

# DISKoveries

## Apple iPad and iPad2 for Special Needs – Part II

By Joan Tanenhaus

The Apple iPad continues to be a powerful force in special education, both in schools and in homes. The growth in the number of available apps and the growth in capabilities continue to amaze and astound us.

On March 11, 2011, Apple's new iPad2 became available. It contains two cameras – one front facing and one rear facing. Other differences from the first model include size and type of processor (iPad has single core, iPad2 has dual core and about double the speed), amount of memory (256 vs. 512), color (iPad is black, iPad2 is either white or black) and slight difference in size (iPad2 is about 33 percent thinner and a little lighter). Currently, all the apps work with both model, but things like cases and mounts are being revised for size. It is likely that new apps that get developed in the future will take advantage of the increased speed and memory and video capabilities.

This review is primarily a review of accessories, capabilities and apps and applies equally to both the iPad and the iPad2. I have not had the opportunity to check out the cameras and video capabilities so that will be left for another feature in the future. I do believe that these two cameras are going to bring a new dimension to iPad use to individuals with special needs and I can't wait to explore those options.

At the rate the apps are appearing, it is almost impossible to keep up with new ones that appear daily. These are ones I have used and downloaded since December 2010 but there are many, many more. Just go to the iTunes store and start searching. You are sure to find many more that will be useful to



Table Top Suction Mount for iPad (Ablenet).

address your personal goals. From now on, DISKoveries will include a section on new apps in every issue. Both iPad and iPad2 will be referred to as iPad in my articles. Please refer to my first article on the iPad in Closing The Gap Feb/March 2011 – all those apps continue to be excellent choices and many have been upgraded with new features. When you are considering the purchase of an app, there are several resources to check – iTunes, the developer's Web site and YouTube. You will get lots of additional information that way.

### ACCESSORIES: CASES AND MOUNTS

**Table Top Suction Mount for iPad** (AbleNet: [www.ablenetinc.com](http://www.ablenetinc.com)) This mounting system provides a strong, stable and moveable mount for the iPad on any flat surface, such as desk, laptray or table. There is a twist lock suction cup at the bottom that attaches the mount securely to any flat surface (glass, table top, desk, etc.) and it can easily be removed and re-installed to another area, as needed. This makes it an excellent choice if you are using the iPad in different locations with different users throughout the day and need to have it securely placed each time. It suctions and releases in seconds. The rubber ball and socket system allows you to adjust for different positions and viewing angles. The iPad can be placed in either portrait or landscape orientation and provides access to all controls and jacks. If you already have (or prefer to use) one of AbleNet's mounting systems with your iPad, they also have mounting plates and cradles available for their Latitude, USMS and Gooseneck mounting systems.

**iAdapter** (AMD: [www.amdi.net](http://www.amdi.net))

This is an extremely durable and protective case for your iPad and has many unique features that will be helpful in mobility and use of the iPad. The case, designed specifically for the special needs population, is fully rubberized for protection against damage and has a built-in handle for easy carrying. This is a great feature for both users and therapists who carry around the iPad. In addition, for users who might be using the device as an AAC device, there are two other options. One is the included shoulder strap that attaches through two rectangular slots to the right

and left of the handle. The other, for those in a wheelchair, has threaded inserts on the back for wheelchair mounting plates. Included also is a plastic stand for table top use. Just open the stand and you can place the iPad in its case in either the portrait or landscape position. The iAdapter is also an amplifier with built-in dual speakers that deliver enhanced sound that can be heard in noisy situations or at times when you need extra volume. On the left side of the case is a hi/low volume switch that also allow you to turn the sound off when necessary. The case also contains a stereo headset jack for individual listening, as well as access to the power button. The case has another very helpful feature – a small slide cover on the front of the housing that can hide the home button. If you have used an iPad with students and younger children, you will appreciate how helpful this is – it prevents the user from accidentally (or intentionally) exiting out of the app you are using. You can charge both the iPad and the built-in speakers with connections that are available without removing the case. Included, also, is a six-foot, USB cable for charging via the computer, USB charger for charging directly from an outlet, and a screen protector for the front of the iPad that will keep the screen from getting scratched, will reduce smudges and fingerprints and still allow multi-touch screen sensitivity. This is an excellent way to protect your iPad or iPad2 and use it for many different settings and applications.

**Otterbox Defender** ([www.otterbox.com](http://www.otterbox.com)) This protective iPad case provides three layers

of protection and some other nice features too. You can easily remove the back polycarbonate cover and snap it over the face for complete touch screen protection. There's a built-in stand that is handy for positioning the iPad on a table for a comfortable browsing angle. When using the iPad on a flat surface, the silicon grip pads on the bottom hold it securely in place and prevent it from moving around. There is a clear protective membrane for the touch screen, a high impact polycarbonate shell covered with a durable silicone skin with access to all buttons and ports via silicon plugs and a removable dock door. Great protection against drops, scratches, dust and bumps. (Case is not protective against water.) The Defender case makes the iPad a little heavier but gives excellent protection – in many colors, too.

**RAM Flat Surface Locking Mount** ([www.ram-mount.com](http://www.ram-mount.com)) If you are looking to permanently and safely install your iPad for general classroom or therapy use, this mount, made of high strength composite and powder coated marine grade aluminum, is great. The round base has pre-drilled holes and can be screwed into the table top flat surface. It also has a rubber ball and socket system with adjustment points. The iPad locks into the cradle with a dial combination lock that provides safety against theft. With a twist of the arm knob, you can move the iPad for optimum view position. You can change angle and orientation but not height. It is designed for iPad and iPad2 without any cases/sleeves or bumpers and provides easy access to electronic ports.

**WaterGuard Plus Waterproof Case with Padding** ([www.trendydigital.com](http://www.trendydigital.com)) Made of UV-stabilized plastic, this case guards against any wet, dirty, dusty or sandy environment. The iPad is slipped directly into the WaterGuard pocket and the transparent surface provides full access to the touch interface and the keyboard. It's a fitted form with back padding, adding additional protection to the waterproof case. There is also an adjustable strap that lets you wear the iPad around your neck or shoulder. Makes the iPad safe at the beach, near the pool, bathtub or kitchen table. It is ultra light weight – adding only 3.0 ounces.

If you are concerned about accidental damage, loss or theft, here are some other ideas:

1. If loss or theft is your concern, Find My iPad is available free if you use Apple's Mobile Me.

2. If accidental damage is your concern, [www.SquareTrade.com](http://www.SquareTrade.com) offers a two or three year warranty for drops, accidental damage and spills.

