

Mobile Technology for Communication

Mobile technology is portable and can assist with communication. There are a number of ways mobile technology can be used to communicate over a distance. When used for this purpose, they can also be referred to as telecommunication devices.

Mobile technology can also help with communication in face-to-face situations where someone might have some, little, or no speech or might be difficult to understand. Additional applications or software may be needed to assist with a person's day to day communication.

Types of Mobile Technology

- **Regular mobile phones** have a physical keypad and can be used for basic functions like making calls or sending text messages.
- **Smart phones** have a touch screen and can be used for a variety of communication functions, e.g. making calls, sending text messages, emails, and video calls.
- **Tablets** have a touch screen and work like mini computers. They have similar functions to smart phones; the larger size can make them easier to use for some purposes.



EasyCall



Samsung Galaxy



iPhone



Samsung tablet



iPad mini

Access

Telecommunication devices are most commonly used by directly touching the screen or buttons. Other ways of using the devices include using an external switch or eye-gaze system.

A variety of other accessories can be purchased to make using a mobile device easier, e.g. stylus, external keyboard, wireless mouse, and keyguards.

Protective cases can help increase the durability of the devices. Stands and mounting can also help with the positioning of devices for ease of use.

Each device comes with in-built accessibility features that can assist with vision, hearing, and physical difficulties. These features vary according to the brand and model. Some examples include enlarging text, zoom, captions, and voice command.



Windows Surface Pro tablet with Tobii eye-gaze system



iPad with stylus

Platforms, Applications (Apps), and Software

Smart phones and tablets run on operating systems. These are also known as platforms: iOS, Android, or Windows.



Applications, also known as apps, can be downloaded to meet specific individual needs. Different operating systems work with different apps and software. Only certain apps and software can be loaded onto each device.

Some apps are free while others come at a cost. Apps can be downloaded from each platform's online store as indicated in this table:

iOS	iTunes
Android	Google Play Store
Windows	Windows Store

Communication apps and software can assist with communicating a range of messages, such as commenting, requesting, giving information, or sharing a joke. They can allow the user to participate in a conversation.

Types of communication apps and software:

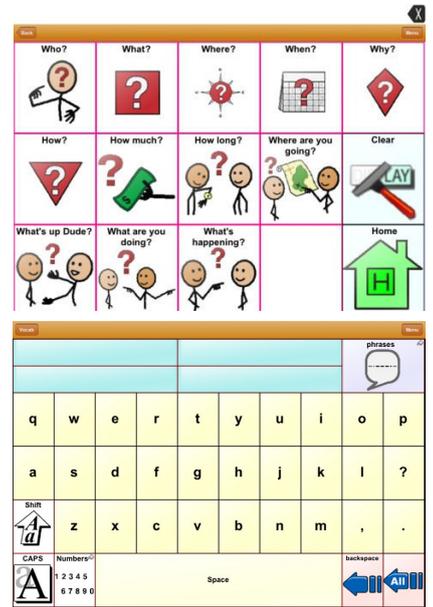
- **Text-to-speech**; e.g. Predictable, Proloquo4Text, Verbally
- **Symbol-to-speech**; e.g. GoTalkNow, TapToTalk
- **Text and symbol-to-speech**; e.g. Dynavox Compass, Proloquo2Go, SonoFlex, TouchChat



Predictable app



GoTalkNow app



TouchChat app— symbol-based vocabulary page and on-screen keyboard

For more information, please contact

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