

AAC Tips for Individuals with Autism

In honor of Autism Awareness and Acceptance month this April, it is important take a deeper look at what can be done to support individuals with autism and their families. Individuals with autism may have difficulty expressing that they are in pain, are uncomfortable, or feel sick. This lack of communication can unfortunately cause illnesses to be overlooked, thus sometimes leading to the development of critical and serious medical conditions. In addition to teaching these individuals to express themselves using traditional grid-based communication systems, **Visual Scene Displays (VSDs)** can be a powerful solution. VSDs are available on various iPad apps, and are also often features embedded within dedicated AAC devices. By creating “hot spots” on a real photograph or representational image, VSDs can help to build language, literacy, and communication within “real life” contexts, environments, and situations. Specifically, a VSD can be created to facilitate an individual’s ability to express a level of pain he/she is feeling on a particular body part, as is seen below on a page from the iPad app, Scene Speak by Good Karma Applications.



Additional iPad apps that are primarily utilized for their VSD capabilities are *Snap Scene* by Tobii Dynavox and *Scene and Heard* by Therapy Box. Join us at NEAT on Thursday, April 6 for a special autism awareness event to learn more about visual scene displays and other helpful AAC device features for individuals with autism!

Don't forget to look for app discounts from companies that are celebrating Autism this month!

AAC App Discounts for Autism Acceptance Month April 2017



Proloquo2Go, Gateway to Language & Learning© for Proloquo2Go, & Proloquo4Text (iOS)
50% off April 2,3,4
(Keeble and Pictello also 50% off!)



Speak for Yourself!
50% off (\$149.99 USD)
(iOS)
March 31 - April 4th



LAMP Words for Life
50% off
(iOS)
April 2 - 3
(WordToob video modeling app also 50% off!)



CoughDrop
50% off lifetime license
(5 years w/ free data & reporting) - \$100
(Web-based: iOS, Android, Windows)
March 31-April 7th



Total Talk
\$99.00
through the end of April
(iOS)



Avaz Pro
50% off first week of April
tentative
(iOS)



AACORN AAC
new version coming - sale TBA
(iOS)



Lauren S. Enders, MA, CCC-SLP-March 27, 2017

Compass, Compass with PODD, Compass with Gateway, Compass with Eye Tracking, Communicator 5, & Snap Scene
(iOS, Windows)

50% off March 29th - April 5th

ALSO... 50% ALL and 25% all Boardmaker software, add-ons, and PCS symbols through mayer-johnson.com and 25% off Boardmaker Online personal & professional annual subscriptions through boardmakeronline.com
(Boardmaker sale US & Canada only)



Alexicom AAC apps
Decimal Sale - move decimal one space to left
April 1st- April 8th
(iOS and Android)