular earphones.



6. *Behavior Assessment Pro* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/behavior-assessment-pro/id396572239?mt=8#>)

- What is it? This app, created by a Certified Behavior Analyst, identifies factors related to problem behaviors. “Informants” (e.g. a teacher, parent, caretaker) fill out a 3-part questionnaire, which takes 10-30 minutes to complete. The app then creates a password-protected PDF with charts and analysis of the results – which can then be used for developing an Individualized Educational Program (IEP).
- How much is it? \$24.99
- Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 3.1 or later.
- Reviews: Reviewers see the value of this app for developing behavioral support programs and IEPs. A special education director says that it “saves so much time, produces accurate results, and the password-protected written report is invaluable.” A parent noted that some of the report was difficult to interpret for a layperson. Also, in order for the report to be emailed, the email account feature must be set up on the user’s iPhone.



7. *ArtikPix* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/artikpix-full/id356720379?mt=8#>)

- What is it? A flashcard app to help children with speech sound delays. There are 21 decks with 40 cards each, each one based on a particular sound. The decks are color-coded and can be combined, and scores can be saved. The user can practice

independently or with a parent/therapist. The words on the flashcards are child-friendly, so that it is not necessary to be a Speech-Language Pathologist to work with children on this app.

- How much is it? \$29.99, but a [free demo](#) that features one deck (the “th” sound) is also available.
- Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPhone. Requires iOS 3.1 or later.
- Reviews: Speech therapists like ArtikPik; one SLP says that it is convenient to have all her flashcards on her device instead of having to carry around individual cards. The app is “motivating” to students, and most reviewers say that the full version is worth the price.



8. *Behavior Tracker Pro*

(<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/behaviortrackerpro/id319708933?mt=8#>)

- What is it? This app allows parents, teachers and therapists to track and graph the behavior of their child, student and patient. The user enters the information (sessions can even be recorded), which is then processed into graphs and charts. The results can be exported to Excel or emailed to other users. The app allows users to record results for multiple students.
- How much is it? \$29.99
- Platforms: Android; Blackberry; iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 3.1.3 or later.
- Reviews: Special education teachers and parents of children with autism find this app “a blessing” and a “dream come true” for those having difficulties correcting behavioral issues. It does have “a steep learning curve” for laypersons, and iPhone 3.0 software is required to export/email the information.



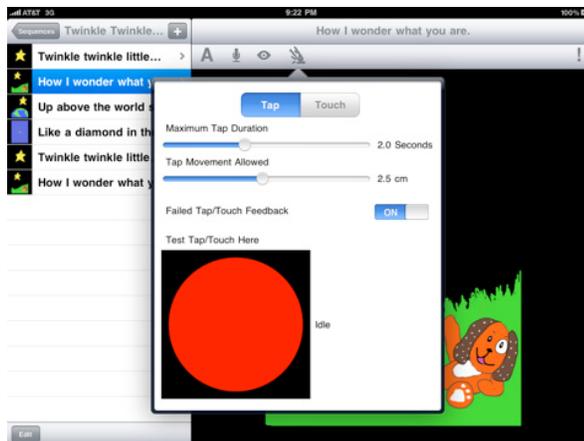
9. *iAssist Communicator* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/iassist-communicator/id374446424?mt=8#>)

- What is it? Designed by the mother of an autistic child, this app uses photos to teach words and phrases. There are 240 pre-loaded images and audio files, and the user can import his or her own. There are 48 customizable template files (i.e. categories), each of which has a home image and audio and 4 linked images/audio.
- How much is it? \$29.99
- Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Require iOS 3.0 or later.
- Reviews: Parents of children with communication disabilities find this app extremely helpful and easy to use. Some limitations are that categories cannot be deleted after they are created, and there are only 4 images allotted per category.



10. *TapSpeak Sequence* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/tapspeak-sequence-for-ipad/id379541810?mt=8#>)

- What is it? The app lets users create and store an unlimited amount of sequences of unlimited length. Users can choose from images already on the app or import their own to personalize. The tap response modifies itself to the user's motor skill level.
- How much is it? \$29.99
- Platforms: iPad. Requires iOS 4.2 or later.
- Reviews: TapSpeak Sequence has been well-reviewed; users call it “worth the money” and very effective as an AAC tool.



