

Message Management, Vocabulary, and Symbols

Message Management

- Is the formulation, storage, retrieval of single words, linguistic codes, and messages to support communication, which involves:
 - Greetings (essential to initiation of an interaction)
 - Small talk (used for initiating prior to information sharing)
 - Narration and storytelling (critical for social closeness)
 - Procedural descriptions (rich in content)
 - Content-specific conversations (informational give-'n-take)
 - Partings (wrap-up remarks/farewells – signal intent to finish)



Vocabulary

- Vocabulary varies depending on the context
- Vocabulary is effected by modality
- Vocabulary varies by communicative skills
- *Pre-literate Individuals*
 - Coverage vocabulary: messages that cover basic needs
 - Developmental vocabulary: encourage language and vocabulary growth
- *Non-literate Individuals*
 - Functional rather than developmental vocabulary
- *Literate individuals*
 - Letter-by-letter or word-by-word
 - Emphasis on rate of retrieval (timing enhancement, message accelerations, fatigue reduction)



Symbols and Symbol Varieties

- A variety of symbols exist:
 - Real photos
 - Mayer Johnson Picture Communication Symbols (PCS)
 - Unity/Minspeak (PRC)
 - Pixons (combination of PCS and PRC)
 - Symbolstix (like in Proloquo2Go and News2You)
- Understanding is affected by color, contrast, and focus, as well as:
 - Concreteness: clear depiction
 - Familiarity & Context: often seen/part of familiar activities
 - Wholeness: complete people/object



Access Methods: Selection Sets and Selection Techniques

Selection Sets

Include visual, auditory or tactile presentation of messages & codes.

- *Types of display sets:*
- Fixed, dynamic, hybrid, and/or visual scene displays
- *Physical characteristics:*
- Number, size, spacing, arrangement, orientation of display, shape, color and contrast variation



Direct Selection

It is the act of selecting a desired item directly from a set.

- Selection options:
- Physical contact, pressure or depression
- Pointing (eye-gaze, joystick, etc.)
- Speech recognition
- Activation strategies:
- Touch, timed/pushed release, or filtered/averaged activation
- Keypad
- Mouse, joystick, eye gaze, etc.



Scanning

- Indirect access aided by either a communication partner or electronic technology (i.e., the device itself) in a predetermined configuration.

Switches:

- Mechanical switch
- Touchscreen switch,
- Sip-‘n-puff switch, proximity switches, etc.

Activation strategies:

- Circular
- Linear
- Group-item (row-column or column-row)

Timing techniques:

- Direct/inverse
- Automatic
- Step scanning



Read more here:

➔ <http://www.communicationmatters.org.uk/page/access-methods>

Try out scanning:

➔ https://faculty.washington.edu/dowden/tcollab_aac_files/aac_module_scanning/aac_scanning_about_intro.htm

Head-tracking and eye-gaze are other methods!



Watch this!

➔ <http://practicalaac.org/video/video-of-the-week-everything-you-wanted-to-know-about-switches/>

Access Methods: Feedback, Output and Input

Feedback

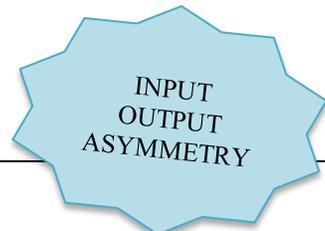
- Tells the individual using AAC that an item has been selected
 - Offers information about the message being generated
 - *Types*
- Activation feedback: information sent back to the user upon activation of the input device
- Auditory
 - Visual
- Message Feedback: provides information about the message after it has been formulated
- Auditory
 - Visual



Input-Output Asymmetry: we can't expect individuals using AAC to learn how to use it without seeing it action. Aided language stimulation is key!

