AAC : social media and connectivity in AAC

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therapybox®

Therapy Box

- Multi Award winning AAC app specialists
- Founded by Rebecca Bright (SLP) and Swapnil Gadgil, Telecoms expert in 2010
- Based in UK
- AAC apps such as Predictable, ChatAble, and Scene&Heard

What is Social Media?

- A sharing platform for users to connect with each other regardless of location in real time

Why is Social Media Relevant to AAC Users?

- An inclusive platform for everyone

- Allows users to interact no matter without the need to physically speak

- Integrating social media access in to AAC devices is convenient and accessible for the users

- Users can develop social skills and form friendships

How Can Social Media be Accessed by an AAC User?

- Integration in to AAC Devices

- Scanning e.g. iOS scanning, device scanning, etc.

- Tracking solutions e.g. Head mouse, TrackerPro, Eye Gaze can all be used to access social media.
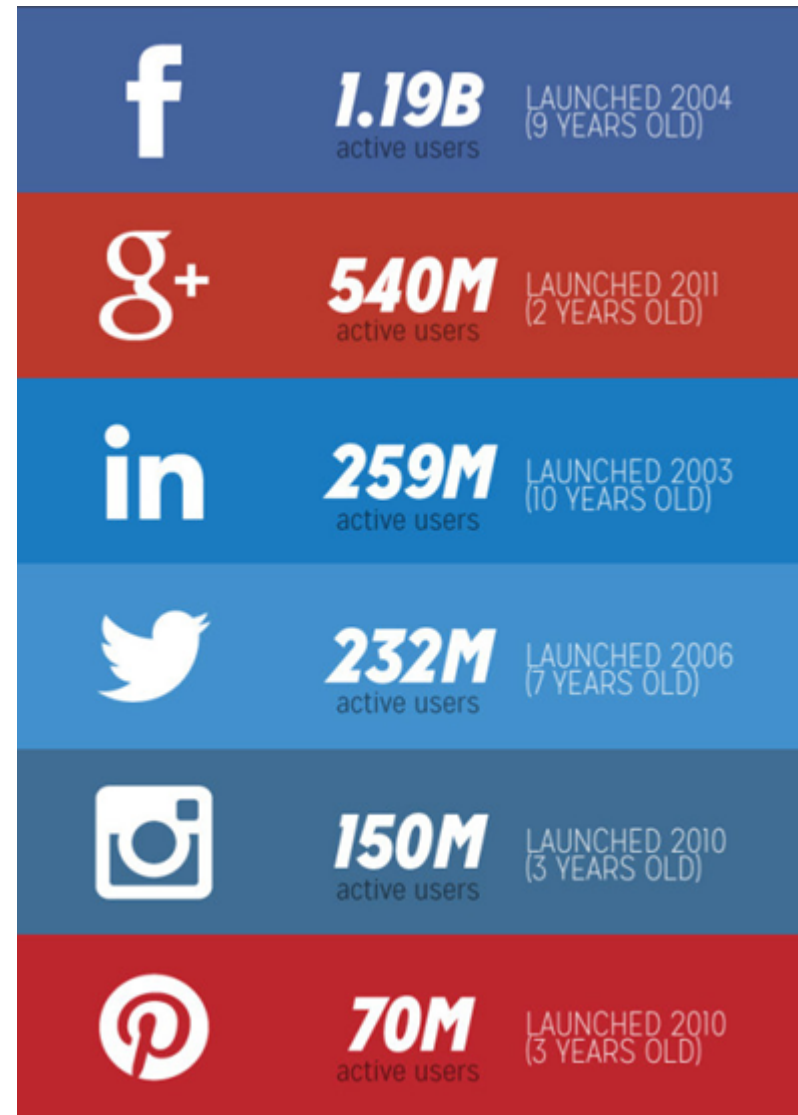
The Statistics

Social media users among all adults

Among all American adults ages 18+, the % who use the following social media sites