11. *Voice4u* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/voice4u/id339916109?mt=8#>)

- What is it? This is a vocabulary app that helps people with AAC needs express thoughts, feelings and needs. The user selects words and phrases to be read aloud, with a choice of words from more than 150 pre-loaded images or from an unlimited number of uploaded images. The vocabulary can be sorted by category, in alphabetical order, or by preference.
- How much is it? \$29.99
- Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 3.1.3 or later.
- Reviews: The father of an autistic child “highly recommended” Voice4u, saying that it helped his son communicate better – which has in turn resulted in fewer tantrums. Another user noted that there is no sentence construction option.



12. *iCommunicate* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/icomunicate/id320986580?mt=8>)

- What is it ? This app lets user create visual schedules, storyboards, flashcards and pictures with audio recordings. There are 100 photos to start with, and more can be uploaded. Users can make sequences in either 10x4 form or in a task completion mode that lets the user “check off” an image after it is finished.
- How much is it? \$34.99
- Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch. Requires iOS 3.1.3 or later. For iPad users, a [separate version is needed](#), which costs \$49.99.
 - Reviews: Parents of children with communication needs have given very positive reviews. A mother called it “a Godsend” that has effectively taught her son new words and phrases. Users like its “versatility” and find it very easy to use. It is especially good as a visual schedule and as a choice board.



13. *Match2Say* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/match2say/id400097634?mt=8#>)

- What is it? This app is a matching game for students and children who have difficulty producing certain sounds. A parent, teacher or therapist pre-selects a sound to practice on (the app offers every sound in the English language), and the app creates a corresponding set of cards. The child/student then must match each card to the proper sound. The app has three difficulty levels (5 on the iPad version) and features over 1500 images.
- How much is it? \$34.99
- Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 3.2 or later.
- Reviews: Parents and Speech-Language Pathologists say that their children and students find the app a lot of fun. However, one parent mentions that there is no positive reinforcement feature, and another user says that there is no customization feature.

Easy

MEDIUM

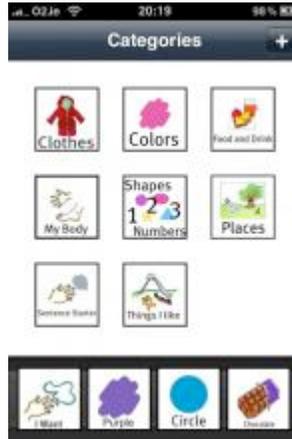
Challenge



14. *Grace* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/grace-picture-exchange-for/id360574688?mt=8#>)

- What is it? Grace is a picture communication system that lets the user independently create sentences that express his or her needs. The user makes a sentence (up to 8 words) using the images-based vocabulary and presents it to the “listener.”

- How much is it? \$37.99
- Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 3.0 or later.
- Reviews: Parents of autistic children feel that Grace is a valuable communication app. While there is no sound option, several parents noted that as a plus, because it helped their children work on their speech instead of relying on a device. As one said, Grace “is not intended to speak for the learner but to help them find their voice.”



15. *My Talk* (<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/mytalktools-mobile/id324286288?mt=8#>)

- What is it? A communication app that lets users customize their own messages with pictures, images and audio files (even voice recordings). Users can upload images straight from the Internet to personalize the phrases that they want to speak (while freeing up memory on the device). Users are given a 30-day free trial period before purchasing it.
- How much is it? \$39.99, but with a free 30-day trial period.
- Platforms: iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad. Requires iOS 3.2 or later.
- Reviews: Parents of autistic children have found this app very useful and easy to use. A grandmother said it has made her autistic granddaughter “an able communicator,” letting her do things from sharing stories about her day to storing notes from class. Parents love how it lets their children personalize phrases and “seems to anticipate every scenario.” The simple interface and customizable features earn My Talk rave reviews.



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