GETTING FAMILIES ON BOARD VIA TELE-AAC WITH AVAZ
OCTOBER 4TH, 2021 — START TIME 8:30 PM EASTERN (TORONTO) TIME

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PANELISTS: NIVEDITHA RYALI, AVAZ

NAYANTARA NAMBIAR, AVAZ

LALITHA NAGARAJAN, AVAZ

Getting Families On Board via Tele-AAC with Avaz

Niveditha Ryali

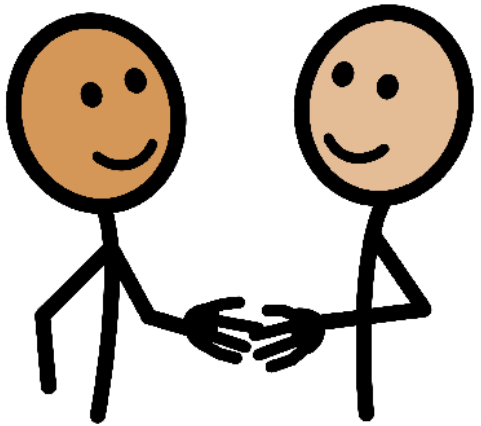
Nayantara Nambiar

Lalitha Nagarajan

HELLO!!

EVENING!

GOOD



Objectives

Training parents to become more effective communication partners through:

- **Teletherapy strategies**
- **Features of Avaz** AAC app
- **Fun activity ideas** to include family members

Agenda

- Introductions
- Background
- Teletherapy strategies for parent training
- Key features of Avaz that assist parents
- Activity ideas for family involvement
- Conclusion
- Q&A

Introductions

Lalitha

- Avaz team for > 10 years
- Head, Customer Success
- Primary interface between product and customer
- Interactions with Speech therapists, families, special educators

Niveditha

- 16 years of clinical experience
  - NHS(UK), special schools, hospitals, private clinic.
- Special interest
  - Facilitating early communication
  - Improving parent-child bonding
  - Enhancing social skills

Nayantara

- Settings: Rehabilitation, Early Intervention and Schools
- Contexts: India and Australia
- Goal: To provide a holistic intervention approach tailor-made for my clients and their families

Background Information

High tech AAC in India

- Avaz - first indigenous high-tech AAC
- Introduced in 2010
- 1983 - Dynavox available in USA

Pre-2010

- Limited awareness about AAC (esp high tech)
- Limited knowledge of complex communication needs and AAC intervention
- High tech AAC - imported and exorbitantly priced

Indian context

- Enormous paucity of speech therapists in India
- Population served per SLP
  - India 2,72,000
  - USA 2500

Avaz's Priority

Bridging the AAC gap

Raising awareness about AAC and intervention for families

Focus on training parents to empower them

Teletherapy
(one of the modes)

Teletherapy parent training strategies

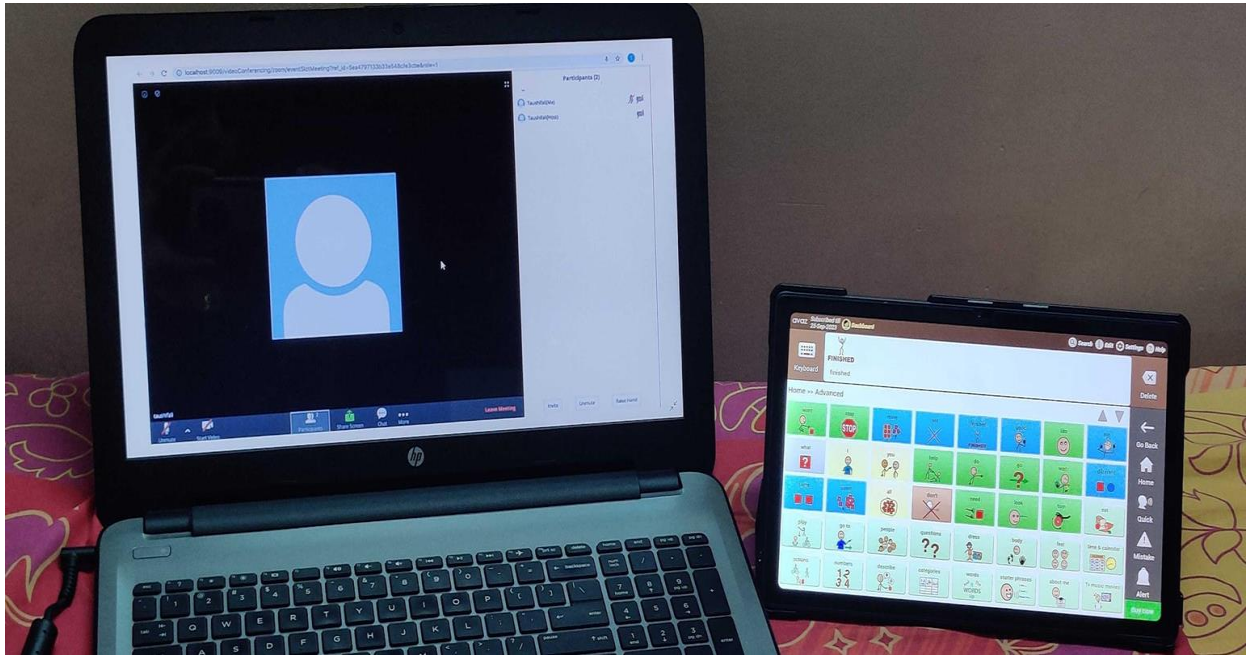
Initial challenges

- How to start?
- Over Prompting
- Inadequate wait time
- Table-top activity
- Mother - the only communication facilitator

