

Technically Speaking: A Closer Look at How to Increase Positive Outcomes with High-Tech AAC



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Reverse the Curse: Device Abandonment & Prompt-Dependency in AAC



<https://youtu.be/LdUpGex-oh0>

Available beginning January 12
for ASHA CEUs here:

<https://www.ablenetinc.com/reverse-the-curse-device-abandonment-prompt-dependency-in-aac-registration>

Financial Disclosure

- Ann is a salaried employee at EASTCONN, a regional education service center located in Hampton, CT. Her work is partially funded by the Connecticut Tech Act Project.

Non Financial Disclosure

- Ann is a member of ASHA and helps facilitate a statewide AT/AAC Community of Practice.



Instagram @drawntoaac

Who Are You?

- Individual with a disability
- Family guardian or authorized rep
- Reps of Education
- Reps of Employment
- Health Allied Health & Rehab
- Reps of Community Living
- Reps of Technology
- Unable to Categorize



Instagram @drawntoacac

At the end of the session, attendees will be able to:

1. Adjust software settings to reduce problem behavior.
2. Demonstrate the ability to choose appropriate vocabulary targets.
3. Identify strategies used within video examples.

Instagram @drawntoAAC



What does a “Happy Tapper” look like?

- Leaping before they look
- Impulsively touching EVERYTHING
- Repeatedly tapping the same spot
- Taps on other things too, not just touchscreens
- Some might even call it “a stim/stimming”



Video of a Happy Tapper

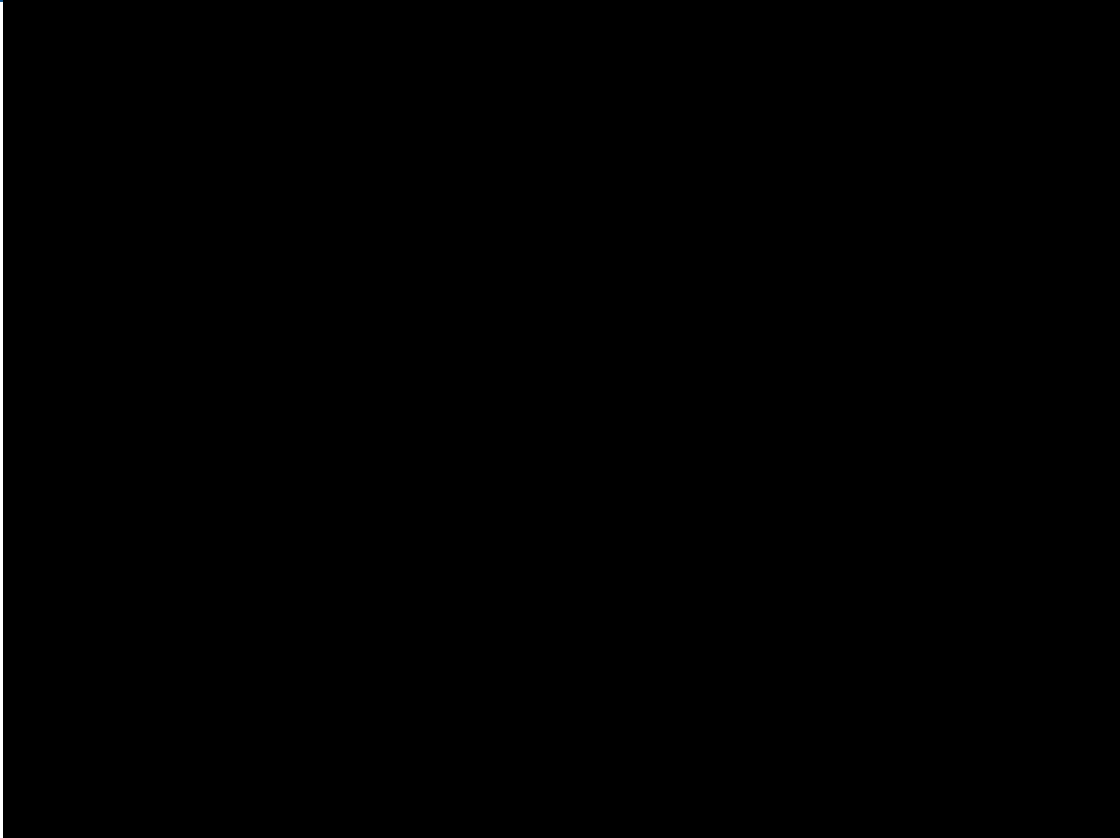


Strategy: Increasing “dwell time/hold duration”

