

Choosing a handheld device

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Devices and prices

Device	Supplier	Price
Nintendo DS	High Street	Approx £120 + vocab
Ipod touch	High Street	Approx £150 + vocab
IPAQ (The Grid Mobile)	Smartbox AT	£980
Springboard Lite	Liberator	£1795
Chat PC 4+	Liberator	£1995
Chat PC Silk	Liberator	£1995
Jive	Possum	£2395
TellUs Smart 2	Techess	£2500
Alt Chat	Liberator	£3395
Xpress	Dynavox	£3995

Chat PC 4+

Features	Comments
Chunky device	Case is protective Easier to manipulate for some Not easy to slip in a pocket
PalmChat	Excellent vocab package for people wishing to build sentences
VocabPC	Simple vocab package



Alt Chat

Features	Comments
Large size	Good handle Large screen
Keyguards	
PalmChat	Excellent vocab package for people wishing to build sentences
VocabPC	Simple vocab package
MP3 player, photos etc	Can be difficult!



TellUs Smart 2

Features	Comments
Large screen	Supports access
CallTalk, Word Power, Picture Word Power, IDV plus 'Smart' vocabs available	Many options for organisation of vocabulary
Elasticated strap on back	Very handy!
Seems reliable	Again, very handy!



Features	Comments
Landscape orientation	Enables some to support the device more easily For some, the access is more difficult
Finger touch only	Stylus, finger nail and knuckle don't always operate the screen
Some gesturing	Access to more vocabulary This feature can be turned off
InterAACT vocabulary	Multiple organisations on each page set



Jive!

Features	Comments
Scrolling cells	Lots of vocabulary from one page
Menu bar top of each page	Useful for consistency and navigation
IR environmental control	Useful feature for some
Programming	Can be difficult
Reliability	Ours have not been very reliable so far...



iPAQ – The Grid Mobile

Features	Comments
Mainstream device	High levels of familiarity and motivation
Slim size	Easily fits into pocket
Editing	Limited editing on device – mainly needs to be edited on computer
No set vocab packages available	Need to design from scratch



Nintendo DS

Features	Comments
Cost	Very affordable
Mainstream device	High levels of familiarity and motivation
Tap to Talk package	Edit on computer only Recorded voice not best quality Limited pre made vocabulary set
Small and light	Carried in any small child's pocket daily!
Dual screen	Reinforces selection made Folding design protects the screen



Ipod

Features	Comments
Cost	Very affordable
Mainstream device	High levels of familiarity and motivation
Large number of apps available	Vary in quality and ability to customise

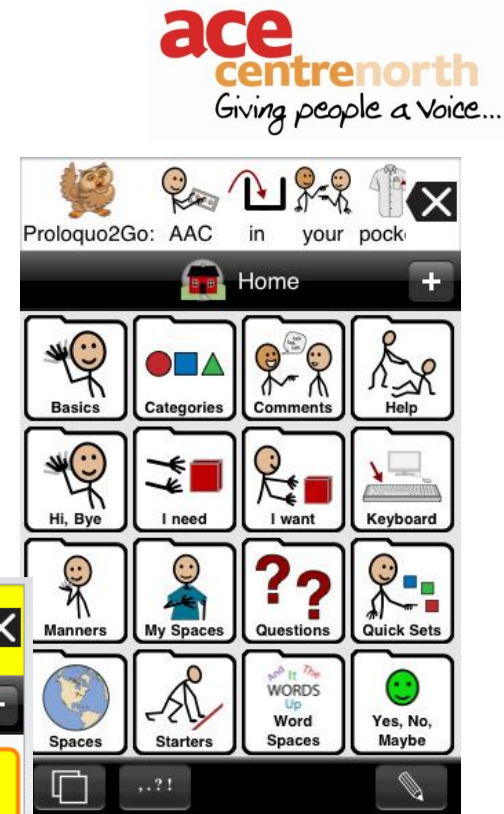
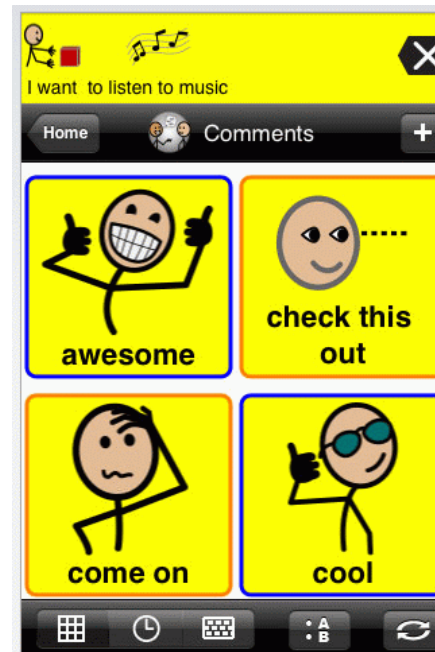