## PRINTING AND REMOTE ACCESS

**PrintBureau** (EuroSmartz Ltd: [www.euro-smartz.com](http://www.euro-smartz.com)) With this printing app, you can quickly set up and print from all printers (Mac and Windows) – wireless or not. Most wireless printers don't require any additional software – others may need a download from the Web site. You can print from Pages/Numbers and Keynote and print e-mail, text messages and



iAdapter (AMD).

Web sites that you browse, as well as address and shipping labels.

**Splashtop** (SplashtopRemote: [www.splashtopremote.com](http://www.splashtopremote.com)) This is an amazing app. With it, you can use your iPad to remotely access your computer from anywhere. (The free version supports connections up to five minutes long – so you can try it out before you buy.) Download to your iPad and then to your home or office computer or computers. This will then let you see your desktop, use your regular Web browser with Flash and see all the programs that are installed on your home computer. One of the greatest things about this is, if you have children's software installed on your home/office computer, you can connect and have that software run on your iPad. Programs that require a mouse no longer do – they all work with the iPad Touch Window. I have done this with programs such as SoftTouch's Songs I Sing in Preschool (installed on my laptop at home and accessed from my iPad at work). Amazing!

Did you know you can do a Screen Shot of your iPad – just press the power button on the upper right hand top and at the same time click the iPad button on the bottom. You will hear a click and your picture will then be in your photos. Click on it to view or e-mail.

## WORD PROCESSING AND WORD PREDICTION

**Pages** ([www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com)) For those who need to do word processing on the iPad, this is the app to get. It is completely redesigned for the iPad. You can begin with a template or import a document from Pages on the Mac or Microsoft Word from your e-mail or Mobile Me. You can edit and format the document, with colors, fonts, bold, italics, underline, centering options, insert tabs, set margins and add photos and video from your Photos app. There is spell-check and word prediction as you type. You can resize, rotate and move images. Tap to lay out your text in multiple columns or insert tables. Use the on-screen keyboard or an iPad keyboard dock. You can save and send your document to Pages or Microsoft Word or in PDF Format or copy to your MobileMe. Using AirPrint and an AirPrint enabled printer, you can send the document wirelessly to be printed. There is an extensive Pages Help section with directions to all of above, along with other features as well. You can also search by keyword for simple solutions.

**Keynote** ([www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com)) Keynote has everything you would want to create presentations, including pre-designed themes, graphics styles, animations and special effects. Pick a theme and add your slides with just a few taps. You can also open Keynote '09 or Microsoft PowerPoint files. There are predefined text

styles, as well as a selection of text options to personalize your presentation. Add photos and videos and add masks, shadows, reflections and picture frames, all just by touching. Then bring your presentation to life with high-quality animations, including Magic Move, Flip and Spin. When your presentation is done, you can show it, full-screen, on the iPad or connect your iPad to a projector and view your slides from the display. You can also send your presentation via e-mail, MobileMe, print it or transfer directly to your Mac or PC using iTunes File Sharing. You can also export to Keynote or PowerPoint or in PDF format.

**Numbers** ([www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com)) If you need to use a spreadsheet, Number is the app for that. It has everything to organize data, perform calculations and manage lists. There are pre-designed templates and you can add your own data and charts. You can also open a Number '09 or Microsoft Excel file. Use predefined styles for tables, charts, images and text or customize as you want. Enter data with the onscreen keyboards that are designed specifically for working with numbers, text, dates and formulas. Over 250 functions let you create your own formulas using a dedicated function keyboard and built-in help. When complete, you can send your spreadsheet to Numbers or Excel or in PDF format to anyone via e-mail or MobileMe to your Mac or PC. Using AirPrint, you can send sheets to a printer on your wireless network.

**Zen Tap Pro** ([www.zenbrains.com](http://www.zenbrains.com)) This valuable app is a basic word processor with word prediction. With word prediction, you type in the beginning of words and the program shows you a group of words it thinks you are typing. Click the word to insert it. This saves a lot of keystrokes, increases your speed and eliminates many spelling errors. You can also save template texts and reuse them when you need. You can assign shortcuts to your templates and access them even faster. There's a video on the Web sites that shows how this is done. There are customizable buttons, spell-checker and a text translator. Check this out if you have never used word prediction.

**Typ-O** (Anders Johansen: [www.typ-o.com](http://www.typ-o.com)) This program is another example of a word prediction program, with some additional features. As a word prediction program, you type your message, and, as you start the words, six selections appear. If you have difficulty reading and spelling, you can click the word before selecting and hear it spoken aloud. If you know the word, just touch to select. The app also predicts ahead, anticipating what the next word might be. One of the interesting and very helpful features is the homonym feature. Type in a word like "right" and some

of the choices that come up are right/write/Wright. Type in There and you will see their as one of the choices. This focuses the user on homonyms and encourages them to examine the choices. There is a choice of four voices and the ability to slow down or increase the speed of speech. If you press the speak icon on the menu bar, Typ-O will speak back the last sentence. There is also a built-in spell-check, two font types and three font sizes.

For more comprehensive word processing used for AAC purposes, see Predictable in the section on AAC.

## INTERFACES

**RJ Cooper**: ([www.rjcooper.com](http://www.rjcooper.com)) RJ Cooper has two switch interfaces for the iPad. Both operate with the same electronics, use Bluetooth 2.1 for simple pairing and have a range of about 30 feet. They have a lithium-ion battery that recharges through your USB port or USB AC charger. The Bluetooth Switch Interface has two ports to plug in two switches. The Bluetooth Cordless Super-Switch is a big yellow switch with a five-inch diameter that has the Bluetooth Switch Interface built into it so another switch isn't needed. If you do need to plug a special switch in, there are two ports, also. Any app that has been programmed for scanning/switch access can use either of these two switches interfaces. RJ Cooper also has an iPad version of his cause and effect computer program, Rad Sounds, that works with his switch interface. Just press the switch to activate – hear the music and watch the dancers dance.