This increases the time your finger must dwell/hold on a button before it is activated

1. On iPads with iOS 16, go to Settings app, Accessibility, Touch, Touch Accommodations
2. Within the TouchChat app, go to Menu, Settings, Dwell Time
3. Within LAMP: Words For Life, go to Menu, Settings, Dwell Time
4. Within TD Snap, go to User, Access Method, Touch Enter, Hold Time
5. Within Proloquo2go, go to Options, Access Method, Hold Duration
6. Within CoughDrop, go to Preferences, Selection Settings, Must Press Button At Least₈

How to Setup Hold Duration in iOS 16



Strategy: Increasing “Ignore Repeats”

This increases the duration in which multiple touches are treated as one touch

1. On iPads with iOS 16, go to Settings app, Accessibility, Touch, Touch Accommodations
2. Within the TouchChat app, there’s no setting within the app, so use iPad settings (#1)
3. Within LAMP: Words For Life, there’s no setting within the app, so use iPad settings
4. Within TD Snap, go to User, Access Method, Touch Enter, Connect Multiple Taps
5. Within Proloquo2go, there’s no setting within the app, so use iPad settings (#1)
6. Within CoughDrop, go to Preferences, Selection Settings, Ignore Repeat Hits For

How to Setup Ignore Repeats in iOS 16



When the screens dims/goes black...

A. ...it's a distraction

(the individual might feel the need to touch it to make it bright again)

OR

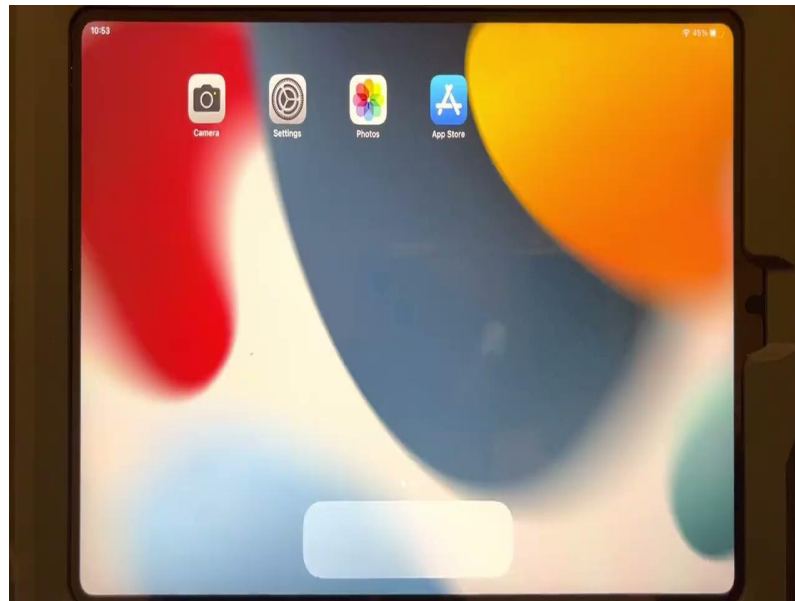
B. ... it's no longer a visual support

(the individual might be less likely to use it because it's just a blank page)