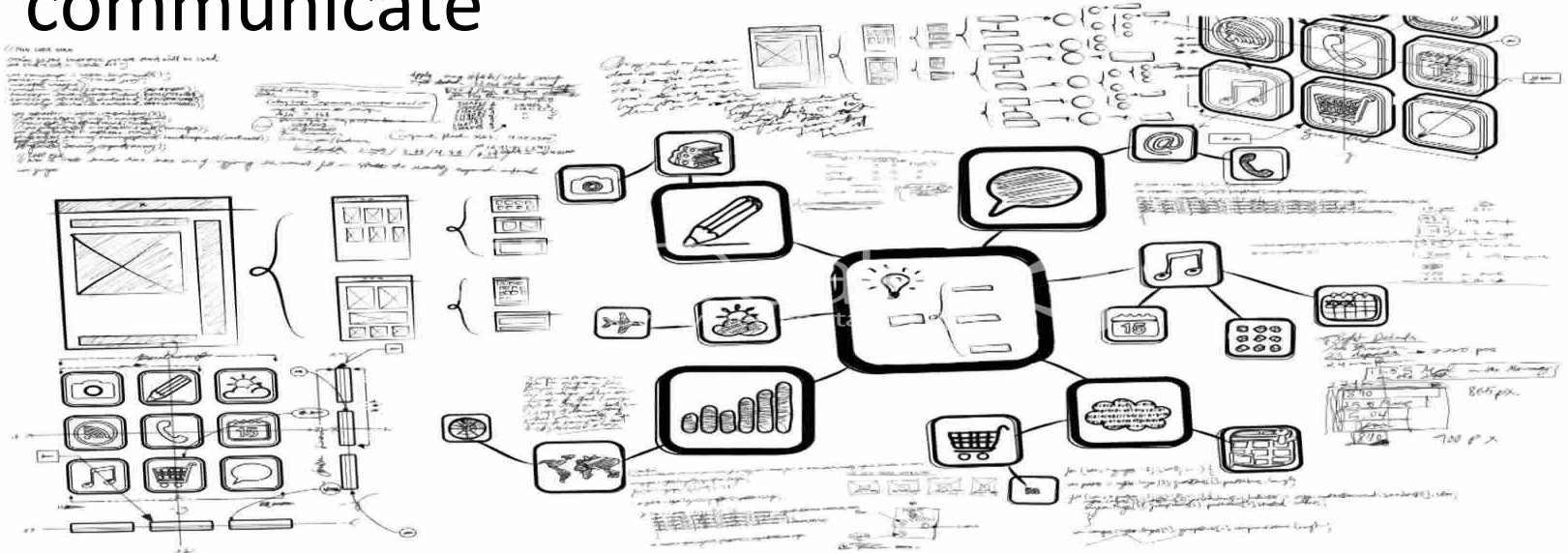|	
Facebook	58
LinkedIn	23
Pinterest	22
Instagram	21
Twitter	19

Source: Pew Research Center's Internet Project September Combined Omnibus Survey, September 11-14 & September 18-21, 2014. N=2,003 adults in the U.S. ages 18+.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

f	**1.19B** active users	LAUNCHED 2004 (9 YEARS OLD)	
g+	**540M** active users	LAUNCHED 2011 (2 YEARS OLD)	
in	**259M** active users	LAUNCHED 2003 (10 YEARS OLD)	
(Twitter)	**232M** active users	LAUNCHED 2006 (7 YEARS OLD)	
(Instagram)	**150M** active users	LAUNCHED 2010 (3 YEARS OLD)	
P	**70M** active users	LAUNCHED 2010 (3 YEARS OLD)	

From an App Developer's Prospective

- Social Media access is expected – it's the norm

- Practical for the user – all in one place

- Can be controlled through in app accessibility e.g. scanning

- Provides an extra way for the user to communicate

Benefits of Social Media to an AAC User

- Exposes the user to a range of vocabulary

- Informal environment

- Integrated on AAC devices

- Posting, writing, tweeting, etc from the users device

Protection

- Security and password protection
- Limit access to acceptable web pages
- Buddy up or use with family or a caregiver
- Block or unfollow users
- Guided Access – block out certain features

Social Media in AAC Apps

- Facebook
- Twitter
- Skype
- iMessage
- Email

Skype

- Skype has been integrated in to Predictable and ChatAble

- World's first AAC app with Skype capability

- Make's the user able to communicate using their device with some one on Skype

Facebook & Twitter

- Post directly from AAC app
- Your contacts can see what the user has written
- User has access without leaving the app
- Accessible to switch users

iMessage & Email

- Send an SMS (iMessage) from the users iDevice to another iDevice

- E.g. The user can send an iMessage from ChatAble on their iPad to their friends iPhone

- Users can email anyone directly from their app

- Internet Access required

Conclusion

- Social Media integration allows an AAC to connect

- Social Media is the norm

- Opens up further realms of communication for AAC users

- Makes social media accessible through AAC device integration

Contact Us

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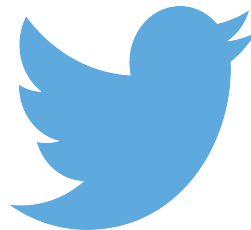
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Thank You for Attending!

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