

VOICE OUTPUT COMMUNICATION DEVICES

(for Students who are Nonverbal or who Speak with Limited Intelligibility)

Name of Device	Description	Linguistic Level of User	Cost
Big Mack*, Partner/One	Activates a single message when pressed; easily recorded.	Non-symbolic user - may or may not have communicative intent; may be beginning to learn picture-object association; may help to teach communicate cause and effect; may also be used as a supplementary device for higher-level users.	\$
Step-by-step Communicator (may also be used as a switch)	Capable of having series of messages activated by pressing the device sequentially; easily recorded.	Non-symbolic or Beginning Symbolic Users - who are beginning to learn picture - object association; may also be used as a supplementary device for high level users.	\$
Partner Two, iTalk 2	Similar to single-message devices (above), but have two messages.	Non-symbolic or Beginning Symbolic Users - who are beginning to learn picture - object association; may also be used as a supplementary device for high level users. May also help teach choice-making.	\$
Tech/Four; Partner Four; GoTalk 4+	Have 4 - 8 messages; some are desktop and some are portable.	Beginning Symbolic Users - who have picture-object association and have a vocabulary of 2 to 8 words; may also be used as a supplementary device for higher-level users; may help teach choice-making.	\$
Tech Talk; GoTalk 9+, GoTalk 20+	Have 2 - 9 messages available at on time with levels which allows storage of recorded messages for several overlays; some are desktop and some are portable	Beginning Symbolic Users - who have picture-object association and have a vocabulary of 8 to 20 words.	
Tech Speak	Has 32 Messages on 8 levels; portable.	Symbolic Users with Beginning Sentence Structure - who have a vocabulary of roughly 32 - 70 words and may be beginning to combine symbols to create 2 - word utterances.	\$\$
Tech Scan, Tech Scan Plus	Similar to Tech Speak but has visual scanning; Tech Scan Plus also has auditory scanning.	Symbolic Users with Beginning Sentence Structure - who have a vocabulary of roughly 32 - 70 words and may be beginning to combine symbols to create 2 - word utterances.	\$\$
Smart 128	May have 10 - 40 messages; option: comes with levels; portable; scanning capability.	Symbolic Users with Beginning Sentence Structure - who have a vocabulary of roughly 32 - 70 words and may be beginning to combine symbols to create 2 - word utterances. May be used as a supplementary device for a higher level user.	\$\$
SpringBoard Plus, SpringBoard Plus Bilingual	Portable device that uses "Minispeak" / "Unity" which allows access to large vocabulary using multi-meaning icons (has icon prediction); has color dynamic display (touch screen); has options for 4, 8, 15, and 32 key displays and small activity row/message bar; uses digitized speech; contains large vocabulary of core and fringe vocabulary for young children; messages pre-recorded with a child's voice; visual and auditory scanning; may be accessed by infrared headpointer; comes with teaching software.	Designed for children as young as 18 months linguistic level up to around 30 - 36 months linguistic level who may become Advanced Symbol Users; may develop the ability to make multiple associations to single icons; have growing vocabulary; may move on to Vantage or Pathfinder.	\$\$
DynaVox Devices (a) M3 (b) V (c) Vmax (d) Maestro	Color dynamic display devices; DynaMyte is portable, DynaVox requires a laptray or wheelchair mount; comes with "gateway" linguistic software which allows user to generate grammatically correct sentences with levels from 18 months linguistic level to adults; designed to have users move through the various linguistic levels as skills develop; other linguistic software extra: display may have 1 to 75 symbols; message bar; text-to-speech with spelling and word prediction; visual and auditory scanning; can be accessed by mouse emulator.	Designed for users who are or may become Advanced Symbol Users - have large vocabulary which they need to access easily; need word endings and function words (a, an, have, is, however), and produce grammatically correct complex sentences; May also be for lower level (as low as 18 months linguistic level) who may "grow into" this device.	\$\$\$\$
Vantage Lite, Vanguard	Portable device that uses "Minispeak"/"Unity" which allows access to large vocabulary using multi-meaning icons (has icon prediction); also has "Word Core" software (a word-based communication program for literate users); text-to-speech capability with spelling and word prediction; has a color dynamic display (touch screen) with 32-screen locations (4, 8, and 45 screen locations also available); uses synthesized and digitized speech; contains huge vocabulary of core and fringe vocabulary; message bar and act.	Designed for users who are or may become Advance Symbol Users - have large vocabulary which they need to access easily; need word endings and function words (a, have, is) and produce complex sentences: May also be for users on a somewhat lower level who show possibility of "growing into" this device.	\$\$\$\$