Strategy: Auto-Lock Never

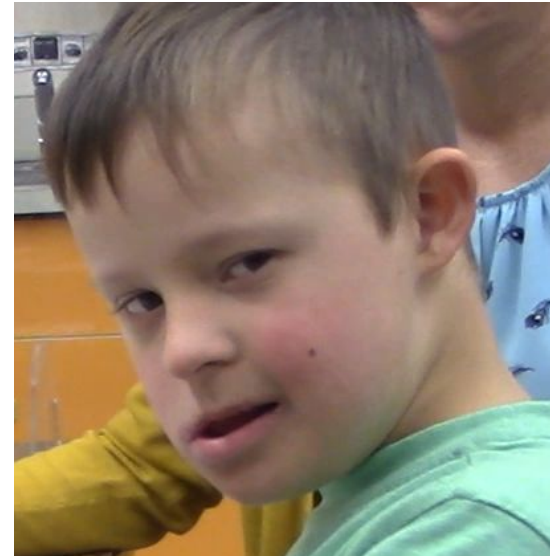
This stops the iPad from dimming/going black

On iPads with iOS 16, go to Settings app, Accessibility, Display & Brightness, Auto-Lock, Never



What does a “Happy Hacker” look like?

- Getting into the editing/settings menus
- Closing the AAC app
- Using their “talker” as a camera
- Using their “talker” as a toy/for entertainment
- Accidentally erasing their custom vocab file or entire AAC app!

