

Non-Specialised Symbol-Based AAC app evaluations

This resource is designed to give an overview of some symbol based AAC apps using our [app evaluation table](#)

These apps range from free to high cost and may be useful to trial with a person who requires symbols for communication.

They could be beneficial for someone who is new to AAC or requires a less complex AAC system.

The apps covered are:

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|------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| • Go Talk Now | Attainment Company | Page 2 |
| • Grid Player | Smartbox | Page 5 |
| • Clicker Communicator | Crick Software | Page 8 |
| • Let Me Talk | Appnotize UG | Page 12 |



Name of App: Go Talk Now

Developer: Attainment Company

<https://www.attainmentcompany.com/gotalk-now>

							Comments
Purpose	Assessment	Access practice	Resource-making	Introduction to AAC	Progression from simple to complex AAC, symbol-based	Text-based AAC	
Language features	Full symbol vocabulary	Basic or user added language only	Ability to combine concepts	Phrases	Prediction	Symbol supported prediction	Depends on page set used.
Format	Symbol / Image only	Symbol / Image and/or Text	Text only				
Symbol Set	PCS	Widgit	Symbolstix	Other	N/A		Comes with Go Talk image library – other symbol sets can be added at a cost.
Image Options	Symbol	Take photo	Import Photo				Import photos and images from camera or the internet.
Access Options	Tablet touchscreen settings	Tablet switch settings	App specific touchscreen settings available	App specific switch settings	Mouse or joystick		Scan pattern settings can be adjusted within app settings. Could use iOS accessibility settings for mouse.

Support for motor impairment	Buttons of consistent size	Ability to change cell size	Ability to move position of cells				
Support for sensory impairment	Auditory prompts	Auditory fishing	Alternative colour schemes	High contrast option	Highlighting/enlarging cells	Adjust size of cells	
Support for cognitive processing and learning	Consistent number of cells per page	Consistent location of commands	Consistent visual presentation	Ability to hide language or simplify	Appropriate labels for categories for developmental level of user	Consistent colour coding	Consistency of number of cells per page depends on package used.
Voices	Preset synthesised voice	Additional voices available free download	Additional voices available at a cost	Record own voice	Accepts voice-banking?	N/A	Comes with 1 voice in free version. Other voices can be downloaded at a cost.
Backup Options	Dropbox	iTunes	Airdrop	USB	Email PDF	Printable for paper based back up	Can also backup via Google Drive.
Vocab Packages	Basic	Intermediate	Advanced	N/A			
Editing	Minimal editing needed to set up for demonstration*	Easy to edit for support team	Easy to edit for user	Options to personalise	Whole vocabulary editing option (e.g. change font colour across whole package)	Instructions for editing	Requires editing before can be demonstrated (non-core pages). Can download core word pages and demonstrate with minimal editing.
Other features	Ability to send text to messaging app	Ability to send text to social media	Ability to send text to email				Can set up basic web links

Cost	Free	Low	Medium	High			Free trial version Standard version £100
Operating System	iOS (Apple)	Android	Windows				

Any other comments:

- Also includes extra features to enable access to EC and iPad controls.
- Instant access to a page set of core and fringe vocabulary. Can download core word page sets of 4, 9, 16, 25 or 36 cell location layouts.
- Offers four page styles for communication: standard, scene, express and keyboard.
- Stores an unlimited number of messages.
- Can add multiple images per cell from Go Talk symbol library and adjust text and image format within each cell.
- Can add or remove a message bar for combining concepts.
- Can purchase pre-made communication books within the app.
- Can use left and right arrows for navigating between pages or create automatic jumps within button actions.
- Also have option to create visual scenes and pages with hybrid scenes and cells with stored words/phrases.
- Highly versatile app but requires a lot of customisation if not using core word pages.
- Some functions are not self-explanatory (e.g. use three fingers to drag on screen to exit Player mode, clicking on the name of the communication book in the main menu page to change books if have more than one created/downloaded).

Suitability:

- Alternative access requirements (e.g. visual impairment);
- Access to alternative picture formats (e.g. GoTalk photosymbols and photos);
- Highly personalised vocabulary required/ wanting to develop customized non-core vocabulary
- Adults or children;
- Enabling access to web links;
- Users new to AAC
- iOS device users
- Direct access or switch-access



Name of App: Grid Player

Developer: Smartbox

<https://thinksmartbox.com/product/grid-player/>

							Comments
Purpose	Assessment	Access practice	Resource-making	Introduction to AAC	Progression from simple to complex AAC, symbol-based	Text-based AAC	Comes with four grid sets: Symbol Talker A, Symbol Talker B, Talking Photographs and Text Talker Phrasebook.
Language features	Full symbol vocabulary	Basic or user added language only	Ability to combine concepts	Phrases	Prediction	Symbol supported prediction	Dependant on grid set used.
Format	Symbol / Image only	Symbol / Image and/or Text	Text only				
Symbol Set	PCS	Widgit	Symbolstix	Other	N/A		Can use both symbol set grid sets within app.
Image Options	Symbol	Take photo	Import Photo				