Mother

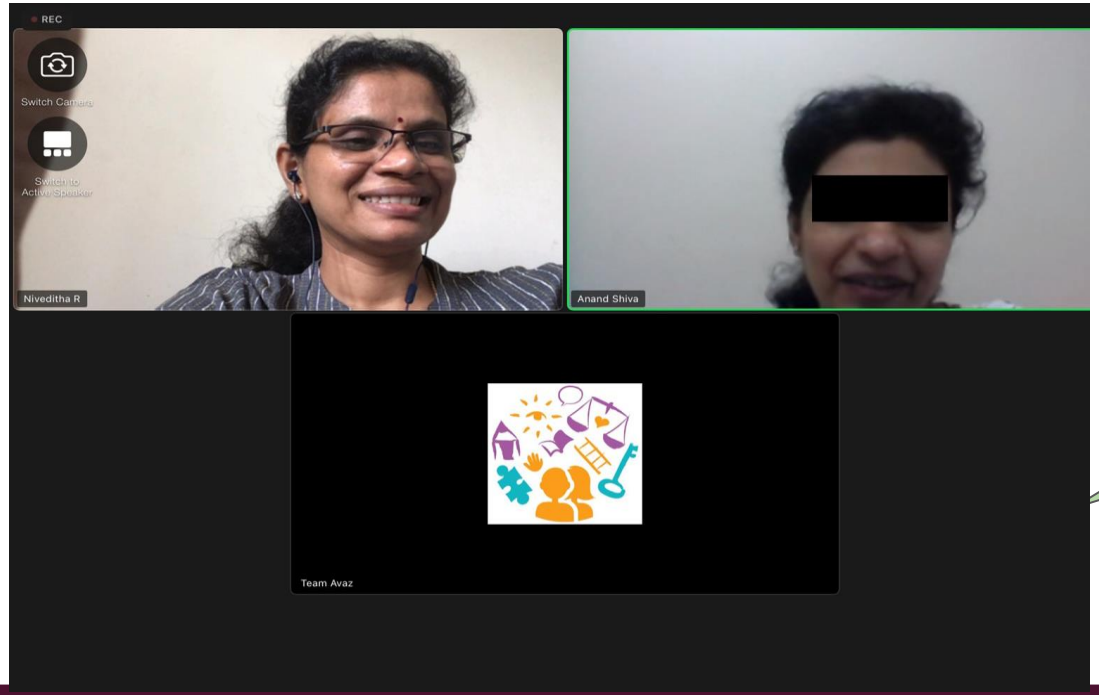
Setting up the Teletherapy (TT) sessions

- Devices used and purpose - simple set up



Setting up TT sessions- Personnel involved

Avaz support team is available for technical support



SLP

Mother

Avaz Technical Support

Guiding parents about AAC implementation

- Key Strategies taught : ***Modelling, Prompting***
- Methodology
  - Explanation and Demonstration by SLP
  - Sharing resources
  - Giving Home-practice
  - Observing the parents during session -> feedback -> improvement

Resources shared-core word posters

WANT

WhatsApp

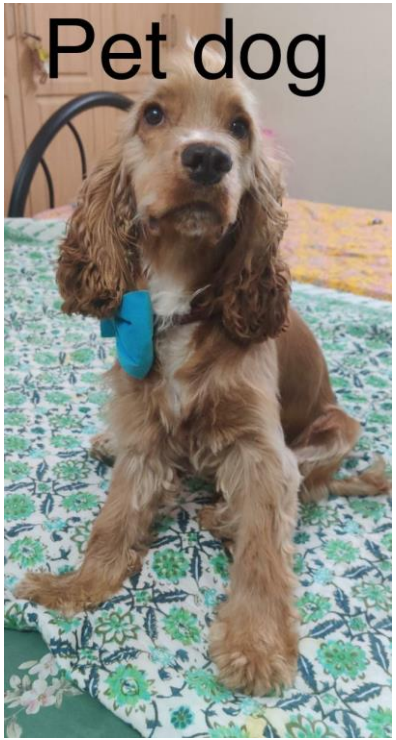
Gmail

NOT, DON'T

Resources shared- Prompting hierarchy

Nature of Prompt	Type of Prompt	Description (Partner behavior)	Example
LEAST INTRUSIVE	Independent	No guidance is needed	No guidance - user responds independently
	Expectant pause	Have an anticipatory look to indicate that you are expecting a response	User comes to you for chips - have an anticipatory look to indicate that you are expecting a response.
	Indirect Verbal	Give an indirect verbal hint that indicates to the user that something is expected.	"Where should you tap next?" OR "Vroom vroom, you want the car to ____ (GO)"
	Partial verbal	Say what has to be done without telling the word to be tapped	"You need to tap the icon for me to understand" Or use your Avaz
	Direct verbal	Give a verbal instruction to the user telling him exactly what to do.	"If you want the car to GO, choose or tap "**GO**"
	Gestural	Use gestures, such as hand pointing/head nod/looking at the icon/point towards an item.	Point to the "**GO**" button from above the screen and gesture the tapping action.
	Modelling	Show the user what to do by modelling or demonstrating the action yourself	Tap the GO button while speaking "You want the car to GO"
	Partial physical guidance	Provide gentle nudge (at elbow or shoulder) to guide the user to complete the task	Gently tap the elbow or shoulder to prompt the user to respond correctly.
MOST INTRUSIVE	Full physical guidance	Gentle guidance is provided to help the user complete the entire step or activity	Hand-under-hand prompt - Keep the user's hand on top of your hand as you guide it to tap the word **GO**

Training parents-Motivating AAC use



Demonstration- PAUSE before prompting

Explaining-Importance of Wait time

SLP : He is doing super!