**AbleNet Blue2** (AbleNet: [www.abilenetinc.com](http://www.abilenetinc.com)) AbleNet's switch interface for the iPad is called the Blue2 – it's a dual switch that provides access to the iPad via Bluetooth wireless technology up to 30 ft. It uses two AA batteries, requires pairing and is then able to use the scanning options of the iPad. You can use one or both switches through direct access using the two built-in switches or plug your own two switches into the two available ports. Blue2 supports five modes of keyboard/mouse commands (space/enter, page up/page down, left/right arrow, up/down arrow, click left/click right). There is also a Repeat switch – when this is turned on, Blue2 will emulate pressing and holding a keyboard or mouse button. The Blue2 will enter sleep mode after two hours of inactivity. Press a switch to resume normal operation. A light will quickly flash three times to indicate that the batteries are getting low and should be replaced. Any app that has been programmed for scanning/switch access can use this interface.

## AAC ON THE IPAD

**SoundingBoard** (AbleNet: [www.able-netinc.com](http://www.able-netinc.com)) With SoundingBoard, you can create communication boards with one, two, three, four, six or nine locations using AbleNet symbols (hundreds included with app) or with your own photos (from photo library or with build-in camera in iPad2). To create a board, you select the layout, pick your picture, name the location and record the message. It's quick and easy and you can create unlimited boards for any situations. You can also choose to link one board to another on any message location. There is also single and dual switch access, with scanning, using AlbelNet's Bluetooth access switch (reviewed above). You can configure SoundBoard to recognize single switch access (with a scanning interval from 0.5 to 9.0 seconds) as well as two-switch access. The app comes pre-loaded with 14 communication boards ready for use (Expressions, Emergency Information, Reading, Daily Living, Social Situations, Shopping and others.). You can use these boards or customize for individual use. For more information, see the video on AbleNet's Web site or on YouTube.

**EZ SpeechPRO** (Gus Communication Devices: [www.gusinc.com](http://www.gusinc.com)) This app is a text-based communication program, designed for those who cannot speak but are able to read. Users can speak by either typing or choosing from existing topics and phrases. They can also add their own phrases, groups of phrases or larger text entries. The different modes include Type-to-Speak (just type in what you want to say and press the speak button); Text-Save-Retrieve (create longer paragraphs or complete speeches and save them for later retrieval) and Topics and Phrases (Create your own topic and related vocabulary of phrases and sentences or use the ones already programmed. Just tap to speak.) The app comes with 14 topics and hundreds of phrases already typed in. A really nice feature is Call Share – you can go online to the Gus Web site right from your iPad, view additional topics and phrases and add them to your app. In addition, if you have created a topic and phrases, you can share those in the same way and they will be added to the Gus Web site. You can have unlimited topics and phrases. There are two versions of the app – one with a male voice and one with a female voice. Both are NeoSpeech Premium high quality voices. Gus Communication Devices, located in Washington, has been a leader in the field of assistive technology for over 18 years. They offer free tech support for the app by phone, e-mail and live chat. Watch for Gus Communication's upcoming app called TalkTablet, which is a symbol-based communication program for the iPad (and other mobile

devices). It will use Symbol Stix communication symbols (12,000), with NeoSpeech voices and variable page layouts. TalkTablet will be reviewed in the next DISKoveries.

**OneVoice** (Legend: [www.thinklegend.com](http://www.thinklegend.com)) OneVoice is a new AAC app, with pre-populated vocabulary focused on children and with a goal of easy usability. You can also easily add your own phrases and photos to customize. There are four voices to choose from (two male and two female) and you can control the speed of the speech. It contains over 100 custom-made icons and you can also use your own photos from the iPad photo gallery or from the camera. You can add new categories and then create phrases within the category for the board. On the left side of the screen, you will see all the categories (with icon and labels.) Some of the included categories are: Needs and Wants, Friends and Family, My Day, Feeling and Emotions, Places and others. Pressing one of the categories brings up the board with the phrases and messages. Touch one and it will speak. There is a Speak button to repeat and a Clear Text button.

**Predictable** (Therapy Box Limited: [www.tboxapps.com](http://www.tboxapps.com)) Predictable is designed to be used as an AAC app and it is primarily text-based. There are nine different voices with the ability to adjust speech rate, pitch and pronunciation. Users can type in their message with the onscreen keyboard with same word and next word prediction and with context-based prediction with either a UK or US dictionary. The word predictions are added to the text box by touching them. For those who need help with reading/spelling, they can be spoken aloud before being chosen. By touching the Speak button, the app will speak the entire message in the message box. There is also a phrase area – icons indicate 12 different categories (i.e. chat, help, food and drink, questions, feelings, etc.). Touch these icons to find a list of related phrases – touch the phrase and it gets added to the message box and can be spoken. New phrases can be added so that they can be accessed at a later time. If you go into the iPad settings, you will find many additional options for Predictable. There are three keyboard layouts – QWERTY, ABCDEF and High Frequency Keyboard and the option to use Direct Touch, Switch Access or Touch Anywhere. Scanning works by highlighting each of the key working sections sequentially, one at a time. When the highlight is on the area you need, press your external switch connected via an iPad switch interface or touch the screen (depending on how you have Predictable set up). With Touch Anywhere, the entire screen acts as a switch, allowing the user to tap anywhere to select the scanned portion. Other features include the ability to e-mail

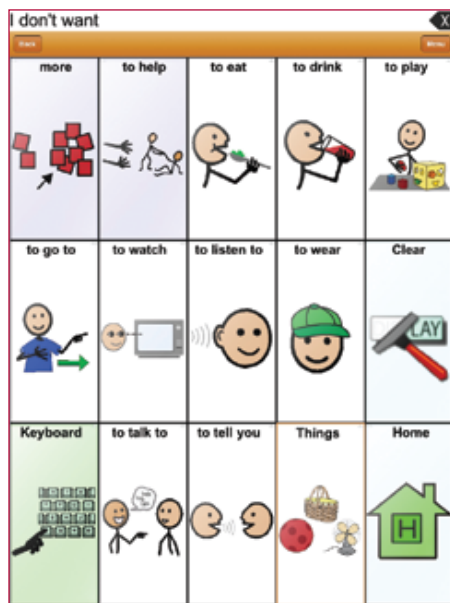


Predictable (Therapy Box Limited).

messages directly from within the app using any access method and to use the constructed message in the message window as your Facebook status update, right from the app itself. You can also back up and retrieve your customized phrase bank to and from your computer for safe keeping. An expected free upgrade will be available in June that will include increased size of keyboard, message window and function keys; a user dictionary; self-learning word prediction; one click message playback; and enhanced auditory feedback. Watch also for Therapy Box's new program, Scene & Heard (to be available by June) which will be a visual scene display with hot spots and speech, scene links and much more. A full review will be in the next DISKoveries.