Message Output and Input

- Message output: what is sent to the communication partner
- Synthetic speech (text-to-speech, digitized speech)
 - Print
 - Gestures, pointing and sign
 - Non-electronic/low-tech aided symbols
- Message input: information people using AAC receive from communication partners (usually)
- Natural speech
 - Gestures
 - Vocalizations

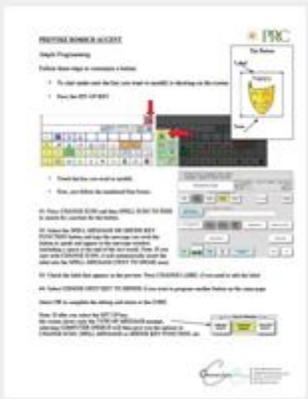
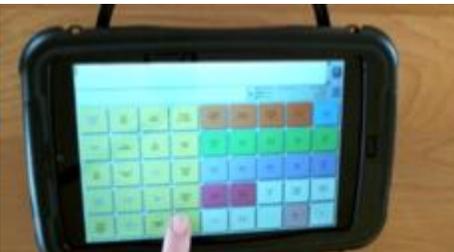


Visual Output and Input

- Visual output: serves to clarify messages when the listener may not understand, or be able to hear.
- Types:
 - Hard copy (printed copy)
 - Computer screen messages
 - Aided and unaided symbol displays
- Visual input: supports receptive language development and comprehension
- Aided and unaided symbols

Prentke Romich Company AAC Devices	
	<p><i>Accent 800</i></p> <p>The smallest and most portable PRC device, the Accent 800 is lightweight and features a high-definition 8” touch-screen display. It features multiple access options and direct selection with a battery life of 7-9 hours.</p>
	<p><i>Accent 1000</i></p> <p>Lightweight and portable, the Accent 1000 has a 10.1” touch-screen display for easy access. Preloaded with Unity®, the proven language system from PRC, the Accent 1000 offers multiple access options including the NuEye™ Tracking System, the latest eye-gaze technology from PRC.</p>
	<p><i>Accent 1400</i></p> <p>Featuring a large 14” touch-screen display and multiple access options, the Accent 1400 is the perfect choice for individuals with complex access needs or those who want larger icons. The Accent 1400 offers a choice of vocabulary options featuring Unity® with LAMP Words for Life™, CoreScanner™ and WordCore. Other available vocabulary options include Essence™ for literate adults and WordPower™.</p>
	<p><i>Words for Life™ Nova</i></p> <p>The Nova is a dedicated speech-generating device that features the WFL 84-location vocabulary on a durable platform. The WFL vocabulary is an adaptation of Unity that supports the Language Acquisition through Motor Planning (LAMP) approach.</p>
	<p><i>NuEye Tracking System</i></p> <p>The NuEye Tracking System is the most advanced eye gaze system and is available for the Accent 1200 (no longer being made) and Accent 1000. It provides full visual control of the device. Precise, lightweight, and compact, NuEye requires no head-mounted equipment.</p>

Prentke Romich Company AAC Device: Accent		
<p>Prentke Romich Company (PRC) offers a range of devices to meet the unique needs of individuals. In general, PRC devices offer the following:</p>		 <p>Learn about PRC's history (9:19)</p> <p>➔ https://www.prentrom.com/about-us</p>
<p>Device Options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accent 1400 • Accent 1000 • Accent 800 • Words for Life (WFL) NOVA <p>Icon Options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minspeak • Pixons • PCS (special purchase)/Photos 	<p>Language Systems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unity • WordCore • WordPower • LAMP/Words for Life <p>Access Methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct access • Scanning/Switch • Eye-gaze 	

PRC Resources: Accent		
 	General Information	<p>Watch Accent Training Videos on Commūnicāre's YouTube Channel:</p>  <p align="center"><i>Accent Basic Programming</i></p>  <p align="center"><i>Accent Backing Up a User Area</i></p>
	Hide and Show Keys	
	Adjusting the Time	
	Adjusting Word Pronunciation	
	Simple Programming	
	Importing Photos for Icons	
	Backing Up a User Area	
	Loading a User Area	
Creating and Linking a Page		