Training Parent : What words to Model

Parent training: Inviting father to Model

Helping parents understand over prompting

Before training

training

After

Explaining home practice to the parent

Sample Home practice

Home work : Core words to focus contexts to model
to tell how food tasted everyday-yummy,sweet,spicy
to say how family member is feeling and why?- only happy and sad

YUMMY
SWEET
SPICY

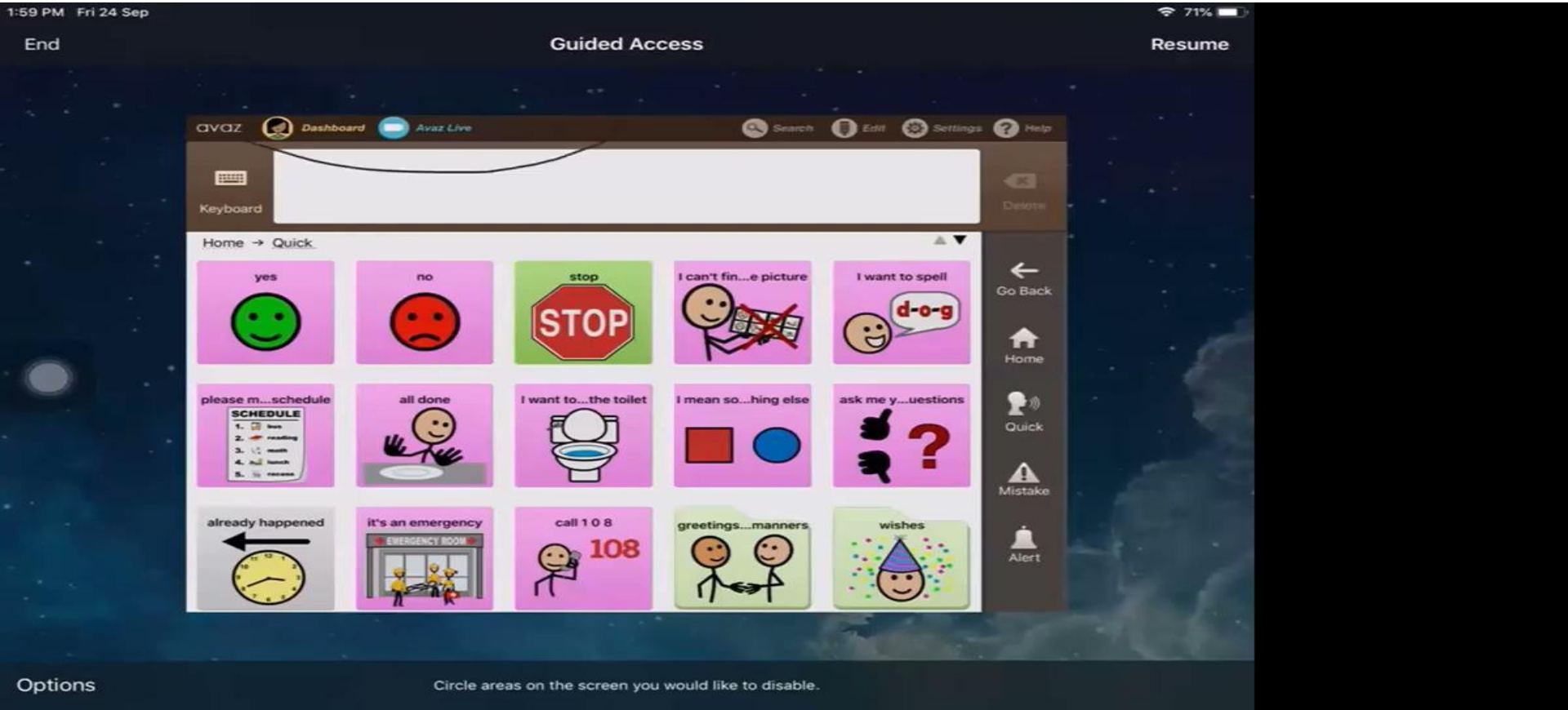
HAPPY

SAD

Monitoring Home practice

Home work	***Home work done***
To try NOT activities Continue modelling WANT	-Played hide and seek game every day to practice modelling 'NOT' -'WANT' practice during food/mealtimes - Expressed 'STOP' on his own when using the Avaz for 'YES' and 'NO'

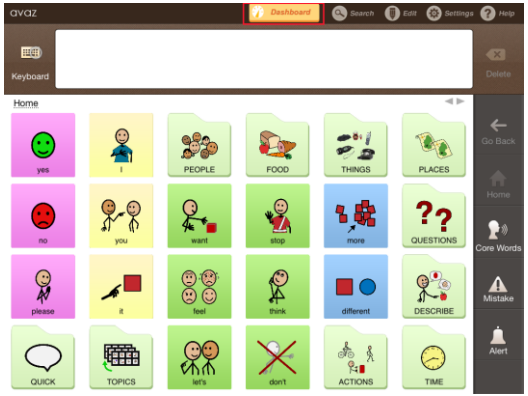
Tech Training for parents-Setting up Guided Access