Access Options	Tablet touchscreen settings	Tablet switch settings	App specific touchscreen settings available	App specific switch settings	Mouse or joystick		Mouse/joystick use within iOS accessibility settings.
Support for motor impairment	Buttons of consistent size	Ability to change cell size	Ability to move position of cells		Swiping, multi tap or long presses needed for any features		
Support for sensory impairment	Auditory prompts	Auditory fishing	Alternative colour schemes	High contrast option	Highlighting/enlarging cells	Adjust size of cells	Can turn on Voice Over from within iOS accessibility settings to speak menu items when they are selected.
Support for cognitive processing and learning	Consistent number of cells per page	Consistent location of commands	Consistent visual presentation	Ability to hide language or simplify	Appropriate labels for categories for developmental level of user	Consistent colour coding	
Voices	Preset synthesised voice	Additional voices available free download	Additional voices available at a cost	Record own voice	Accepts voice-banking?	N/A	Only two Acapela synthesised voices available (male and female)
Backup Options	Dropbox	iTunes	Airdrop	USB	Email PDF	Printable for paper based back up	
Vocab Packages	Basic	Intermediate	Advanced	N/A			

Editing	Minimal editing needed to set up for demonstration	Easy to edit for support team	Easy to edit for user	Options to personalise	Whole vocabulary editing option (e.g. change font colour across whole package)	Instructions for editing	To add or edit grid sets for Grid Player, you must use either Grid 3 or The Grid 2 on another device.
Other features	Ability to send text to messaging app	Ability to send text to social media	Ability to send text to email				
Cost	Free	Low	Medium	High			
Operating System	iOS (Apple)	Android	Windows				iPhone and iPad

Any other comments:

- Need to sign into a Smartbox account in Grid 3 or The Grid 2 to access Online Grids, where you can download grids to send to Grid Player. You can also log in to your Smartbox account on the Smartbox website to manage grids.
- Good support available from Smartbox via telephone, email or live chat on their website and email from within the app. Can also access the Grid Player manual on the Smartbox website.
- Can turn off the ability to access the Settings menu or to close grid sets from within the app from the Grid Player tab within iOS settings.

Suitability:

- Adults or children;
- Basic symbol vocabulary required (stored words/phrases) or highly customized vocabulary required (could be developed and added from Grid 3 Smartbox account)
- Users new to AAC
- iOS device users
- Direct access



Name of App: Clicker Communicator

Developer: Crick Software Ltd

<https://www.cricksoft.com/uk/clicker-communicator/ipad>

							Comments
Purpose	Assessment	Access practice	Resource-making	Introduction to AAC	Progression from simple to complex AAC, symbol-based	Text-based AAC	Core-based ready-made vocabulary sets or can create your own.
Language features	Full symbol vocabulary	Basic or user added language only	Ability to combine concepts	Phrases	Prediction	Symbol supported prediction	Multiple keyboard layouts. Can have up to 8 prediction options set.
Format	Symbol / Image only	Symbol / Image and/or Text	Text only				Can choose to write in message bar with or without symbols.
Symbol Set	PCS	Widgit	Symbolstix	Other	N/A		Apps available to purchase in all symbol sets*.
Image Options	Symbol	Take photo	Import Photo				

Access Options	Tablet touchscreen settings	Tablet switch settings	App specific touchscreen settings available	App specific switch settings	Mouse or joystick		SuperKeys keyboard for direct access. Can turn on 'show touches' features.
Support for motor impairment	Buttons of consistent size	Ability to change cell size	Ability to move position of cells		Swiping, multi tap or long presses needed for any features		Scrolling and swiping is turned off.
Support for sensory impairment	Auditory prompts	Auditory fishing	Alternative colour schemes	High contrast option	Highlighting/enlarging cells	Adjust size of cells	
Support for cognitive processing and learning	Consistent number of cells per page	Consistent location of commands	Consistent visual presentation	Ability to hide language or simplify	Appropriate labels for categories for developmental level of user	Consistent colour coding	Modified Fitzgerald Key.
Voices	Preset synthesised voice	Additional voices available free download	Additional voices available at a cost	Record own voice	Accepts voice-banking?	N/A	Acapella child and adult voices available.
Backup Options	Dropbox	iTunes	Airdrop	USB	Email PDF	Printable for paper based back up	Google Drive, OneDrive, mail, WebDAV.
Vocab Packages	Basic	Intermediate	Advanced	N/A			Clicker Core 3 Grid could be considered as Intermediate.