**TouchChat HD – AAC with WordPower** (Silver Kite: [www.silver-kite.com](http://www.silver-kite.com)) TouchChat is a full featured AAC application, designed for individuals with autism, Down Syndrome, ALS, apraxia, stroke and other conditions that affect a person's ability use natural speech. Messages are spoken with a built-in voice synthesizer (five English speaking voices) or by playing recorded messages. TouchChat lets the user navigate through page sets and speak messages. Each page is divided into a number of buttons and linked to other pages. Buttons can be programmed to speak a message, branch to a different page, change the volume, clear the display, etc. Eight sets are included with TouchChat - Multi Chat 15 (15-location, with sentences, phrases, individual words, story-telling and visual scenes – good for emerging literacy); Primary Landscape (eight-location, with words, phrases and sentences, all symbol-based for school or at home); Primary Portrait (16-location, with words,

phrases and sentences, all symbol-based for school or home); VocabPC Landscape and VocabPC Portrait (both 12-location, with carrier phrases, interactive sentences, activity vocabulary and naming words, for individuals with developmental delays); WordPower 24 (word-based vocabulary that allows for easy and intuitive communication); and WordPower 24 with Phrases (additional phrases for easier language generation. Additional phrase sets are available as in-app purchases. All the pages, grid layouts, buttons, messages and symbols are fully customizable. You can modify the pages or create your own. There are over 10,000 Symbolstix symbols and over 20 button



Touch Chat HD- AAC (Silver Kite)



Tapspeak Choice (Conley Solutions).

actions. You can also use your own pictures. With TouchChat, you can subscribe to iShare, an online service where you can share customized pages with others. TouchChat page sets can also be transferred to Saltillo's ChatPC and ALT-Chat devices. (iPhone and iPod users should use TouchChat-AAC for iPhone and iPod.)

**My Choice Board** (Good Karma Applications: [www.goodkarmaapplications.com](http://www.goodkarmaapplications.com)) This app presents a series of visual display boards (i.e. breakfast choices, activity choices, sensory choices) from one to six pictures for those with limited communication. It gives them the opportunity to make choices. The choice board displays the words "I want" at the top and the pictures below. The user touches the preferred choice and that picture is then displayed in the "I want" strip at the top of the screen. Touch the image again and the image is enlarged and spoken (if recorded speech is added). Choice boards are easy to create and saved for future use. Choices can be included to show they are "unavailable"—a red circle with a slash is placed over the image to indicate it is unavailable. This can then be removed when the choice becomes available. When entering pictures, you can load from your photo collection or select a direct link that takes you to Google images – just enter the name of what you want and the images appear. Great feature, making finding pictures for the choice board very easy. You can put up to six choices on a page, but you can also use multiple pages for additional choices.

**Expressive** (SmartyEars: [www.smarty-yearsapps.com](http://www.smarty-yearsapps.com)) Expressive is an entry-level, easy-to-use AAC application that uses picture images and voice output (male or female voice). It comes with nine ready-made folders, each containing a board with 12 pictures in the category. The categories include basics, expressions, feeling, food, people, places, questions and verbs. It's easy and intuitive to add new images to existing folders or to create new folders for a new category. The built-in library of pictures and pre-recorded speech has over 250 images and you can also add your own.

**Tapspeak Choice** (Ted Conley: [www.conleysolutions.com](http://www.conleysolutions.com)) This app is designed as a low- to mid-tech communicator for the iPad. It uses the DynaVox/Mayer-Johnson PCS library, your own photos or images and geometric symbols for visual targets. You can record your own voice. It also includes a set of sample libraries, including pre-recorded voice. TapSpeak Choice supports scanning with a switch interface or using the iPad screen as a switch. You can use one or two switches for auto scanning and step scanning, along with other scanning options. The app comes with 15 pre-made boards. Some features

include drag and drop creation and editing of communication pages; one to 56 messages on a board; and tap-touch that is configurable for a user's needs (maximum tap duration settings and tap movement allowed). It also has blue tooth speaker support. Additional features that are being planned for upcoming releases include navigation to levels/branching, text to speech, additional board building tools and background colors.

**Proloquo2Go** (AssistiveWare: [www.proloquo2Go.com](http://www.proloquo2Go.com)) Proloquo2, one of the original AAC apps for iPhone and iPad, has upgraded many features. It has added multi-word prediction in the Typing View using AssistiveWare's Poly Predix engine. It supports British and American English and has support for VGA adapter to present on external screens for training purposes. It also has an improved toolbar layout for Typing View. For future Proloquo2Go updates, AssistiveWare is planning on switch access with scanning, which should support various switch interfaces and a major vocabulary update, as well as support for additional languages. Also, if you need, there are now Proloquo2Go keyguards, available from <http://www.laseredpics.biz>.

## THE FOLLOWING TWO APPS ARE GOOD FOR CREATING VISUAL SEQUENCES AND SOCIAL STORIES.

**Pictello** (AssistiveWare: [www.assistiveware.com](http://www.assistiveware.com)) Pictello lets you create talking photo albums and talking books. Each page can contain a picture, up to five lines of text and a voice recording or text-to-speech narration. Stories can be created with Wizard or Expert mode. Wizard mode guides you step-by-step. Expert mode lets you create your story independently with advanced options, like fonts and transitions. Stories can be shared using iTunes File Sharing or via WiFi with other Pictello users through a free account on the Pictello Sharing Server. Pictello is designed for users of all ages and skill levels – no reading skills are needed to locate and read the stories. You can use Pictello to create social stories, to create schedules, task analysis, to create a sequence, to communicate news, share events or to create talking books about an experience. It can also be used for teaching narrative skills. The current version supports the Apple VGA Adapter letting iPad, iPhone 4 and iPod Touch4G users present their stories on an external screen or mirroring all Pictello screens to the external display. Great for sharing stories in the classroom or training people on how to use Pictello. Other options include North American English male and female voices, with children's voice available for free download. No Internet connection is needed for story

creation or play back. British voices are available and other languages are in development. Four sample stories are included and there is one that is a tutorial on how to create stories. Options include volume control, speech rate, the ability to correct the pronunciation of words that are mispronounced, and to enable the story as a slide show. There is also a well designed and comprehensive Help section.

