South Yorkshire Paediatric Loan Bank Equipment Listings:

The following listings provide a quick glance reference to examples of equipment that can be requested as a loan from the Barnsley Assistive Technology Team Loan Bank Pilot.

This list was created in response to feedback from local therapists who wanted a reference list to use as a starting point to think about kit that may well meet the needs of their clients.

Therefore, this listing is not an exhaustive list and requests can be submitted for equipment that is not detailed on this resource.

Please note that if you have identified goals surrounding the need to explore some assistive technology with your client, but are not sure what specific equipment will meet your needs, we still encourage you to submit a loan request. At the point of triage, a supported discussion with yourself and the triage clinician will establish what equipment may be useful for you to trial with your client.

You are also welcome to request a loan for your own personal exploration and learning. This request does not need to be linked to a specific client.

Contents

This resource contains examples of:

Switches:

- **Candy Corn Proximity Switch** – Movement near the switch surface will activate it; does not require pressure onto the surface of the switch. The switch can be set to sound and light up when activated successfully. Large and small size available

10000025-BIG_Candy_Corn-QSG-06-18-21.pdf (ablenetinc.com)

- **Grasp Switch** - is a switch that users hold in the palm of their hands. It can be activated with a squeeze or a pinch. The user must be able to release the grip.

Wired_Accessibility_Switches-QSG-06-18-21.pdf (ablenetinc.com)

- **Pal Pad switch** – this is a flat switch (3mm) and can be activated with very little pressure. It is great for someone who cannot move their hand onto the top of a switch.

Pal Pad Overview - YouTube

- **Finger Switch** – This is a sensitive switch that can be attached around a finger, or two fingers with adjustable Velcro tape. The "click" of the switch can be felt.

- **Buddy Button** – this well known switch is suited to a wide range of people. It activates easily with a light to moderate press and we have a variety of sizes available

Getting Started With An AbleNet Wired Accessibility Switch (youtube.com)

- **Microlight Switch** – a very light touch switch what only requires minimal pressure onto the upper surface to activate.

- **Pillow Switch/ KajoButton soft switch :** A soft switch that is ideal for those that need to activate this switch with their head, cheek etc. Has an auditory and tactile "click" when activated. You can attach it headrests etc using Velcro or a safety pin , making it easy to reposition.

Battery Operated Communication Devices:

- **BIGMack Communicator:** A single message output device. Record your own message, sound or music onto the device and it will then play back when the switch is pressed (2 min max recording time) A different type of switch can be attached via a jack to activate the BIGMack if needed. Similarly a switch adapted toy can be plugged in allowing the toy to be switched on when the BIGMack is activated

BIGmack (inclusive.com)

101-ways-with-a-BIGMack.pdf (cenmac.com)

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- **iTalk 2 with Levels Communicator:** This device allows you to provide two side-by-side communication choices e.g. yes/no responses, choosing between two food/drink/activity options, making two requests – I need help, I want to tell you something.
Messages are easily and quickly recorded in the moment, or you can use the levels to pre-record up to three sets of messages ahead of time. There are options to plug in alternative switches if pressing the red/ yellow tops is not possible, and switch adapted toys can also be plugged into the available ports.

Getting Started With iTalk2 Speech Device – AbleNet

- **iTalk4 with Levels Communciation Aid:** This is the same device as the iTalk 2 but with four output options. It is great for giving more options for a range of communication functions. As above you can pre record onto 3 levels and alternative switches can be attached if access to the coloured buttons on the device is difficult. Again, a toy for each output can be attached which means pressing the switch will operate the toy and speak out a message if you want to add communication to your activity.

Getting Started With The AbleNet iTalk4 Speech Device (youtube.com)

Advanced Features for the AbleNet iTalk4. (youtube.com)

- **Scan 4:** This device has 4 large cells that can be activated directly or by external switches Toys can be attached to the output jacks which allows up to 4 toys to be activated and these can be linked to a simple message. Additional levels can be utilised if required. This device also features scanning capability – the LEDs illuminate above each picture as the scan moves across. This is a discontinued item , so cannot be purchased but is a great loan device to develop an understanding of scanning, auditory scanning and two switch access – all together in one simple device.

- **Supertalker:** Battery Operated Communication Device that includes a range of message grids of different sizes that allow individuals to communicate a single message up to a grid of 8 messages. Free app for iOS that allows creation of symbol based grids to fit the overlays but can also easily be handmade.

Getting Started With The AbleNet SuperTalker FeatherTouch Speech Device (youtube.com)

Advanced Features for the AbleNet SuperTalker. (youtube.com)

- **Go Talk:** Battery operated communication device that comes in various sizes: Go talk 9 and Go Talk 20. A great hybrid pf paper based and tech based communication system. Easy to record onto the 5 different recording levels.
  Each level relates to a different communication grid that you create e.g. 5 different activity grids or 5 different routines within someone's day. The cells on the top row of the device do not change allowing for consistent vocabulary e.g. core vocab or specific important words or phrases for a particular child.

