

AAC and Vision Impairment

Access: Mid/High Tech AAC

People with complex communication needs who are also blind or severely visually impaired require specialized approaches to accessing mid/high-tech AAC tools and supports.

Direct Selection: tactile representations



Tactile representations may include partial objects, more abstract tactile symbols, and Braille. This access method would utilize devices that can support tactile symbols such as the GoTalk, SuperTalker, or 7-Level Communication Builder, which would activate when pressed. This does not typically include touchscreen devices.

Direct Selection: motor memory/tactile guides

Devices without tactile symbols but with tactile *guides* such as keyguards paired with markers (e.g. piece of soft Velcro, piece of

foam) to guide the user. Bluetooth Braille keyboards paired with text-to-speech software may also be included in this category, as well as voice output devices (VODs) and speech-generating devices (SGDs) (including touchscreen devices and tablets) with keyguards and consistently placed language to support motor memory for the location of vocabulary.



Direct Selection: auditory prompts/auditory fishing



Similar to above, auditory fishing or the use of auditory prompts with direct selection typically involves a keyguard. This method requires a device or App that allows for the use of auditory prompts with direct selection. The auditory prompts can be short and are typically played to the user at a lower volume as they explore buttons to locate their desired target. By activating the button a second time, the target is selected/spoken.

button. The items can be stepped through using 2-switch/step scanning, or automatically played at regular intervals using automatic scanning. The user can select their target by activating a switch after hearing the prompt for the desired message.

Auditory Scanning

Devices and apps that support auditory scanning include the ability to assign an auditory prompt (similar to *auditory fishing* above) to each



*Devices pictured are one of several that have the described feature, and should serve only as an example

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