**PhotoTell** (Adaptitec: [www.adaptitec.com](http://www.adaptitec.com)) This app is designed to help you display and organize your favorite photos with audio captions. You can record a message for every picture and play it every time that photo is displayed. Photos can be linked across multiple pages by placing from one to nine picture-based buttons on each page, allowing you to create nested albums. It can be used to create social stories, to create a schedule of things to do or steps in a task, to tell a short story or used as a memory tool.

## LANGUAGE AND SPEECH

**MinimalPairs** (Synapse Apps: [www.pocketslp.com](http://www.pocketslp.com)) Designed to help target phonological processes, this program has both a receptive and an expressive activity and can be used with individual children or with two students working together. The program targets 12 processes, including cluster reduction, deaffrication, final consonant deletion, final devoicing, fronting palatal, fronting velars, gliding L, gliding R, initial consonant deletion, prevocalic voicing, stopping of fricatives and stridency deletion. You can pick one or more processes to work on and select expressive, receptive or both. The app then presents two pictures (i.e. for cluster reduction, Glow and Go, Kate and Skate). In the receptive mode, students are required to identify which of the two words in the pair contain their target sound(s). In the Expressive mode, they are cued to say both words. Data tracking buttons are provided for therapists, parents and teachers to enter whether the response was correct, incorrect or approximate. Notes can be taken at any time by pressing an icon that brings up a notepad that can be printed or e-mailed. Highly detailed diagrams can also be presented to provide images that highlight correct/incorrect tongue positioning. This app has excellent data collection and reporting features. There are three report formats. Spreadsheet contains names, dates, processes, percentages and raw scores. Report Card is a table with accuracy percentages and the exact word pairs that were scored correct, incorrect and approximate. The report card also has a "homework text" option where the therapist can describe specifically what and how to practice at home. Comment boxes for parents are provided also. This report card can be printed or e-mailed. Line Graph is a color-coded graph that demonstrates the percentages of all processes over the last five sessions.

**Speech with Milo: Verbs** (Doonan Speech Therapy: [www.speechwithmilo.com](http://www.speechwithmilo.com)) This app was designed for children, approximately ages 2-10, to build vocabulary and develop grammar skills. It's a great way to develop vocabulary of verbs. For older children, you can use the app to increase sentence length and to develop more complex sentences, as well as teaching past tense. There are over 100 actions and you can play with all of them or select the ones you want to work on. The format is simple – Milo (a mouse) appears on screen and the instruction is spoken, "Touch Milo to begin." Milo then animates and a verb is spoken (i.e. sleep – Milo lies down and goes to sleep). The written verb is displayed at the bottom of the screen to reinforce reading skills. If you press the Phrase button on screen, a sentence will be spoken (i.e. Milo is sleeping on the floor.) Milo takes a break every once in a while with some cheese and a dance. The child gets to feed Milo some cheese and watch him dance, as a reward for their hard work. The app comes with two sets of instructions – one for speech therapists and one for parents. This is a very well done app and its graphics and animation are very appealing to young children.

**Speech with Milo: Prepositions** (Doonan Speech Therapy: [www.speechwithmilo.com](http://www.speechwithmilo.com)) Every speech pathologist is looking for ways to help teach prepositions and here's a fun app to help with that language task. Following the same format as the Milo app for Verbs, children begin by touching Milo. They then hear the location word and watch Milo animate to illustrate it. The printed word appears and there is a button to press to hear a sentence that describes Milo (i.e. Milo is going across the street; Milo is below the cloud, etc.).

**Language Builder** (Mobile Education Store: [www.mobile-educationstore.com](http://www.mobile-educationstore.com)) Language Builder is designed to build receptive and expressive language skills, as well as sentence formulation. The program displays a picture and the app prompts the user to "make a sentence about the picture." Users are then able to record their sentence or skip the picture and get a new one. There are three levels of hints – Level 1 presents a text entry on top with a sentence cue. (i.e. The girl is building a \_\_\_\_\_ at the \_\_\_\_\_.) Level 2 presents a shorter text hint (i.e. The girl ..... ) and Level 3 presents a spoken hint (Use the words girl and sandcastle in your sentence.). Sentences can be saved and e-mailed too. In addition to the pictures included with the app, there are additional language packs available (topics such as Hobbies, Inside Playtime, Medical, Pets, Places, etc.).

**Conversation Builder** (Mobile Education Store: [www.mobile-educationstore.com](http://www.mobile-educationstore.com)) This app is designed to help elementary-aged children learn how to have multi-exchange conversations with their peers in a variety of social settings. The user is presented with a picture and asked "How would you start this conversation?" It presents three choices. If the user reads and touches the correct choice, they can then record their answer and play it back. When they click Next, there is a response



**TouchChat**



**WordPower 24**

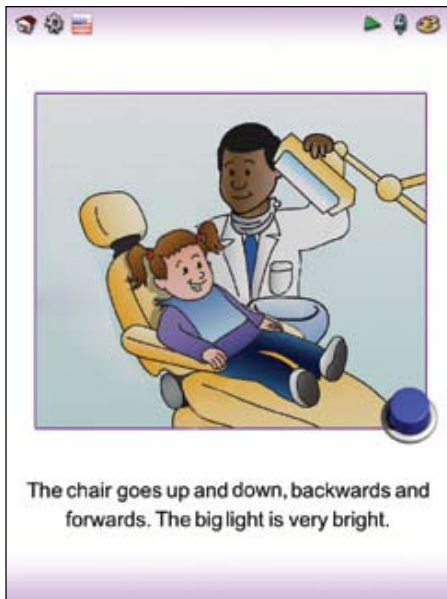


**MultiChat 15**

**"Wow - TouchChat is a heavy hitter in the realm of AAC app's for iPhone and iPad. And the autism community is better because of it".**

Shane Nurnberg  
[autismepicenter.com](http://autismepicenter.com)

[www.silver-kite.com/touchChat](http://www.silver-kite.com/touchChat)



Off We Go- Going To The Dentist (Kiwa Media).

to their question and then another choice on how to continue the conversation. There are four levels of exchange: one on one to four exchanges, one on one to eight exchanges, Group – four exchanges and Group – eight exchanges. The Conversation Initiator can be a student (the user), a peer (the iPad) or you can alternate between both. Conversations can be saved. This app also has additional available modules, with topics such as Animal Themed conversations, Holiday themed conversation, Conversations with Friends around Town, Playground, Water and Winter themed conversations.

