

A Team-Oriented Approach to AAC

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Agenda

- Intro
- Outreach
- Where AAC Falls Short
- Team-Enabling AAC
- Questions

Intro

- Brian Whitmer, M.S. Computer Science, HCI
- Oldest has Rett Syndrome
- CoughDrop founded in 2014
- @CoughDropAAC
- mycoughdrop.com



Quick Question

- What is your biggest frustration around AAC?
 - Doesn't have to be technology
 - Why doesn't AAC work more often?

Outreach

- 30 SLPs, AT Specialists, OTs, Parents



Outreach

- 30 SLPs, AT Specialists, OTs, Parents

I would recommend this... a very good solution for many different levels.

Really cool... more flexible... I think it's a home run.

I think you've got a home run here.

These reports would be really helpful.

I really like it!

It's a lot more user friendly than anything I've used so far.

I want this now!



Outreach – Pain Points

1. I wish I could test more communication solutions, but they're all so expensive.
2. iPad apps are nice, but they're never as fully-functional as traditional AAC tools.
3. I hate that different apps have such different interfaces.
4. iPads are great but they're still too expensive for most people.
5. Most low-tech devices could be replaced by a basic iPad app.
6. It's too hard to design my own boards, I just use whatever's included.
7. I wish I had more time to personalize communication boards.
8. Dedicated communication devices are too limiting in their functionality.
9. People with disabilities would benefit from easier access to Facebook or Twitter.
10. Most AAC technology seems to be targeted at young children.
11. iPads are great, but they have too many distractions or have to be shared.
12. Anything else?

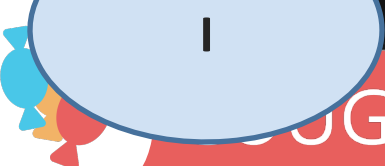
Outreach - Discussion



Outreach - Discussion



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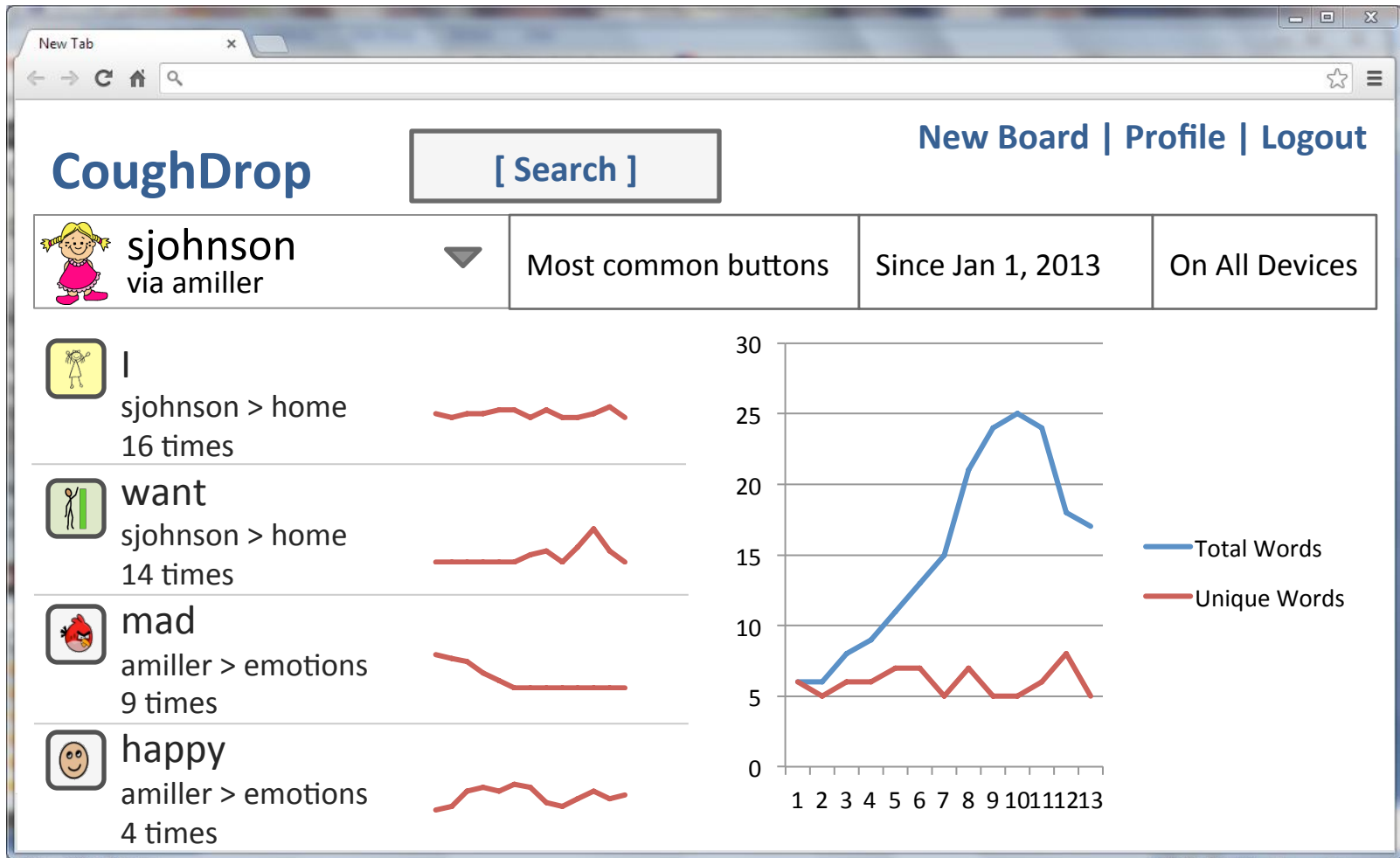


Feel

Outreach - Discussion



Outreach - Discussion



Outreach - Discussion



Say that sentence out loud for me



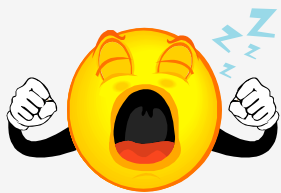
Mad



Happy



Scared



Tired



Sick



Anxious

Numbers on some of the buttons represent page numbers. If the user selects them you should turn to that page.

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Where AAC Falls Short

- Usability issues
- Failure to enable the team
- The “device” mindset

AAC Usability

- Too hard to program
- Not enough accommodations
- Everything is lost if the device breaks



AAC and the Team

- Single super-advocate runs the show (sometimes too many cooks, too)
- Suspect it's not getting used elsewhere
- Don't feel like part of the strategy
- Not sure how to program the device
- Don't know what to work on right now
- Too much work/disruption making changes for multiple communicators



The Device Mindset



The Device Mindset

- Learning the language
- Modifying the language
- Modeling the language
- Tracking usage
- Adding outside resources

Making AAC More Successful

- Better usability
- Language (vs. device) -centric strategy
- Empower the team
 - Inform, Align & Engage
- Demos

Questions?