Features of Avaz

Avaz Features

- Quick look
- User-friendly customization
  - Add multiple items in one shot
  - Adding images from the web
  - Own voice, own language
  - Automatic colour coding
- Easy conversion to low-tech
- Access help within the app
- ‘Dashboard’- for caregiver training
  - Activities- ideas for conversation
  - My sentences- modelling practice
  - Resources- tips and research

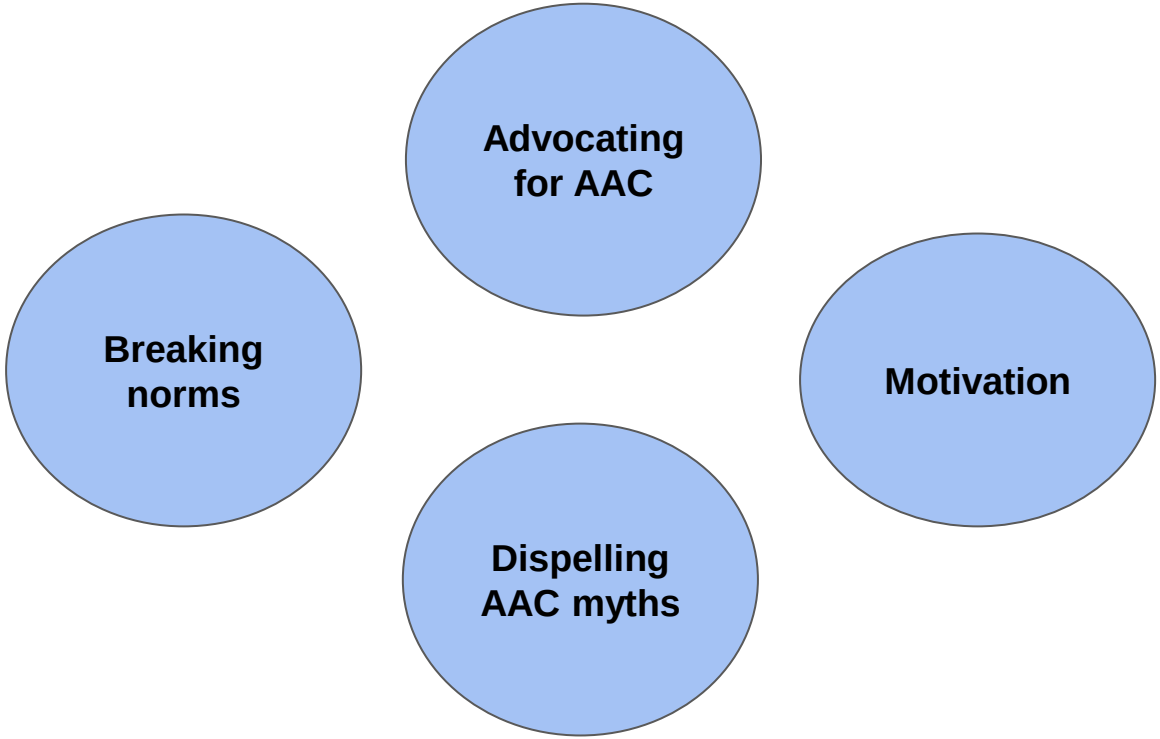


Fun Family Activities

Family engagement

- Every family is different
- Sessions also included: counselling & advocating for AAC
- Getting everyone on board
  - Siblings
  - Extended family: Grandparents, cousins
  - Special Educators
  - Teachers