Editing	Minimal editing needed to set up for demonstration	Easy to edit for support team	Easy to edit for user	Options to personalise	Whole vocabulary editing option (e.g. change font colour across whole package)	Instructions for editing	Curriculum based vocabulary learning grids available to download.
Other features	Ability to send text to messaging app	Ability to send text to social media	Ability to send text to email				Can select symbols in message bar by long hold, then select all and copy and paste in another app. Doesn't select the text.
Cost	Free	Low	Medium	High			£199.99
Operating System	iOS (Apple)	Android	Windows				Available for Chromebook

Any other comments:

- Three pre-set vocabulary grids available:
 - Clicker Core 1: A 6 x 4 cell location vocabulary that enables simple, phrase-based communication
 - Clicker Core 2: A 7 x 5 cell location which enables some combining of concepts with phrase-based communication.
 - Clicker Core 3: A 9 x 6 cell location with most comprehensive vocabulary enabling more combining of concepts.
- Can move quickly between main vocabulary sets and Learning Grids by using the Favourites tool. This enables you to select favourite/recent vocabulary sets and stores favourite and recent message.
- QWERTY, alphabetical left to right, alphabetical clusters, and SuperKeys keyboards available.
- Toolbars only visible when editing. Need to open toolbar menu from top of screen.
- Free 40-minute online webinar to learn how to use the app is available on the website.

*If you wish to use a combination of all three symbol sets in one app you must purchase the SymbolStix version of the app in which the Widgit and PCS symbol sets are available at an additional cost as an in-app purchase (£48.99 each). You cannot purchase additional symbol sets as an in-app purchase for the Widgit version or PCS version of the app.

Suitability:

- Children of school age (Learning Grids link to education/curriculum)
- User at beginning of AAC journey or moving toward more comprehensive symbol vocabulary
- iOS device users
- Direct access



Name of App: LetMeTalk

Developer: Appnotize UG

<https://www.letmetalk.info/>

							Comments
Purpose	Assessment	Access practice	Resource-making	Introduction to AAC	Progression from simple to complex AAC, symbol-based	Text-based AAC	
Language features	Full symbol vocabulary	Basic or user added language only	Ability to combine concepts	Phrases	Prediction	Symbol supported prediction	Basic vocabulary pre-stored.
Format	Symbol / Image only	Symbol / Image and/or Text	Text only				
Symbol Set	PCS	Widgit	Symbolstix	Other	N/A		ARASAAC symbols
Image Options	Symbol	Take photo	Import Photo				Only when adding new symbols.
Access Options	Tablet touchscreen settings	Tablet switch settings	App specific touchscreen settings available	App specific switch settings	Mouse or joystick		

Support for motor impairment	Buttons of consistent size	Ability to change cell size	Ability to move position of cells				
Support for sensory impairment	Auditory prompts	Auditory fishing	Alternative colour schemes	High contrast option	Highlighting/enlarging cells	Adjust size of cells	Can manually change cell background colour.
Support for cognitive processing and learning	Consistent number of cells per page	Consistent location of commands	Consistent visual presentation	Ability to hide language or simplify	Appropriate labels for categories for developmental level of user	Consistent colour coding	
Voices	Preset synthesised voice	Additional voices available free download	Additional voices available at a cost	Record own voice	Accepts voice-banking?	N/A	Not straightforward to set up voice output initially.
Backup Options	Dropbox	iTunes	Airdrop	USB	Email PDF	Printable for paper based back up	
Vocab Packages	Basic	Intermediate	Advanced	N/A			
Editing	Minimal editing needed to set up for demonstration	Easy to edit for support team	Easy to edit for user	Options to personalise	Whole vocabulary editing option (e.g. change font colour across whole package)	Instructions for editing	Some settings for whole vocabulary changes (e.g. auto navigation or clearing of sentence bar, image sizes).

Other features	Ability to send text to messaging app	Ability to send text to social media	Ability to send text to email				Also sends symbols with text. Easy share function.
Cost	Free	Low	Medium	High			
Operating System	iOS (Apple)	Android	Windows				Also available on Amazon App store

Any other comments:

- FAQs and image-based tutorials available in English on website.
- Forum page link on website would not connect.
- Support multiple languages: English, Spanish, French, Italian, German, Chinese, Portuguese, Brazilian Portuguese, Arabic, Russian, Polish, Dutch, Bulgarian, Romanian, Galician, Catalan, Basque.

Suitability:

- Adults or children (but some pre-stored vocabulary is more child-based)
- Users new to AAC
- Basic vocabulary required
- Symbol and text forwarding to messenger apps/social media
- iOS or Android device users
- Direct access