Ipod apps



Proloquo2Go

- SymbolStix
- 7000 symbol library
- Fully configurable
- Text input
- Good quality voices (Acapela)
- VocaSpace vocabulary
- List or grid view
- £109.99



Symbol / picture support

- Tap To Talk

- Free app download
- Comes with 1 'album'
- Need to purchase full version to edit
- Recordable speech – can use AT&T website to save voice files as wav
- \$99.95 annual web subscription



- iConverse

- Designed for young children
- 6 locations, basic needs
- Can customise
- \$9.99



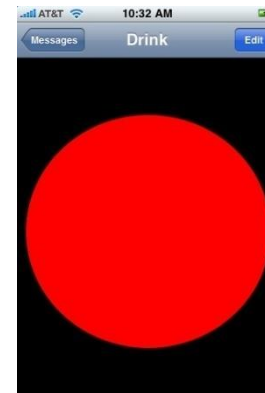
- Locabulary Lite

- Free lite version
- Location based vocabulary



Symbol / picture support

- MyTalk
 - Lite version free
 - Full version \$39.99
- TapSpeak
 - **Button**
 - Allows ipod to act as a BigMack
 - Build unlimited message list
 - **Picture**
 - Allows picture cue
 - **Sequences**
 - Sequential messages
 - **Picture Choices**
 - Two or more choices
 - \$9.99



Text to Speech

- **Speechie**

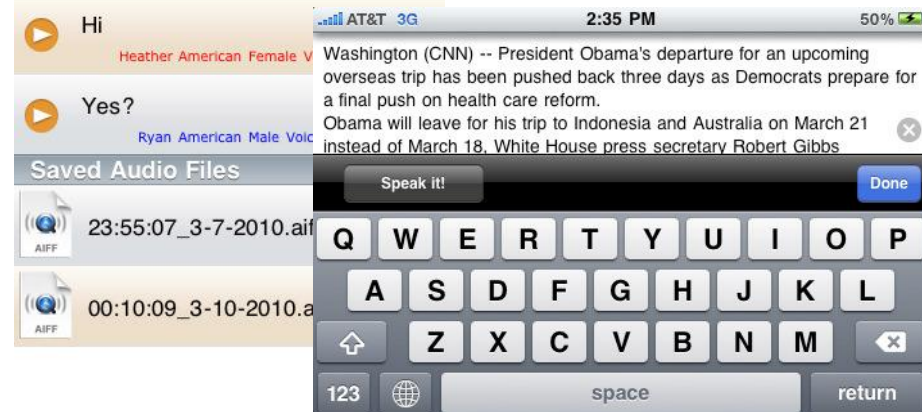
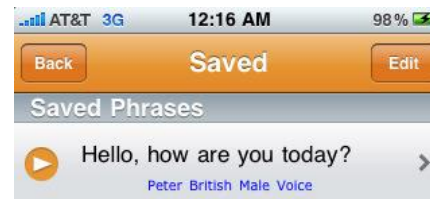
- Free
- Type and speak!



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- **Speak it!**

- £1.19
- Type and speak
- Save and send phrases as audio files
- Landscape and portrait view
- 20 voices
- Can change font size



Organisation / schedules

- iCommunicate
 - Supports understanding through development of ‘storyboards’
 - \$4.99
- iPrompts
 - No audio prompts or voice output
 - Visual representation of routines
 - Creation of social stories
 - Visual countdown timer
 - Simple choices
 - Image library
 - \$49.99
- StepStones
 - Visual schedules
 - Check off as completed
 - Natural voice output
 - 12 pre made activities, others customisable
 - \$29.99

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Giving people a Voice...