OTHER parts of a session

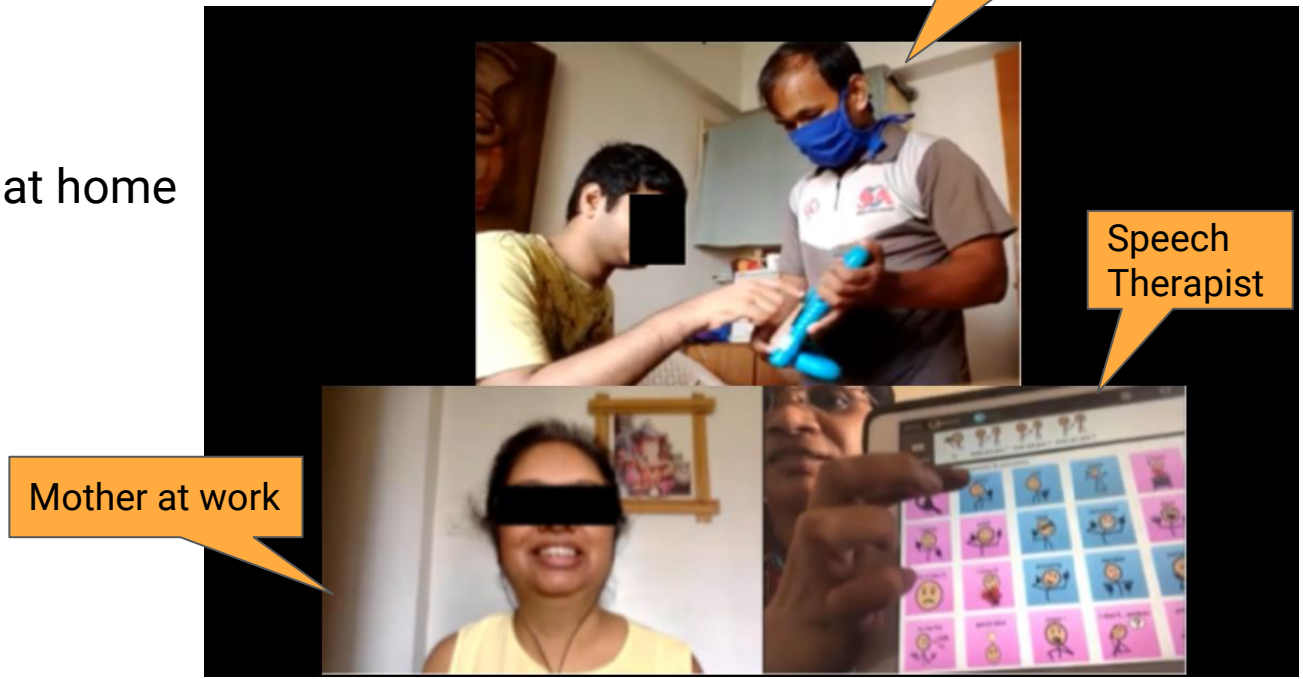


All aboard- when teachers are family

Training the team

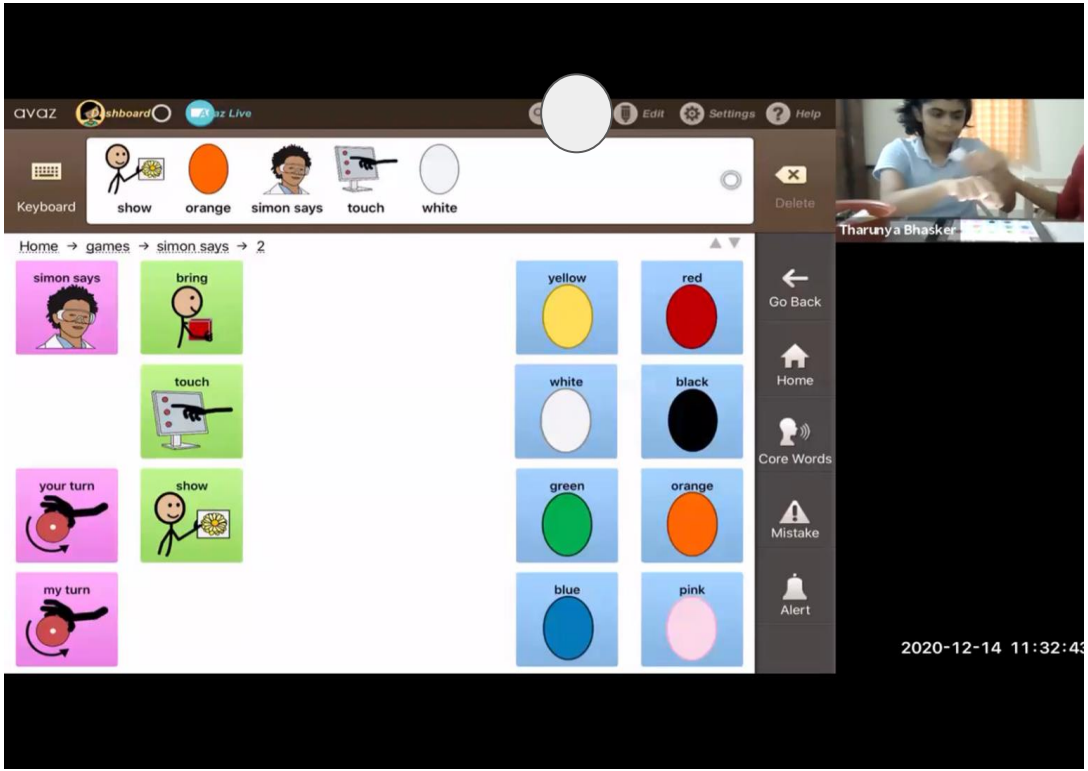
Case scenario:

