The tablet as an useful device for AAC and learning

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About what kind of tablet we are talking

- We talk about the iPad, because:
  - Compared to mobile devices there are a lot of AAC apps for the iPad
  - There is a wide range of useful accessories for this device.
  - There are a lot of questions about the iPad as an device for AAC

Paedagogical Triangle

Using of iPads for AAC and Learning

Three factors
- AAC-user
- environment (parents, teachers, care-givers)
- mobile device
The position of the AAC-users

- The intuitive handling of the iPad is the most important factor.
- Because of the capacitive touchmonitor, more people benefit from this technology.
- In combination with certain apps, some students get access to some topics of education, like writing letters and words or communication.
- Students with complex communication needs are able to gain experience in self-efficacy.

Mobile Device - Apps

- There are 3 mainstream OS (Win8.1, Android, iOS)
- Most Apps for AAC and learning are available for iOS
  - because of its weight and the capacity of the battery it’s made for portable using
  - Wide range of accessories is available only for iPads
- iOS is a "closed" OS - students with mental and/or physical disabilities benefit of this OS

Environment

- Relatively low costs for this solution (iPad, Apps, Case). Some parents are getting more involved into AAC.
- "Digital immigrants" are encouraged to use iPads for AAC and in class

Conclusions: Mobile Devices - Apps

Pro
- The iPad has crushed the market for traditional SGDs
- Some distributors for communications aids offer now mobile devices as an communication device
- Even school for special needs are purchasing more and more iPads

Con
- Apps with complex grammar function haven’t been developed yet (e.g. German language).
- There are a lot of apps, which aren’t fitting to certain didactics
Conclusions: AAC-user

**Pro**
- The number of people with special needs using the iPad as a communication device or for learning increased.
- For some with complex communication needs this is the most suitable device.

**Con**
- High risk on only focusing on the technical aspects of the device, without looking on the communication and learning needs of the students.
- Alternative access with the iPad isn’t possible at this moment (e.g. eye-gaze, scanning ...)

Conclusions: Environment

**Pro**
- Ease of use and the availability of apps has led to more people are involved into using the iPad as a communication device.
- For parents and professional care givers the iPad is a smart device.

**Con**
- Many people want an iPad as an communication device, without thinking about the communication needs.
- The iPad can also be used in addition to traditional learning materials.
- As a alternative for traditional SGD, people, who advise parents etc. about AAC need more knowledge, to recognize the iPad as a communication device.

Thank you

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