

Webinar: 6135 - Wired Wednesday: AT Bits & Bytes

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>> Tori Holder-Hughes: Good afternoon. It is 2:28. We'll get started in 2 minutes or so. Promptly at 2:30. If you have any questions you're welcome to type them in the chat.

>> Tori Holder-Hughes: I have 2:30 on my computer. So are we ready to go? If so, I will start recording.

>> Martha Rust: Let's get started.

>> Martha Rust: Hello, everyone. I'm hearing echo. DeeDee, can you mute your mic? Good afternoon, everyone. Welcome to Wired Wednesday AT bits and bytes with TFL and WATAP. I'm Martha Rust the director of the direct services team here at TFL in Georgia and we have been doing this Wired Wednesday in conjunction with WATAP, the assistive technology program for Washington state for several months now. We started this because of COVID-19 as a way to show that we are here, and we are here to help and do demonstrations of assistive technology. Today we have Maria on with us from the WATAP program. At the end of this if you have more questions or want

to arrange a more one on one demonstration, you can definitely do that. You can give us a call at TFL... [Reading from PowerPoint] or WATAP... [Reading from PowerPoint].

If you are not from Georgia or Washington, reach out to us and we'll be happy to answer your questions and put you in contact with the assistive technology program in your area. Today we have a great presenter. Today it is DeeDee. She's going to be covering some AAC apps.

>> DeeDee: Today we're going to talk about the communication app TouchChat HD AAC. Let me share my screen. I want to show some videos. So I will share my screen with you. Bear with me while that comes up. Everybody able to see that all right? What we're going to be talking about today before we start in to the details of the presentation, I did want to remind you that this is being recorded. If you have questions, type them into the chat box at the bottom right hand corner of your screen and Tori and Martha will monitor and let me know if you have questions. You can zoom into the share screen at the top left-hand controls as well.

What we're going to talk about today is an overview of a communication app. That doesn't mean that what I'm saying today will replace any advice that you will get from a speech language pathology that is working with an individual. We encourage you to take the information we're talking about today and share it. All the information we're sharing today are

accessible and will be posted on the TFL website and you're welcome to share them.

Today we're going to talk about /WUFP /WUFP HD with WordPower. You can get TouchChat in two different versions. One without WordPower and one with WordPower. The objects are to identify 1 to 2 features in that TouchChat app. And then 3 to 4 vocabulary options in the TouchChat app and be able to identify 3 to 4 core vocabulary options that you would find in that vocabulary system.

TouchChat HD is a full featured communication solution that you can get on an iPad or iPhone or iPod. There are multiple vocabulary options you can use. In the TouchChat app you have 7 different vocabulary options. You have 14 different vocabulary options if you get WordPower added on to that. Within the WordPower options you have 3 Spanish speaking versions of WordPower. You do have alternative access built in including if you have the newer iPad that does face recognition that will work with the TouchChat app as well. They also in the TouchChat app in the newer versions have the ability to do what they call vocal smileys which you can get by downloading them from the Acapela group. You can do sound affects to have smileys like a giggle or moan or whatever you want to put in there. One thing I like is word finder which enables you if you're not sure where a symbol is or if there's a vocabulary specific -- specific piece of vocabulary on the system, you can

go into word finder and find that. There's also an option if you have TouchChat version 2.3 or later and you have iOS 13 or later you have a tell phony option. And they also offer data collection using realize language which is a data collection system that gives you a lot of good information on how the language is being used within the application to help you plan the services and the therapy that you need for the individuals that are using this device.

I want today start off with just a brief overview of some of the options in TouchChat talking about MultiChat 15 which is one of the options here. I'm going to come out of the PowerPoint and play the video. It's about 2 minutes of the video and then go back to the PowerPoint. If you want to see this entire PowerPoint, there's a link on the PowerPoint -- if you want to see the entire video, excuse me, you can pull it up on YouTube or the TouchChat website.

Let me come out for a moment and bring this up.

Hang on one moment while I get back into the PowerPoint.

That is a 30-minute training that you can look at and it gives you a lot more information on the TouchChat as well. So that may be something that you would be interested in pursuing further.

I would like to go through all of the different vocabulary options that they have built in to TouchChat and

show you about how they are organized and then I will do the same thing with the WordPower vocabulary system.

The first one that we're looking at is what they call the 4 basic. This is a phrase-based vocabulary system. This utilized carrier phrases and comment phrases. Rather than try to work through the iPad which is problematic sometimes when displaying on a webinar I did screen shots of the pages. So when you start you see an I want, a category group, social and all about me. When you click on I want it gives you 3 choices and then you can get additional pages of what they want. When I click on to play I was given choices of what to play with. When I click on play-Doh it gives me a nice place to commenting. So nice ability to come up with a pretty nice sentence of I want to play with play-doh and have comments with a few bits of hits.