- Special Educators at home
- Mother at work
- Video sharing



Activity clips

Simon Says


avaz
Edit
Settings
Help
Keyboard
show
orange
simon says
touch
white
Delete
Tharunya Bhasker
Home → games → simon says → 2
simon says
bring
touch
your turn
show
my turn
yellow
red
white
black
green
orange
blue
pink
Go Back
Home
Core Words
Mistake
Alert
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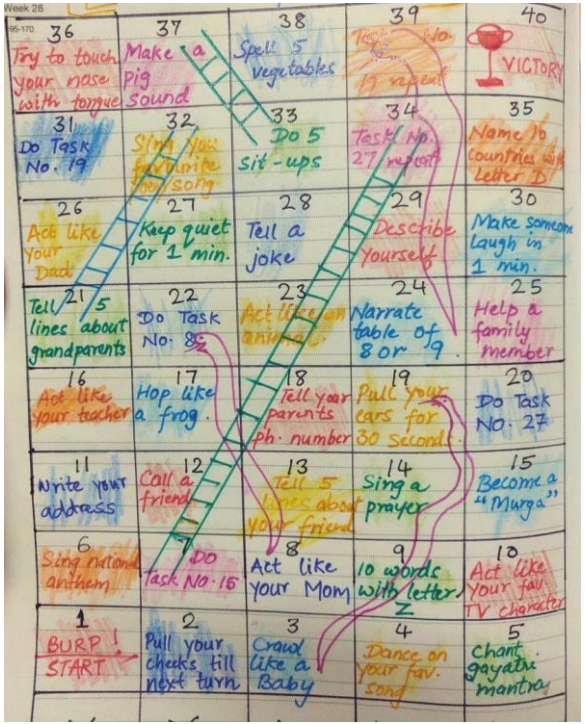
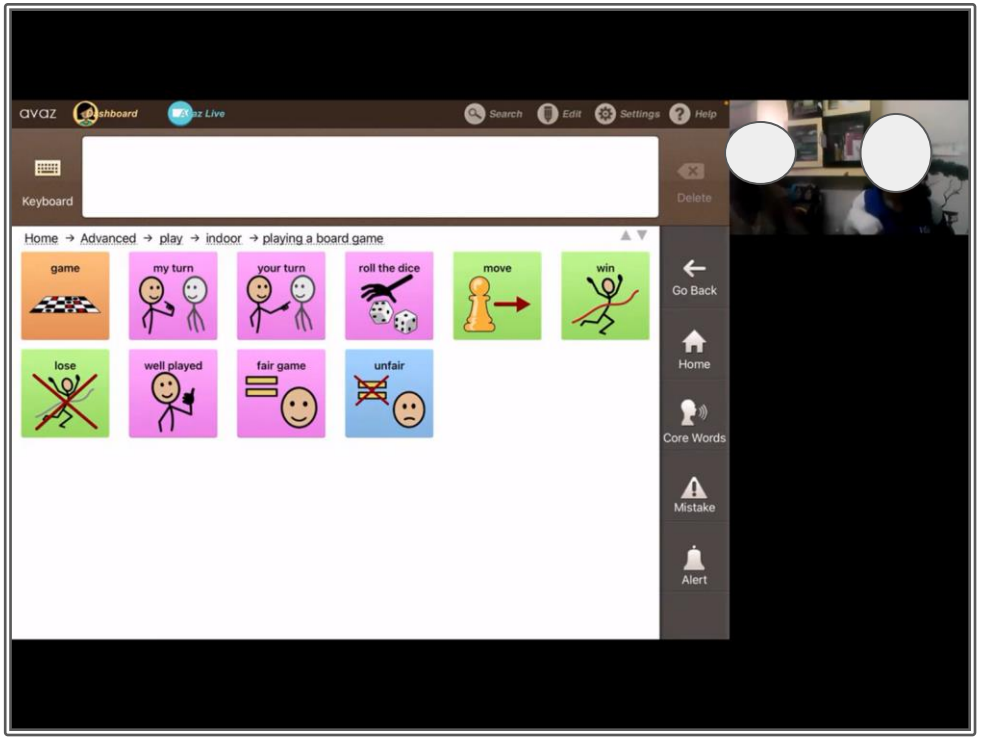
Board games


Week 28
36 Try to touch your nose with tongue
37 Make a pig sound
38 Spell 5 vegetables
39
40 VICTORY
31 Do Task No. 19
32
33 Do 5 sit-ups
34
35
26 Act like your Dad
27 Keep quiet for 1 min.
28 Tell a joke
29 Describe Yourself
30 Make someone Laugh in 1 min.
21 Tell 5 lines about grandparents
22 Do Task No. 8
23
24 Narrate table of 8 or 9
25 Help a family member
16 Act like your teacher
17 Hop like a frog.
18 Tell your parents ph. number
19 Pull your ears for 30 seconds
20 Do Task No. 27
11 Write your address
12 Call a friend
13
14 Sing a prayer
15 Become a "Murga"
6 Sing national anthem
7 Do Task No. 16
8 Act like your Mom
9 10 words with letter Z
10 Act like your fav. TV character
1 BURP! START
2 Pull your cheeks till next turn
3 Crawl like a Baby
4 Dance on your fav. song
5 Chant gayatri mantra


avaz
Search
Edit
Settings
Help
Keyboard
Delete
Home → Advanced → play → indoor → playing a board game
game
my turn
your turn
roll the dice
move
win
lose
well played
fair game
unfair
Go Back
Home
Core Words
Mistake
Alert