**Pocket SLP Articulation** (Synapse Apps: [www.pocketslp.com](http://www.pocketslp.com)) This app is designed to replace traditional flash cards the speech therapist uses to work on articulation. It has over 2,100 high quality flashcards targeting both the word and sentence levels. There are 29 phoneme selections, seven of which are devoted to /r/, r blends and its vocalic variations. It includes also /ing/, /sblends/ and /blends/. Select one or more phonemes from the list. Then learners say the word or sentences as the therapist presses the correct, incorrect or approximate icons for real time scoring. The app does not speak the words or the sentences in either the regular or the practice mode. At any time during viewing the images, a button can be pushed to reveal two detailed diagrams (palate and side views) indicating the specific tongue positioning for the phoneme being targeted. While viewing the diagram, an audio recording of the phoneme can be played. There is a summary screen that reveals percentages specific to phoneme and

word position. The results of a session may be e-mailed.

**Speech Tutor** (Synapse Apps: [www.pocketslp.com](http://www.pocketslp.com)) This app was designed to be used by college students, parents and therapists, as well as those trying to improve their American English. In the beginning, there is a basic text tutorial that provides the user with a basic knowledge of sound production, as well as a detailed description of each sound. Speech Tutor offers animations of side views and front views of each sound production, both of which can be viewed at 3 different speeds. The sequences can also be paused at any given point. Just press the play button to start and pause at any time. There are 132 animations of 21 different phonemes. When you select a phoneme, you can also bring up a text with the description of the sound, indicating phonetic symbol, voice or voiceless, place and manner of articulation. It also lists an approximate age of emergence and age of mastery. Along with viewing the animations, users can also view a palate diagram to further demonstrate where on the palate the tongue should be placed. Another great feature of this app is that the users of the application can record their own production of the sound and then compare it to a correctly modeled production. With this technique, they can clearly hear their production and the modeled production and then record again if needed or if additional practice is desired.

**Scene Speak** (Good Karma Applications: [www.goodkarmaapplications.com](http://www.goodkarmaapplications.com)) This app lets you create talking visual scene displays. An image can be edited with “sound areas” that can be selected and used for vocabulary development or communication. Images can be added into books by theme or area of interest. Images can be uploaded to the app from your home computer or through an online image search. The images than can be resized and active “sound areas” can be added. The application allows both the number and size of the area to be customized. Spoken messages can be added to the sound areas by using the text-to-speech feature with one of five preloaded voices or you can record your own voice. You can back up your saved books to your home computer or you can share them with someone else who also owns the app. Scene Speak comes preloaded with 11 generic scenes (kitchen, bedroom, park, doctor’s office, etc.).

**Slater Software** ([www.slatersoftware.com](http://www.slatersoftware.com)) Here’s an exciting language application for the iPad. Download free PDF files created in Pix Writer by Slater Software directly to your iPad or as an e-mail attachment. These wonderful files include text with symbols for children and adults who have difficulty

reading without visual supports. Then select “open in iBooks.” Once that is completed, go to your iPad Settings—> Accessibility and turn on Voice Over. Now go back to iBooks, select your PDF and it will read aloud. Excellent way to reinforce language, symbol use, social skills with Social Stories and much more. If you own Picture It and Pix Writer, you can create your own documents on the computer and save them as PDF files and do the same with your own original material. Load a Summer Reading List, reinforce concepts, add worksheets to reinforce curriculum, make communication boards and more. With the iPad, you can also send these stories home to your students for nightly reading. Another good application from Slater would be to download a PDF of a communication board you are using – you won’t be able to use VoiceOver for this, but you could still have the communication board available if needed (a low-tech, no voice version) when mobile and traveling or running errands. The possibilities are endless. If you visit [www.slatersoftware.com](http://www.slatersoftware.com), you will find a handout that will further explain how to use these features.

## OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

**Dexterity – Fine Motor Skill Development** (BinaryLabs: [www.dexterity.net](http://www.dexterity.net)) Dexterity is a set of hand exercises designed to improve fine motor skills and handwriting readiness in children and adults. It takes full advantage of the iPad’s multi-touch interface to help build strength, control and dexterity. There are three different types of activities. In Tap It, you put your thumb on a designated spot and then have to tap other dots with your other fingers without moving your thumb. These exercises get progressively faster and more complex. It encourages thumb and finger active range of motion, develops isolation of finger movements, improves finger dexterity and controls, and encourages attending skills. In Pinch It, you have to use your thumb and index finger to pinch the crabs to squish them. This activity also becomes more complex as the crabs begin to move around. This provides practice with the fine motor manipulation skills needed for picking up objects and holding a pencil. The Write It activity is following dots to trace lower case letters. If the finger misses the target, users are guided back to the spot they last did correctly and continue again. Great for finger control, stroke sequencing and perceptual abilities for writing skills. There is also an automatic tracking and reporting feature.

There are a large group of free apps that have excellent application in occupational therapy. Here’s a list of some of them: Baby Painter, Coloring, Doodle Buddy, Analogies for Kids, Color Slapps, Baby Finger, Scratch a

Sketch Lite, Show Me Stories, 10 Pin Shuffle Lite, Bubble, I Say, Baby Shapes, My First Puzzles, Puzzle Me, Shape Builder Lite, Tozzler Lite, My First Tangrams, Shape Puzzle for Kids, Dots for Tots, Find the Differences, BabyWriter, Draw ABC HD Lite, and iWrite Words Lite.

## CHILDREN'S BOOKS

**Oceanhouse Media** ([www.oceanhouse-media.com](http://www.oceanhouse-media.com)) This company continues to be a leader in bringing classic children's books to the iPad. In the few short months since the first article I wrote about the iPad, they have developed many new apps. Some of these are Dr Seuss favorites: Horton Hears a Who!, I Can Read With My Eyes Shut!; Berenstain Bears books: The Berenstain Bears Love Their Neighbors; Little Critter: Little Critter's The New Potty, Little Critter's Me Too!, Little Critter's Just For You, and Little Critter's When I Get Bigger; along with other classics like Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed. All the books are presented with three ways to read. In Read to Me, the story is read aloud, page by page, with word highlighting. Readers listen and interact by touching pictures to hear their names, by swiping to turn the pages, by pressing words to hear them spoken individually or by touching and holding the text to hear it read over again. In Read It Myself mode, all the same options are available, but the story is not read automatically. If the user wants a word or a page read, they can just press and hold. In Auto Play mode, the story will read in entirety without the user having to swipe to hear the whole story. Oceanhouse Media now has several "lite" versions online – in these free apps, you can download and try the first 10 pages of the book before buying the whole book. Lite versions are available for Just Me and My Mom, Dr. Seuss' ABC, and The Cat and the Hat. Once you try them, you will want them all!

