

Introducing CommuniKate: The Open, Transferable, Symbol based, Page Set

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CommuniKate is a page set that can be used on any VOCA hardware or software for free. If you want to alter it then you can share your own version without worrying about permissions or fees. It was launched in October 2014 and there are teams translating it into languages from Swedish to Urdu. We are going to tell you the story of CommuniKate, why it's needed (Joe) how it was designed (Kate) and what difference it makes (Rob, AAC user).

We will discuss CommuniKate, who it was designed for, the type of language it contains and how it can be used and talk briefly about the different language translations on offer.

We will discuss CommuniKate's uniqueness and why we released it under a Creative Commons Licence using freely licensed symbols.

We'll inform you what's happened since the launch and discuss plans we have as a consequence of its popularity.

To make AAC truly work for people we understand that providing the kit is only half the battle. That's why along with the technical and programming aspects of the project we also hope to be able to provide things like training, low tech resources and much more and intend describing this too.



CommuniKate 20 is a socially focused page set designed exclusively for people who use AAC. It focuses for people who rely on environment or context to communicate effectively, but who understand concepts and language used in conversation and during everyday activities.

We will talk about how it can be used in conjunction with a low-tech communication book and as a progression from a book to a dynamic display device. It combines core vocabulary with a range of carefully selected topics.

CommuniKate was originally written as a 12 button layout for Rob (who will be presenting), and was in the form of a communication book. CommuniKate 20 was written shortly afterward because Rob progressed so quickly that soon 12 buttons did not give him access to the volume of vocabulary he needed. Over the last decade CommuniKate has been modified and refined to work with the widest possible range of users.



CommuniKate 20 is the first entirely free-to-use transferable page set released under a Creative Commons Licence using freely licensed symbols. This means that there are no legal barriers preventing people from putting CommuniKate 20 on any device at all. So a user being switched from, say, a Tellus device to a Tobii Dynavox device (due to breakages, cost, or some other factor) can load the required version of the communication display up. That way the user has a chance to get used to new hardware without also having to learn a whole new language.

Due to the demand for CommuniKate it's now available on Tobii DynaVox Series 5, Grid 2, Grid Player, CoughDrop and MindExpress to name but a few and we have other manufacturers busy supporting us to write it for their products as we speak. It's also been translated into Portuguese with French, Spanish, Arabic and Urdu to follow. We will demonstrate CommuniKate running on a variety of devices during our presentation.

The pageset has been extremely popular, we'll be presenting a range of statistics to support this.

We're slowly starting to realise that by launching CommuniKate 20 we've started ourselves on a path to really push for change in AAC, particularly for the 21,000 people in the UK who would benefit from access to powered AAC. We have plans to further develop the range of page sets to meet the needs of different people. We as

siblings and also working in the AAC field understand that providing the kit is only half of making AAC really work for someone. Rob and Richard and those like them are constantly making us think out of the box and come up with new ways of making AAC work for them. That is why along with the technical and programming aspects of the project development we also hope to be able to provide things like training, low tech resauces and much more.



More can be found out about the project at: <http://communicate.joereddington.com/>



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In compliance with American Speech-Language Hearing Association’s Continuing Education Board’s Requirements, ISAAC Conference 2016 requires program planners and instructional personnel to disclose information regarding any relevant financial and non-financial relationships related to course content prior to and during course planning.

Based on the information provided, ISAAC Conference 2016 will engage the program planner /instructional personnel in a guided interview process which seeks to understand how the relevant financial or nonfinancial relationship may influence the content of the course.

Program Planner/Instructional Personnel’s Name:

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I attest that the information in this disclosure is accurate at the time of completion and I agree to notify ISAAC Conference 2016 (conference2016@isaac-online.org) of any changes to this information between now and the scheduled presentation date. **I also understand that all completed Disclosure Forms must be incorporated within my paper proposal, as part of my Long or Extended abstract upload to the ISAAC Conference 2016 paper submission system.**

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Date