Watching Youtube Videos - child's favourite cartoon

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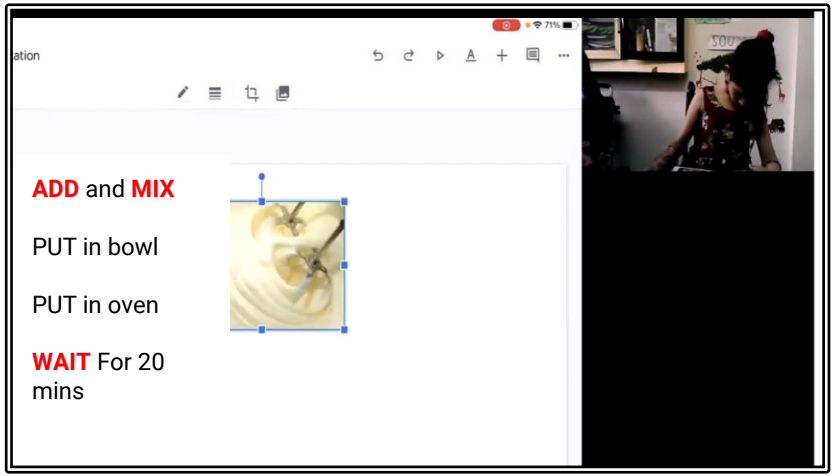
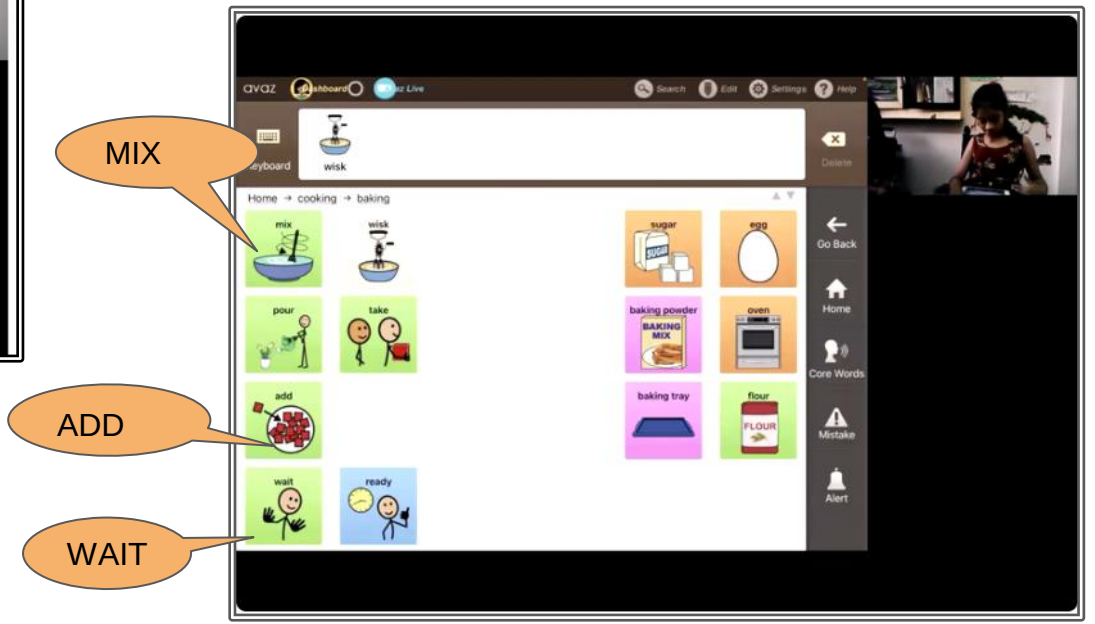
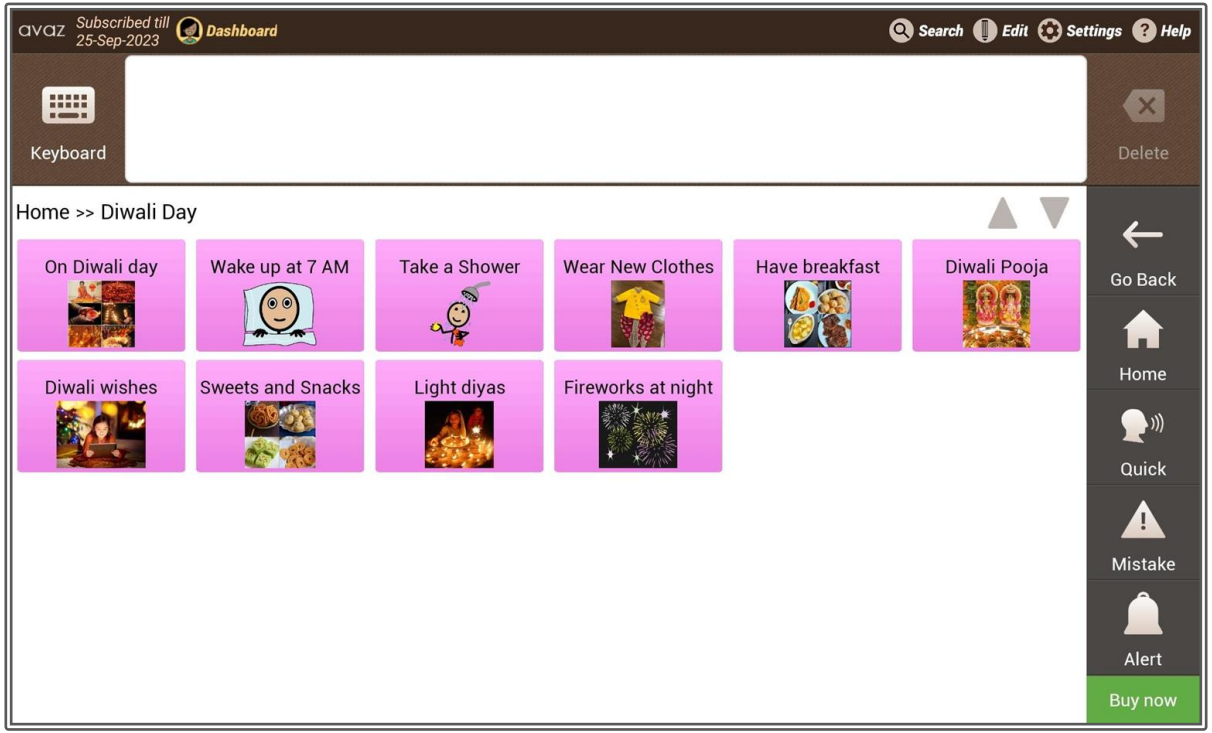
Making a Recipe book