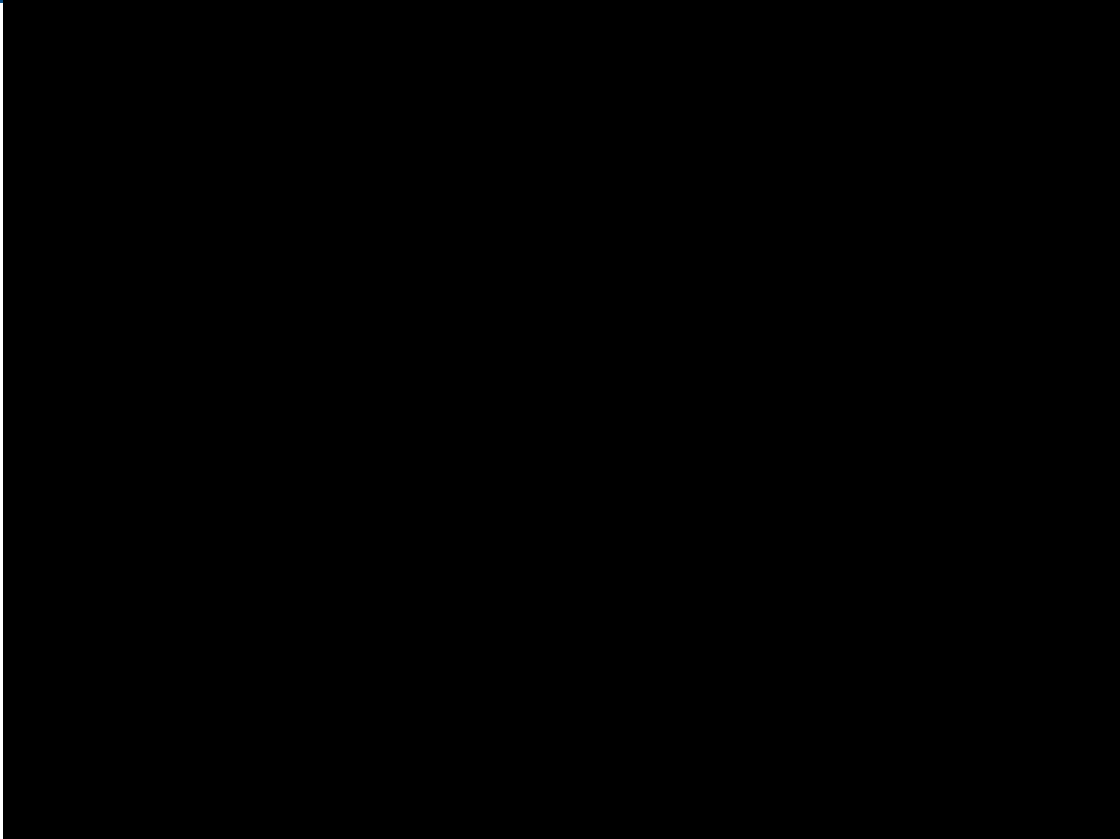


Strategy: Lock App Open & Block Menus

This turns a device/tablet/iPad into a “talker” dedicated to communication

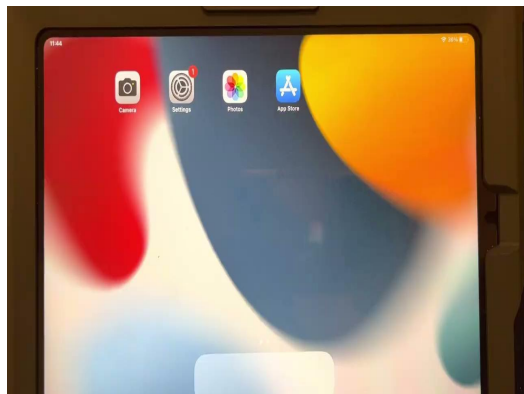
1. On iPads with iOS 16, go to Settings app, Accessibility, Guided Access
2. Within the TouchChat app, go to Menu, Settings, Use Menu Passcode
3. Within LAMP: Words For Life, go to Menu, Settings, Use Menu Passcode
4. Within TD Snap, go to System, Preferences, Use Passcode
5. Within Proloquo2go, go to Options, Restrictions and/or Options, Lock Options
6. Within CoughDrop, go to Preferences, Require a PIN when exiting Speak Mode

How to Setup Guided Access in iOS 16

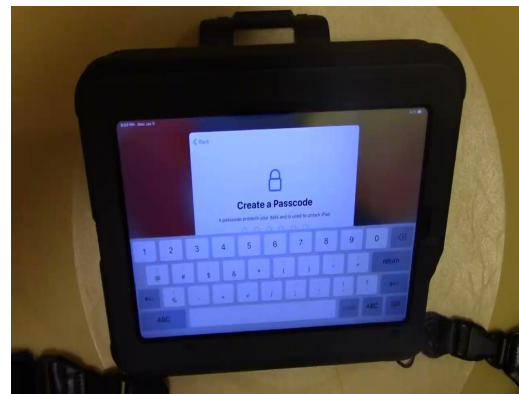


Setting a passcode for a specific menu or for Guided Access does NOT lock the vocabulary from being used for communication.

However, if you have to enter a passcode every time you “wake up” the device or turn it on, that’s not efficient and the individual might need help to do it.



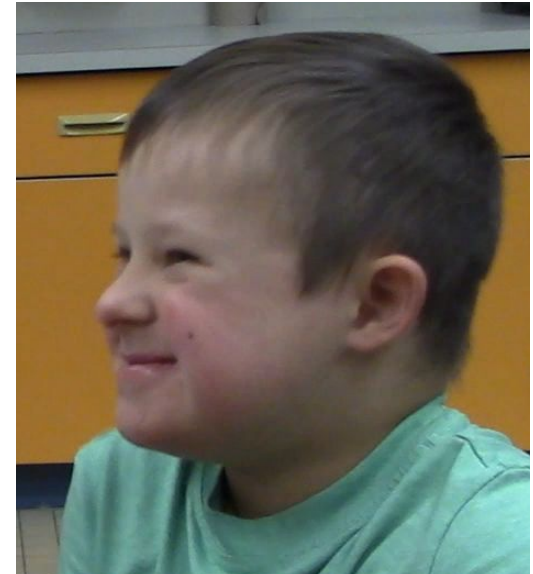
Here’s how to turn off that kind of passcode





Here’s how to avoid setting it up initially

What does a “Cheerful Giver” look like?

- Doesn't care when you take their device to edit
- Happily hands it over for hours
- Is fine with having no device in the meantime
- Support person agrees, “He/she won't need it”
- Not excited to get it back from you/ doesn't notice



This minimizes the time that the device is out of the user's hands

- For TouchChat and LAMP: Words For Life, use *Chat Editor* on Windows (FREE) must manually export file via Google Drive or DropBox
- For TD Snap, use Professional license of TD Snap on iPad or Windows (FREE)  SYNCS!
- For Proloquo2go, use *Proloquo2go for Mac* on Mac computer (\$125) must manually export file via AirDrop
- For CoughDrop, use Supervisor account on any device with internet (\$25?)  SYNCS!