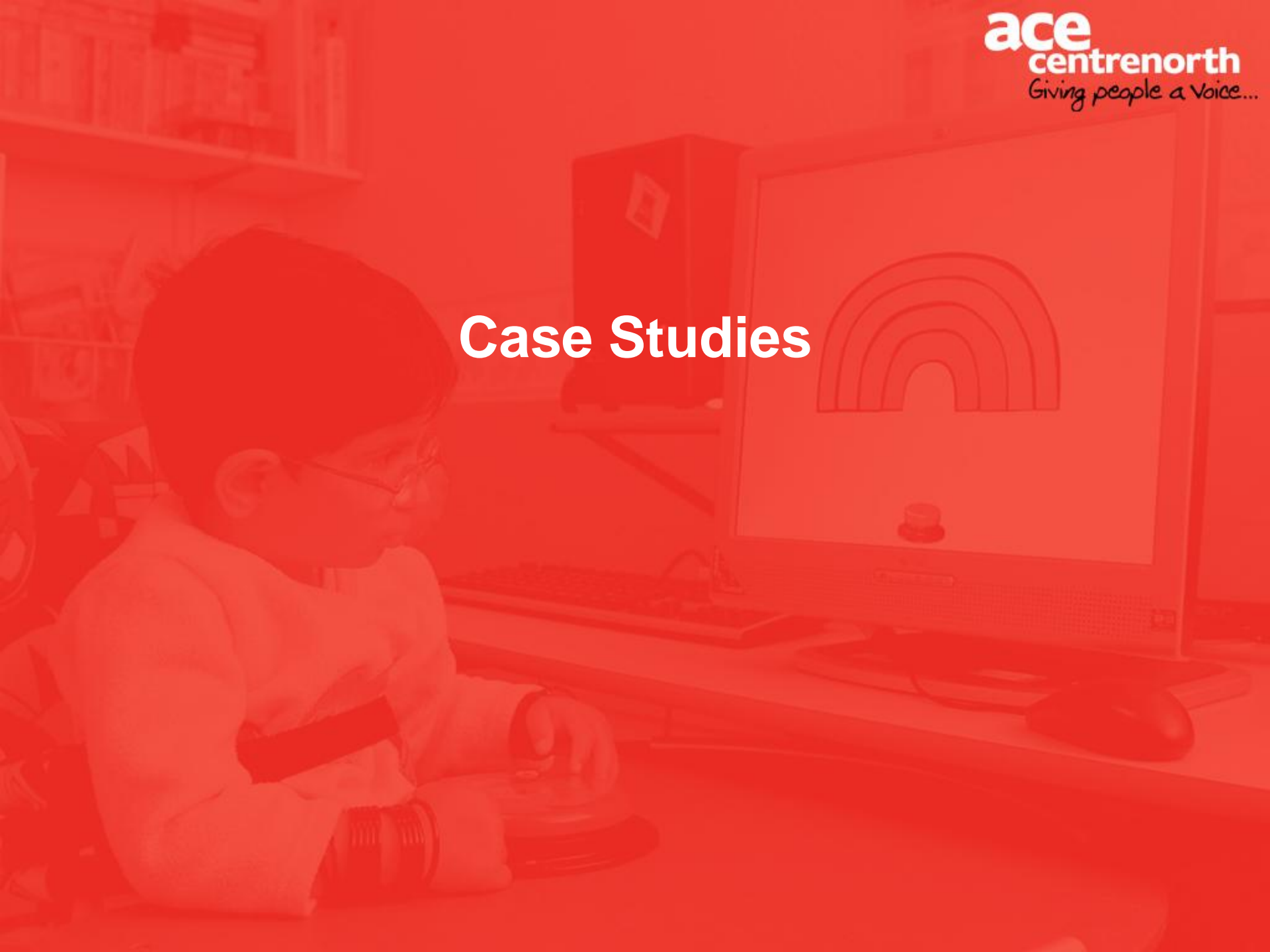
Summary



What are the real differences?

Dedicated devices	Mainstream devices
Support	Cost
Design for use – robust, speakers inbuilt, battery life	Speakers, battery etc needed as extra
Well known vocab packages available	Wide range of apps / organisations available
Warranties available	Standard warranties
Variety in design to suit wider range of individuals	Custom personalisation needed

Case Studies



- **Ipod**
 - Aged 9
 - Cerebral palsy
 - Athetoid movements
 - Hearing impairment – hearing levels uncertain
 - Experience of ipod through respite staff
 - Access of device obviously well practised!
 - Accessed other applications
 - Used 'home' icon etc intuitively

- **Ipod**
 - Aged 10
 - Worcester Drought Syndrome
 - Mobile
 - Motivation key
 - Gaming important
 - Acceptance of any device or system has previously been a challenge

- **Nintendo DS**
 - Aged 8
 - Worcester Drought Syndrome
 - Mobile
 - Uses some sign, gesture and speech (mainly vowels)
 - Very motivated – will show and use prompts in environment etc
 - Need for AAC system identified as Joel moving to middle school
 - Want system as a ‘back up’ only with a few key messages for unfamiliar people
 - Motivation to use a system is key feature
 - DS very familiar
 - Joel has a DS at home that he can utilise to evaluate whether voice output system useful

- **ChatPC 4 +**
 - Aged 17
 - Mobile
 - Impaired fine motor skills
 - Has used Dynavox MT4 with CallTalk
 - Now unreliable and thought to be too heavy
 - Robust device needed

- **AltChat**
 - Aged 55
 - Has a diagnosis of MS
 - Access options for future use
 - Size allowed support with one hand and use with the other
 - Keyboard size eased access
 - Keyguards available to maintain direct access
 - PalmChat vocabulary

- **Home made solution (Mobile internet device – MID)**
 - Aged 5
 - Has a diagnosis of ASD
 - Dad has written the software
 - Used for receptive as well as expressive communication
 - Parents report decreased anxiety in some situations
 - Also some spontaneous use for requests
 - Moving to Grid Mobile due to demand on development of pages and vocabulary

Your experiences?

Useful links

- <http://www2.research.att.com/~ttsweb/tts/demo.php>