Excuse me one moment.

They also have a social area that also has logical linking. You go from the social to an I feel page. If you look at it briefly, this one has a colored background and a little bit in this corner -- it's a little small for you to see, there's a symbol that tells you that links to another page. So you can choose I feel. If you choose sick you have options of what does not feel good. Such as your head or stomach or you can say I need to see a doctor.

They also have an area for personal information

that gives you where you can customize it. If I click on all about me, it will go to my name is and then you customize that. You have additional options of what your birthday is. You can always add new pages to this to give more personal information. Last but not least they have 9 categories with word-based vocabulary. You can see when you click on the category button you get places, people, clothes, colors, books, music, food, drinks or body parts. So there's a lot of vocabulary and a lot of language in this 4 basic.

The next one is my core. This is a text base communication system that utilized a combination of core vocabulary and also phrases that are preprogrammed in our quick chat. Across the top you see my quick chat questions, my phrases, comments and feedback in addition to having single words that are core vocabulary on that first page. If I click on the next -- this is an example of the phrases page. You will see a variety of different phrase categories that you can go through such as conversation, relationships, telephone. If you go to the quick chat you will see things that often are said quickly that you would -- it would take longer if you were trying to put them together word by word. So for rapid communication you can go to quick chat. There's a lot of vocabulary capacity in the my core as well.

The next one that they have is a straight spelling board which is a QWERTY keyboard that has word

prediction. You can move that to a texting app. Then you can go to phrases where you can add pre-customized phrases to speed up communication.

The next one is vocab PC. This was designed by Gail who is a speech pathologist. This was designed for adolescent and adults with developmental disabilities. They have carrier phrases, logical linking and interactive sentences.

They also have the logical linking you can see where it will move from one page to the next page and finally to a final page. So here I chose the choices of I feel confused when I clicked on I feel it went to this page. Once I click on confused it took me back to my main page where I said I want to ask a question and that takes me to a page of question pages. So there's a lot of nice linking in here to help individuals communicate quickly.

They also have interactive sentences to engage in communication. If you go to the chat you can see as soon as you click on chat it says hey there and you can choose an option of what you want. What I chose was the doing which says what have you been doing? You can see a variety of different things. You can always go back to the main page to start another topic area.

They also have a variety of categories. When you click on the categories page I believe there are 8/9

categories. When you click on the category you get to an area where you have the specific vocabulary for that category.

Another one that has been specifically designed for a specific population is the aphasia app. It's called the communication journey aphasia. It was developed by Lois and Ann and Sarah. It's designed to work with individuals with aphasia. It has a Spanish version and also vocabulary that would be specific to the United Kingdom, in addition to the United States version. So daily activities may be things like social where you're wanting to engage in a conversation with someone. They also have people and things and maps. They do have a nice area called conversational control which helps build that social engagement. So in here on the main page you saw conversational control. When you click on that it takes you to a page that has a lot of different options on how to work conversational wise. I chose the self-advocacy button. They will have different vocabulary that will help the individual control that conversation. Such as the sentence that I chose here is if you don't understand me, ask me to say it in a different way. I can't remember what the vocabulary was for that. That's an example of how to use that conversational control language to help you.

The one that you saw in the video is MultiChat. There are three different versions of that. MultiChat is actually a phrased base sentence level and single word

vocabulary system. It was designed for individuals that are continuing to develop their language skills. It does have 3 versions: Student, adolescent, and adult. They're fairly similar but some of the symbols may change and some of the vocabulary may change depending on the level that you chose. This one here is the student level. I chose to look at the my news. When I click on that it goes to something that would be more specific for a student. House news, school news or the news to you app. I chose school news and then they have the vocabulary specific to what a student may say in school. The adolescent version looks fairly similar to the student version, but the language is different. What you'll see down here is they have school, but they also have a work tab and a shopping tab. When you go to the work tab you have a language that could be used for working but also things for coworkers or chores which you might do at home. So they have that bundled together. Whereas when you get to the adult version on the main page they have a work button and chore button. When you click on work you'll find language that is more particular to the work environment.

There's a set of vocabulary called quick chat. That's designed for children or adults with complex communication needs. They have it able in a 4, 8, 12 location model. What you will find when you first come into it is that each level has the same 16 locations master page. So you don't

see the 4, 8, 12 until you get off the master page. An example is this is an 8 child one. I went to my news and they have things you can talk about for news. I went to my story button. They also have an area here where you can see they have quick chats. You see this on every page in the top row a quick chat 1, quick chat 2. Quick chat 1 is typically commenting that is positive and quick chat 2 is typically negative.