GoTalk 20+ - Assistive Device Video Demonstration (youtube.com)

- **Tech Scan 32**: Battery operated, that allows up to 6 levels of recorded messages to be stored under the 32 overlay. A red LED at the top left of each cells highlights the scan pattern which can be customised external switch scanning.

  Can be used without the scanning function. Overlays are created by those supporting the user (can use "Boardmaker") and slide under the grid housing.
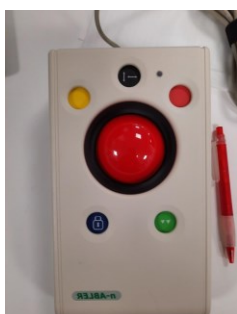

TechScan 32 Instructions.doc (boundlessat.com)

Computer Access:

- **Optimax Joystick:** Well-known joystick for computer access. Can change out handles depending on client's grip. Light-touch movements, but user needs to keep arm on handle and have some arm movement.

  Has in-built buttons for clicks but can also except external switches.
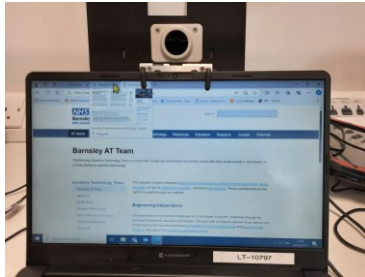

- **n-Abler Trackball:** fingertip control for mouse movements. User can use light touch to move the ball and arm can be kept in more neutral position but can take multiple swipes to move the mouse across the screen.

  Has left-handed, cursor speed, and dwell to click options. Can accept external switches as well.

- **Headmouse Nano:** USB camera that tracks head movement for mouse control. User needs to wear a sticky reflective dot for camera to work. Examples of where the dots can be attached are glasses, skin, hat, ventilator mask.

 Has one 3.5mm switch port that can accept two switches, but an adaptor cable would be required.

- **Bjoy Hand-C:** Small joystick that can be held in hand on only requires very small movements of one finger to control.

Has 4 built-in switches that can be programmed as well as orientation, but requires a software download BJOY Hand-C - Qinera (BJ Live)

- **Dwell clicker:** Software programme that can be used with any joystick if user cannot access any in-built or external switches. Instead, user hovers over desired location for specific amount of time (adjustable) and desired click is made.

30-day free trial of full version, but after this standard version remains.

Applications for iPad:

- **Scene and Heard:** This is a visual scene display AAC app. You can quickly create your own photo or picture displays to communicate a message via hotspots or message boxes that when activated will play out a pre recorded messages .

  Can also create visual timetables or support sequences for tasks. Great app for creating motivating, personalised communication to encourage connection and shared joy as well as providing individualised language opportunities to fulfil a range of communication functions.
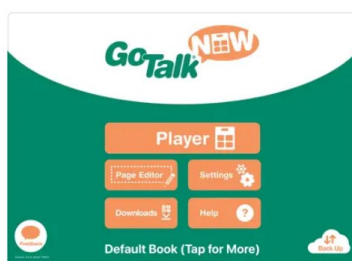

Scene & Heard | Therapy Box (therapy-box.co.uk)

- **Supercore – Learning Grids** These grids include all of the daily and play activity vocabulary from Super Core, alongside a simplified core vocabulary with a lower cell count of 12 and 20 cells. You can select either child or teen page set- with teen focus on daily activities rather than play activities.

Super Core Learning - Online Grids (thinksmartbox.com)

- **GoTalk Now:** Flexible app, that allows music files and video clips to be played as well as speech output. Totally adjustable layouts from 1-49 cells per page with pre recorded voices available as well as the option to record your own voice into the app. Includes pre made core word communication pages, keyboard pages and visual scene displays can also be incorporated.

GoTalk NOW (attainmentcompany.com)

Environmental Control

- **Doo-zy:** This switch can operate as a communication device playing out voice recorded messages and/or operate toys via an external switch output socket.

  Doo-zy has the additional feature as operating as a simple remote control for Infra red devices e.g. TVs, music players, IR toys, IR plug sockets etc

SWITCH-ED DOO-ZY USER MANUAL Pdf Download | ManualsLib

Powerlink: PowerLink   allows operation of a (non digital) mains operated electrical item via an external switch. e.g a food mixer can be plugged into the Powerlink and any external switch attached to the unit. When the external switch is pressed the blender will switch on. This is a great item for allowing children independent control over items other than just toys. NB: This device to loan is an older model than is available currently to purchase but has the same basic functionality

Quick Guide Ablenet PowerLink 2 | Manualzz