For the Super Hackers...

...who have figured out that Guided Access will be OFF after the iPad battery dies completely (0%)

Strategy:

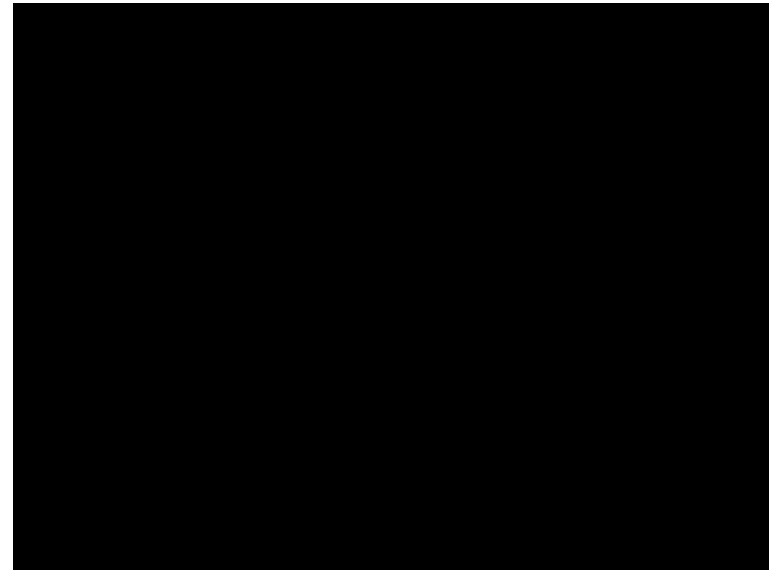
Screen Time (4-digit passcode protected)

Content & Privacy Restrictions

- Hide App Store
- Hide Safari
- Hide In-App Purchases

App Limits

- Limit other apps to 1 minute



For the Unmotivated...

...who “likes everything” and “doesn’t NOT like anything”

Strategy: Preference Assessment

Questions...

1. What do they do when allowed complete freedom?
2. What do they sustain interest in the longest?
3. What do they care about when it’s taken away?

Consider: sensory (temperature, wind, water, textures), video of familiar person/pet/place/particular clip, attention, control, escape, exploration (busy box)

Choosing Vocabulary Targets/ Shaping Behavior

Start with an observation...

...and note what the individual is already expressing

1. that a stranger wouldn't understand

2. that should/could be expressed in a more
“appropriate” way



Choosing Vocabulary Targets/ Shaping Behavior

Be sure to observe them interacting with someone who knows them well (parent, health aide, school aide/para, etc.) and ask that person to announce what they think the individual is expressing...

Ex. “You’re telling me you don’t like how the glue got on that part of the paper.”



Choosing Vocabulary Targets/ Shaping Behavior

If you and the familiar person cannot interpret, just note the gesture, behavior, or speech approximation and the context, so that you can describe it to others and ask their opinion (*it takes a village*).

Try to classify each expression as:

Requesting/Directing Others, Protesting, Gaining Attention, Answering a Question, Asking a Question, Greeting, or Commenting/Labeling.



Make a Top Ten List of words, phrases, and sentences that the individual expressed the most.

Share it with the team and ask for their input to finalize the list (*the more the merrier*).

Edit the robust vocabulary as needed to include the targets in a user-friendly way.

1. I want to eat
2. Help
3. Open
4. Chocolate coin
5. Count my tickets
6. I want a prize
7. I want a ticket
8. Pineapple toy, watermelon toy (play folder)
9. New friend, friend, other friend
10. When

Choosing Vocabulary Targets/ Shaping Behavior

The goal is either for the individual to use the new vocabulary and their talker in general to:

1. replace a problem behavior A.K.A “shaping”
(ex. Request a break using language instead of eloping/leaving)
2. increase independence (ex. Repair a communication breakdown without relying on an interpreter)



Back to Jack



Please email me your specific questions...

abedard@eastconn.org



That way I can send you links, screenshots, etc. that can be so helpful when it comes to explaining this techy stuff. Thank you and remember...

...you make a difference!