iPads and Autism: Developing Sound Approaches

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Overview

• Why iPads
• iPad for
  – Modeling
  – Communication
  – Behavior
  – Customization
  – Future?
Why iPads?

- Mobility
- Affordability
- Sociability

“The machines offer a sense of independence many children, especially those with disabilities, may never have experienced before”
- Shah (2011)
Approaching

• Not just a single device implementation
• Moving towards iPAdagogy
• Thinking of broad functions and tying to teaching methods
• Student familiarity
• The demand for customization in special needs
iPads for Modeling

• Video modeling and audio prompts can be as effective as live modeling (Murzynski & Bourret, 2007; Rehfeldt, Dahman, Young, Cherry, & Davis, 2003).

• With the introduction of mobile devices, students can be provided with pictorial instructions, audio prompts, and video modeling at any time in any place. Research is beginning to demonstrate that the use of mobile devices for these purposes is effective (Furniss et al., 2011; Hammond, Whatley, Ayres, & Gast, 2010).
iPads Apps for Modeling

- **Model Me Going Place** (FREE) – In a photo slide show format, appropriate behavior community situations and activities are modeled. Situation include the mall, a restaurant, the grocery store, and a playground.

- **Model Me Faces & Emotions** (FREE) - In a photo slide show format, a child experiencing a specific emotion is modeled. - Happy - Sad - Calm - Proud
iPads Apps for Modeling

**Everyday Social Skills** ($0.99) – Over 75 videos within 6 categories demonstrate basic social skills needed for everyday activities, such as walking down the street, using a restroom, waiting in line, asking for directions.
iPads Apps for Modeling

- **Popplet ($4.99)** – Popplet serves as a presentation platform where you can:
  - Explore Ideas: Brainstorming, Mindmapping
  - Plan Projects: Diagrams, Process Charts
  - Record Thoughts: Journals, Notes, Lists
  - Collect Inspiration: Mood Boards, Scrapbook, Travel Plans
  - Create Galleries: Photo albums, Portfolios, Presentations
  - Study: School Projects, Class Notes
iPads Apps for Modeling

- **Quick Cues** ($4.99) – A social script application for assisting with new situations and social skills.
iPads Apps for Modeling

- **Pictello** ($18.99) – Allows users to design talking photo albums and books to model social skills.

- **Stories2Learn** ($13.99) - Allows users to create personalized stories using photos, text, and audio for modeling social skills and social cues.

- **Social Skills** ($6.99) - Allows users to use and modify (add text, photos, and audio) 6 pre-made social narratives, including Joint Attention; Non-Verbal Communication; Greetings; Structured Game Play; Turn Taking; Classroom Rules; and Limitation.
iPads for Communication
iPads Apps for Communication

- **iComm** (Free/ $7.99) is an application that enables the users to build a communication system using their own pictures and voice. 20 categories are pre-loaded on the paid version. iComm only works with the iPad and iPhone.
iPads Apps for Communication

- **Voice4u** ($29.99) is AAC application that assists users in expressing their feeling, thought, actions and things they need. There is a limitation of 9 categories and some illustrations are poor.
iPads Apps for Communication

- **iCommunicate for iPad** ($49.99) - is used to create communication boards, visual schedules, choice boards, speech cards, and story boards. It has 10,000 preloaded symbIstix pictures. It is for the iPad only app. It is a cheaper alternative to Proloque2Go ($189).
iPads for Behavior Intervention & Tracking
iPads Apps for Behavior

• **Autism Track ($0.99)** - This is a journaling application that enables parents and educators to track behaviors and interventions. There are checkboxes for therapy, medication, food, etc. Rating sliders allow for rating of behaviors. Behaviors can also be easily graphed.
Apps for Customization

- iMovie/ Pinnacle
- Google Sites and YouTube
- Digital Storytelling
The Future?

- Augmented Reality and Mobile Meet
- Gesture-Based Computing/ Natural User Interfaces
- Data Integration and Learner Tracking
- More powerful multimedia delivery
- Collaboration/ Mobile and ASD CoP
- Time to dream
References