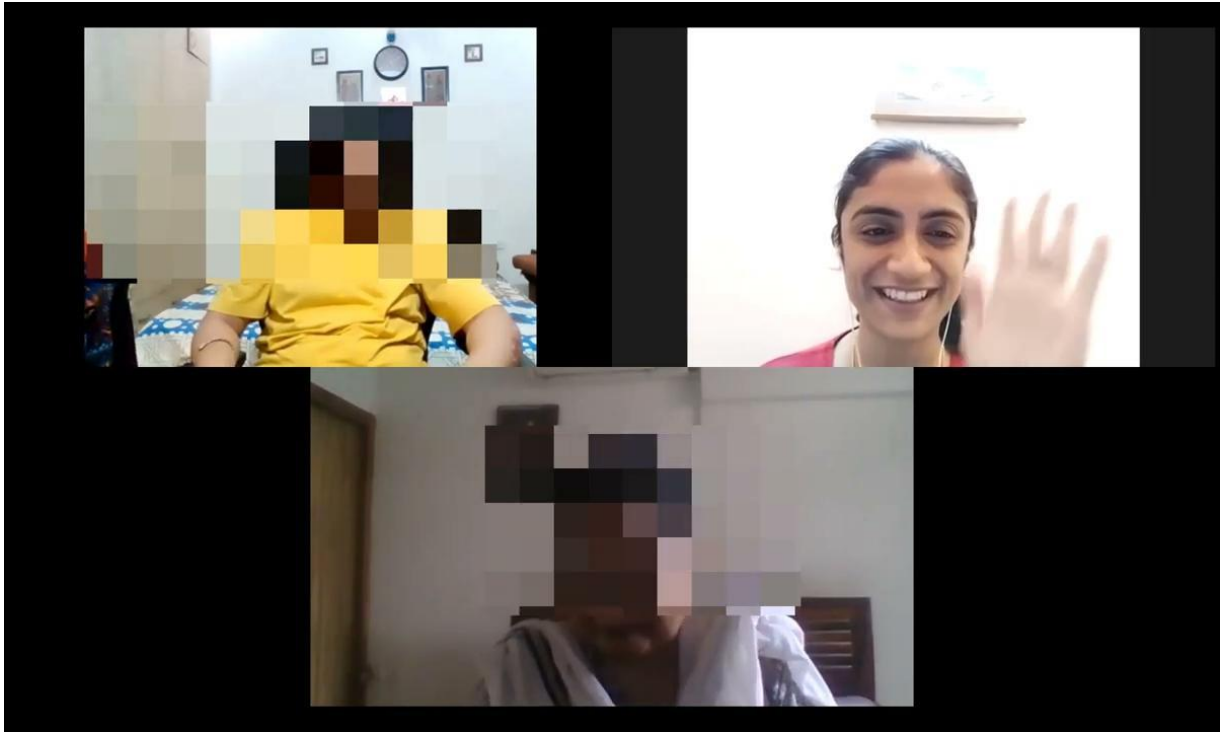


DJ play some music

Festivals Fun



(Extended) Family zoom party



AAC user using Avaz keyboard mode to introduce Nayantara, the speech therapist to her cousin

Conclusion

- Teletherapy for AAC implementation enabled parent training

AAC

"Understanding the numerous opportunities where I can make use of avaz for her to communicate"

Strategies

"I now wait for my son to respond on Avaz and not rush like I used to before"

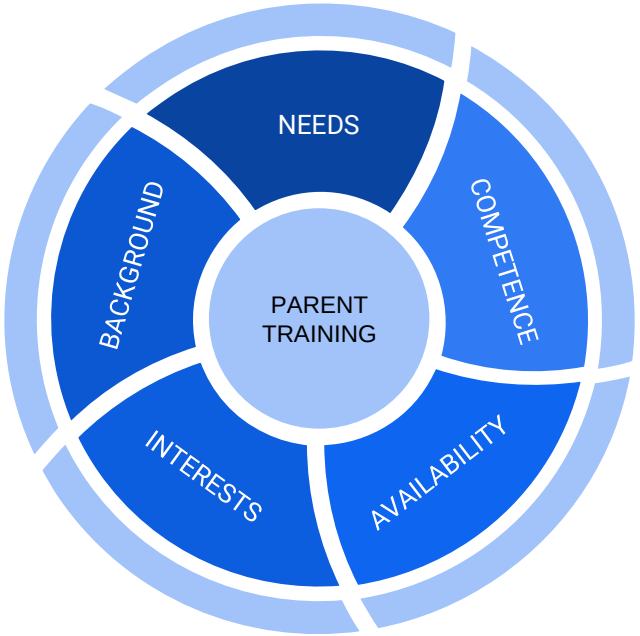
Behaviour

"My son is able to request for his favourite food using Avaz instead of screaming"

Parent feedback quotes

Conclusion

- One-size does NOT fit all



Questions?

THANK YOU & BYE

ISAAC
CANCÚN
MÉXICO
COMMUNICATION
BEYOND BORDERS
COMUNICACIÓN
SIN FRONTERAS
JULY 31 - AUGUST 5, 2022