The use of the iPad tablet for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) is occurring at an exponential rate. This is likely due to the cost effectiveness and market penetration of the iPad. The use of the iPad for AAC purposes can address two major concerns for clinicians and users of AAC: (a) social acceptability; and (b) device abandonment.

The purpose of this poster is to: (1) demonstrate the use of clinical recommendations for the selection of iPad Applications (Apps) for AAC purposes and (2) to provide a review of 21 iPad Apps that met our selection criteria.

The goal is that clinicians replicate these procedures for the selection of iPad Apps for AAC purposes.

Introduction

Review of iPad Apps

We identified 151 potential Apps that could be used for AAC purposes. We systematically reduced the number of Apps to 21 by using the following two criteria:

1. Spectronics rating of 2 or 3:
   - 33 had Spectronics ratings of 2 or 3
2. iTunes user rating of 3.5 or higher:
   - 21 received iTunes user ratings at or better than 3.5

Gosnell, Costello, and Shane (2011) provide clinical guidelines for the selection of Apps for AAC purposes. They identified 11 features to be matched to client needs:


Features of 21 Apps are described and cost information is provided. Apps are sorted into three categories: (1) Symbols only; (2) Symbols and Text-to-Speech; and (3) Text only.

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References