**Off We Go Books** (Kiwa Media: ([www.kiwa-media.com](http://www.kiwa-media.com))) These are two excellent books to help children understand and be prepared for experiences that might concern them. Off We Go – Going To The Dentist: In this 15-page book, the pictures are clear and the narration is simple. The words highlight as they are spoken. Touching individual words speaks them. Narration can be automatic when a page is turned or users can choose to touch an icon to have the page spoken. Every detail of the experience is shown and narrated in a calm and very encouraging way. Some of the pages have a little blue button – press it to get additional animation. After the story, common vocabulary is presented and reviewed. The options include the choice of turning background music on/off and the ability to record and use your own narration. The program

can be spoken in UK English, US English or in Spanish. Each page can also be turned into a color book page and children can color them in and then chose to use their pictures as part of the regular story or just save them. Off We Go – Going on a Plane is done in a similar manner, with similar features and options. It goes step by step through the experience of a plane trip – from arriving at the airport, standing in line, checking baggage, going through security, waiting, boarding, taking off and landing and waiting for baggage. These are wonderful stories, especially for children who might have concerns about both experiences. Other excellent books from Kiwa Media include Sam The Biggest Fire Truck and Flick The Little Fire Engine (nice stories with rhymes and repetitive lines, simple vocabulary, clear graphics, with all the features of the Off We Go Series), the Milly Molly series (Milly Molly and the Tree Hut, Milly Molly Go Camping, Milly Molly and the Bike Ride and many others. These books relate the adventures of two girls from different ethnic background and their multi-cultural friends. The books have been written to promote the acceptance of diversity, sound values and the learning of life skills. "We may look different but we feel the same." Kiwa has several "lite" versions of their books to

try for free – they contain the first five pages, but all the features are active so you can see the wonderful graphics, highlighting, coloring books and other options.

**How Are You? The Little Book of Feelings** (Zuuka! GmbH) This action story book is all about feelings. The opening page shows 14 different expressions for children to explore. Press any one and then swipe to hear a short paragraph about the feeling. There's always a suggestion related to the feeling. For example, This is Julia. She is scared and shaking with fear. Can you tell Julia what you are afraid of and what you do about it? It then goes on to another picture that shows how Julia handles her fear. These short stories are very helpful in encouraging children to think and talk about feeling and do a variety of related activities. There's also a concentration game with the faces and a playful feeling xylophone.

## EARLY LEARNING

**Kindermusik** (Night & Day Studios: [www.kindermusik.com](http://www.kindermusik.com)) The Kindermusik app gives you access to over 100 of the best classic children's songs, nursery rhymes and stories, as well as Kindermusik originals (WiFi connection needed). It's like Pandora for children. Songs are divided into groups, such as Bounces and

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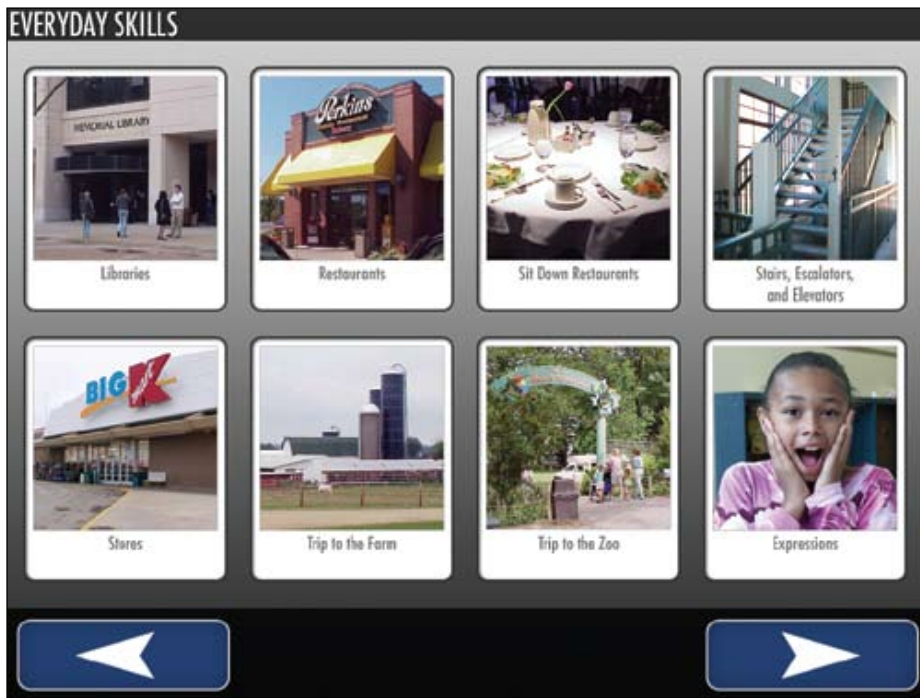
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**Peekaboo Forest** (Night & Day Studios: [www.nightanddaystudios.com](http://www.nightanddaystudios.com)) This is the third in the wonderful Peekaboo series from Night & Day. Watch for something moving in the scene and touch to find the animal and hear the sound it makes. Look for wiggling tails and moving leaves, watch the seasons change and find the animal in those scenes too. Narration can be in English (adult or child speaker) or in Spanish (adult speaker). Animals sounds can also be turned on or off. The scenes are beautiful drawings by Charley Harper and very creative and visually pleasing. Watch for some new apps coming soon from Night & Day Studios.

**Quibble Kids** (Night and Day Studios and Chess Pie Media: (Night & Day Studios: [www.nightanddaystudios.com](http://www.nightanddaystudios.com)) This is a fun learning game for children of all ages. It's a matching category game that uses three-dimensional spinning cubes. It's good for spatial reasoning, memory and language skills. There are 50 puzzle sets with over 200 images for the original picture match games. (Additional puzzle packs are also available). The children are presented with four picture cubes on screen – by sliding across each, they can “spin” the cube to see all four sides. With a little cuing and lots of exploration, they will see that one side of each cube belongs to the same category as one side on each of the other cubes (i.e. one cube will have farm animals, butterflies,

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musical instruments, and garden tools). When all four are chosen, the app speaks the category name. Keep spinning until all four sides have been matched up. For older children who can read, you can do word matches and math activities too. There's also a Quibble version for adults. Great game for language and fun.