Prentke Romich Company AAC Device: Vantage and Vantage Lite

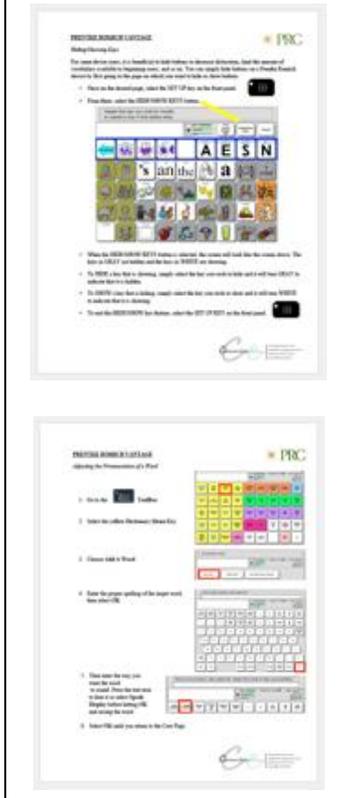
Prentke Romich Company (PRC) used to make Vantage, Vanguard and ECO devices. Although no longer made, the company continues to support them.



- Device Options:**
- Vantage Plus
 - Vantage
 - Vantage Lite
 - (ECO & Vanguard)
- Icon Options:**
- Minspeak
 - Pixons
 - PCS (special purchase)
 - Real Photos

- Language Systems:**
- Unity
 - WordCore
 - WordPower
 - Words for Life (newer devices)
- Access Methods:**
- Direct access
 - Scanning/Switch
 - Head tracking (Vanguard)
 - Eye gaze (ECO)

PRC Resources: Vantage and Vantage Lite



- General Information
- System Lock
- Hide and Show Keys
- Adjusting Word Pronunciation
- Simple Programming
- Importing Photos for Icons
- Backing Up a User Area
- Creating and Linking a Page, and more...

Watch Vantage Training Videos on Commünicare’s YouTube Channel:



Vantage Basic Programming



Vantage Loading a User Area

<p>Proloquo2Go is a symbol-supported communication app that is designed to promote language development and communication. It offers a combination of vocabulary levels and templates, as well as flexible programming options to ensure that the overlay can be fully customized.</p>		 Read (and watch) more on Proloquo2Go's website → http://www.assistiveware.com/product/proloquo2go
<p>Device Options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • iPhone/iPod Touch • iPad Mini • iPad <p>Icon Options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Symbolstix • Real Photos 	<p>Language Systems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic Communication • Intermediate Core • Advanced Core <p>Access Methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct access • Scanning 	



Proloquo2Go Resources

	Editing	<p>Proloquo2Go Training Videos on Commūnicāre's YouTube Channel:</p>  For example: <i>Proloquo2Go Loading</i>
	Hiding Buttons	
	Backing up and Loading User Areas	
	Using Guided Access	

The LAMP Words for Life app, based on the Unity® language system, is available on the iPad in the US and Canada. Unity is a language system based on principles of motor planning and language development.

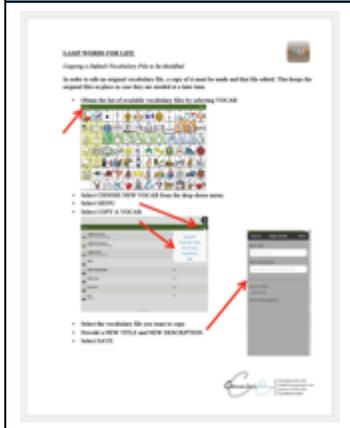


- Device Options:
- iPad or PRiO
- Icon Options:
- Pixons
 - Real Photos
- Language Systems:
- 84 One Hit
 - 84 Transition
 - 84 Full
- Access Methods:
- Direct access



Language Acquisition through Motor Planning (LAMP™) is a therapeutic approach based on neurological and motor learning principles as well as clinical experiences that address the language development and communication needs of children with autism. It provides a consistent motor pattern for words and a systematic way to develop communication skills.

LAMP Words for Life Resources



- Copying Vocabulary
- Hiding Buttons
- Creating a Page
- Backing Up and Loading, LAM Data...

View LAMP Training Videos on
 Commūnicāre’s YouTube Channel:



For example: *LAMP turning on LAM*