Where therapy is both *fun* and *functional!*

CLASS inc
COMMUNICATION LANGUAGE AND SPEECH SERVICES

AAC News- January 2012

Using AAC at Home

Using AAC at home is very important for reinforcing concepts & navigation of the AAC device and vocabulary learned in therapy. Imagine if as a baby you only learned to talk for an hour a week and the rest of the week your voice was "shut off". How much progress would you really make?

Here are a few ideas to get you started:

- Practice navigation and increase vocabulary knowledge by asking your AAC user what and where things are. For example: What do we need to sweep the floor? What do we need to clean the bathroom mirror? Where do we put the recycling? Where do we keep the dish soap? Asking these questions will enable the AAC user to develop a larger vocabulary as well.
- Mealtime: "More", "All done", "I'm hungry", "I don't like this"
- Watching TV: "Change the channel", "I like this show", "That's funny"
- Taking a walk: "Look at the ___", "do you see the___?", "I'm tired"
- Cooking: "Could I have the___ please", "I need help"
- General "I need to use the bathroom", "could I go outside?", "Can I go to my room?"
- Playing games "my turn", "your turn", "no fair", "want to play again?", "want to play another game?"

Save the Date!

AAC Help Session with Kristine Bengen from Tobii
Jan 20th- 11am

AAC Community Transition Group Continues (open enrollment)

App Spotlight: Speak for Yourself

is a new app that offers a main screen of 119 of the most commonly used "Core" words from which you are able to access up to 5,000 words in what would be considered a user's "fringe" vocabulary with the ability to have a total of 14,000 words. Therapists and parents can "hide" buttons as the user learns how to navigate the device. You can then "open" the buttons as the user adds vocabulary. The buttons stay in the same place and motor planning stays consistent because the user knows the location of the word they need to say. So 'want' will always be in the same location. If you try to add it to a different spot it will not let you.

Speak for Yourself allows you to lock the app from being edited in the iPad's settings menu. This app also features an in-app ability to add vocabulary. This app is pricey at $299, but its breadth of vocabulary makes it comparable to some of the more expensive dedicated communication devices.