**Duck Duck Moose** ([www.duckduckmoosedesign.com](http://www.duckduckmoosedesign.com)) Some of our favorite and classic pre-school songs and rhymes are brought to life in this excellent group of interactive activities by the Duck Duck Moose developers. *Wheels on the Bus* is an interactive book that lets young children poke or slide things on the screen to see what happens. The song is sung as players slide and touch to move the bus, to open and close doors, to move the driver's hand, to swish the wipers, to move people, to pop bubbles, to turn wheels and more. Touching the arrow changes the verse. The song can be sung in English, French, Spanish, Italian or German or played by musical instruments (violin, cello, piano and more). You can even record yourself singing. *Old MacDonald* is an interactive book too – same format, but each turn of the page brings another animal, another verse – with multiple animations when pictures are touched. The same options for different languages and recording are available. In *Itsy Bitsy Spider*, each page reveals another phrase of the song with multiple and delightful animations. Touch the spider for the next verse. *Baa Baa Black Sheep* is full of more surprises – it combines two popular nursery rhymes – *Baa Baa Black Sheep* and *Row Row Row Your Boat* in a delightful

adventure. Explore the island and row your boat while visiting with the sheep and his friends. Explore three underwater worlds and look for matching puzzle pieces hidden throughout the program. Find objects in the different scenes and match them to the shapes (outlines) in the puzzles. Touch to load sheep in the boat, row the boat and much more. Great fun. *Fish School* is another delightful interactive program – colorful schools of fish transform themselves into different letters, numbers, shapes, colors and more. Touch the fish to go on to the next in the sequence (A-Z, 1-20), see fish form different shapes, change colors, spot the different fish, play concentration, sing the ABC song, and more. There's a play activity where children can tap a fish to make it swim faster, drag to move it and hold it down to make it grow bigger.

**Autism Colors, Autism Shapes, Autism Letters** ([zBobbapps.com](http://zBobbapps.com)) These three apps have been developed specifically to be used for Discrete Trial Training (DTT) and are designed to be very simple and to minimize distracting stimuli. The apps can be used to help teach children with autism, attention deficit disorder and other attention and focus problems. They are available currently in English, French, Norwegian and Spanish, with other languages being added. Videos demonstrating the correct use of the apps will be placed on the Web site. *Autism Colors* uses DTT to help children learn the basic colors. There is a sheet of instructions on how to select colors, trial time, inter-trial interval, etc. These instructions also inform you on how to progress from one level to another, using the DTT techniques. There is also a practice mode where the colors appear on screen and children can just touch to hear the color named. Once the program starts, students are asked to find the color named. This is followed with either a positive (Good job, I knew you could do it, Correct, Right, etc.) response or an indication that the answer was not right (Not right, try again, Oops, Please try again.) After the trial, users are returned to the Menu screen. *Autism Letters* follows the same format, with activities for both upper case and lowercase letters, and types, including simple sans serif, simple serif, hand printed and hand cursive. *Autism Shapes* is similar also, with a total of 16 shapes that can be displayed as solid shapes, outlined shapes or object sets (i.e. star is a star fish, circle is a pizza). The authors of these activities state that these apps are not designed to be general purpose games, but rather clinically tested training approaches for children with a specific type of learning disability.

## COMMUNITY AND TRANSITIONS

**AbleLink Technologies, Featuring Content from Attainment** (AbleLink Technologies: [www.ablelinktech.com](http://www.ablelinktech.com)) These two apps are outstanding. They present short, narrated story sequences with about 10 pictures to each sequence. The pictures are clear and realistic, and the narration is presented in a clear and simple manner – sentences are well constructed and to the point. Users can have the narration repeated at any time just by touching the Replay button. From any screen, they can go back, go forward or stop and return to main picture menu. The picture menu has eight pictures on each page with five pages, presenting 40 different sequences for each story. Users of Attainment's Life Skills Reader (one of my favorite programs for Windows) will recognize some of the sequences. The presentation is outstanding and the program is excellent for older learners, especially those who are transitioning to new settings and in need of assistance with community skills. Everyday Skills features 40 sequences on the community, transition and transportation skills, including topics such as Doors, Barbershops, Fast Food Restaurants, Grocery stores, Libraries, Getting Ready for School, The Lunchroom, Community Signs, Getting Around Town, Working in an Office, Riding the School Bus and much more. Living Safely features 27 important safety skills topics in a similar format. It includes Home Safety (13 sequences, such as Fire Safety, Bathroom Safety, Medicine Cabinet Safety, Mealtime, Electrical Safety, etc.); Personal Safety (14 sequences, such as Swimming Safety, Freetime Safety, Relationship Safety, Internet Safety, Pet Safety, Getting Lost, etc.).

**My Health, My Choice, My Responsibility** (AbleLink Technologies: [www.ablelinktech.com](http://www.ablelinktech.com)) AbleLink has partnered with the Westchester Institute for Human Development, a leader in promoting health for individuals with special needs to create this new app. It is designed to be used directly by users with special needs to learn about healthy living in a self-directed manner or as part of a group learning activity under the direction of a leader. There are eight sections to the app, including Take Charge of your Health, Develop a Health Plan, Be a Health Self-Advocate, Get Moving, Eat Right, Be Healthy at Home, Feel Good About Yourself and Others and Stay on Track. For each session, there is a video covering the topic, a section called Test What You Learned (all questions and answers are spoken aloud) and then Things to Remember will remind the user of the most important points in the session (with links to download forms when needed). The videos and other sections are extremely well done –

clear pictures, simple narration with adequate detail in short, simple sentences. Users have control to repeat, move ahead or move back at all times. If facilitated by an instructor, this app can be used together with the My Health, My Choice, My Responsibility Trainer's Manual, located at <http://community.wihd.org/page.aspx?pid=339>. Three additional health tools are available online for use with this app – My Medical Appointment Form, Health Information Form and My Health Plan.

## SO MANY MORE ... MORE TO COME IN FUTURE DISCOVERIES.

Joan Tanenhaus, M.A., CCC, Speech-Language Pathologist/Assistive Technology Specialist, is Founder and Executive Director of Technology for Language and Learning, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to advancing the use of computers and technology with children and adults with Special Needs. (e-mail: [ForTLL@aol.com](mailto:ForTLL@aol.com)) ■

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