This is the adult page. What you did find if you look back at the other where it says activities for the adult it had toys on the child page. If I choose activities I [indistinct speech] and then I can use the commenting when playing a game of checkers.

Those are the vocabulary page sets that you would find in the initial version of TouchChat. You can also purchase TouchChat with WordPower installed in it. WordPower is a core vocabulary system that was developed by Nancy. It was designed for an individual that wanted an AAC system that was based on words. It utilizes over 100 core words in addition to spelling and word prediction. The word list was based on a 1984 study that looked at the 500 more frequently produced words by 5 adult AAC users. When we typically look at core words we look at people who are verbal. This is looking at those who are AAC users. They use a Fitzgerald guideline.

The core words are categorized and color coded and alphabetical order to enable you to retrieve them more

easily. Here's a listing of all the different categories that they have.

They have 14 different page sets. 7 of them -- 11 of them are in English. 3 are in Spanish. I'm going to be looking quickly at the English words when we start. I'm going to -- I'm looking at the time and I have maybe about 7 minutes. I think we have time for this. One moment. Okay. There is a little bit more to that. You can find that on the TouchChat app website. So if you want to finish the video it's a nice video that tells you about WordPower.

WordPower is their beginning language system. This incorporates carrier phrases and core words that allow you to quickly begin language generation. I did the same thing I did with the TouchChat apps. You can see how it moves from one board to the next. I did this across every board. I like to listen to country music. Here you are able to get that because it was bundled in phrases over 3 pages and 5 hits.

The next level is the WordPower 25 touch and scan. It has been designed for people that are switch scanners in mind. It does scan and get to the words they need more quickly. It also utilized carrier phrases and core words. It does pretty much the same thing as the 20. It has 5 different hits over 3 pages to come up with that same vocabulary. You'll find this as you're working across all the different WordPower sets that you're seeing a consistency of what language you're

using to pull that up.

As you get to a core words system you get to WordPower 42 basic. This is a simplified version of WordPower 42 where you're actually doing single words which increases the number of pages that you need to go through and the number of hits that you do but it also gives you the flexibility of not having to be combined to carrier phrases or verb phrases when you're generating language. So you see this one actually went over 6 different pages because you had to go through the categories page and then the music page to get to the words of country music.

That's going to decrease as you go up through the levels because of the more vocabulary you have on one page the fewer levels you have to go through. WordPower 42 is similar to this but I got to do the same vocabulary of I like to listen to and then go to groups and music and country music. This time I only had to do it over 4 pages verses 6 pages because of the way that they are organized. So it does make it easier with your navigation. WordPower 48 is also a modified version of WordPower where you have an extra column on each page that has more vocabulary, but it also includes function buttons now and then you also have buttons have morph logical endings. WordPower 60 basic is a version of WordPower 60 that's designed for early language users. You'll see the same kind of sequencing. They have core vocabulary embedded into the

category and activity pages, so you do not have to go back to that main page to get the core vocabulary. It also has literacy pages built in. WordPower 60 you're going to see more robust vocabulary on the main page but see the same kinds of logical linking and word completion and grammatical functions.

They also in WordPower 80 -- it gives you a keyboard right on the main page. If you have literacy skills you don't have to go to another page to get spell word prediction. So that gives you another increase in your word retrieval and pulling that up. WordPower 108 has high frequency vocabulary on that main page. You still have the same grammatical functions but more categories so you're not having to change your pages and navigate.

WordPower 108 has a keyboard version where you can have the keyboard on the main page still having the core words embedded into categories. The last one they have which is also designed for switch users is WordPower 140. You can have someone who is not a switch user use it but because the locations are getting fairly small you might want to consider if there's any visual or motor skills that would impact their ability if they're using direct selection. The core words are on the categories and you have less page changes.

There is a manual on WordPower, and you can also go to the TouchChat app.com website to find out more about the different things -- the vocabulary sets in both TouchChat and

WordPower. This actual was an updated manual that has been put on. She also has some nice things in this catalog.

>> Martha Rust: You have a lot of great information. The time is now 3:00. So I want to be mindful. This has been great information. Thank you so much for TouchChat and all the items that you showed. I wanted to open it up for questions if there is any. I'm sorry we have to cut you off. If Tori could put up -- this is our survey monkey link. While we're waiting for any questions it's right there in the chat box. Please go to that survey and fill that out. We would love to have your feedback. If you want more information or want to know more about the vocabulary and languages within TouchChat or talk more about other AAC things, I know DeeDee would be happy to talk with you as well. I'm going to check and see if there's any questions in the chat box.

I don't see any questions. Thank you so much DeeDee for your time and the great information today.