## DIVERSITY IN AAC APPS

#### WITH DIVERSE AAC

## **SLPS OF DIVERSE AAC**





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## TALKING POINTS TODAY

## THE IMPORTANCE OF DIVERSE REPRESENTATION IN AAC SYSTEMS personalizing physical features

## PERSONALIZING VOICE, LANGUAGE, & DIALECT

### PERSONALIZING VOCABULARY

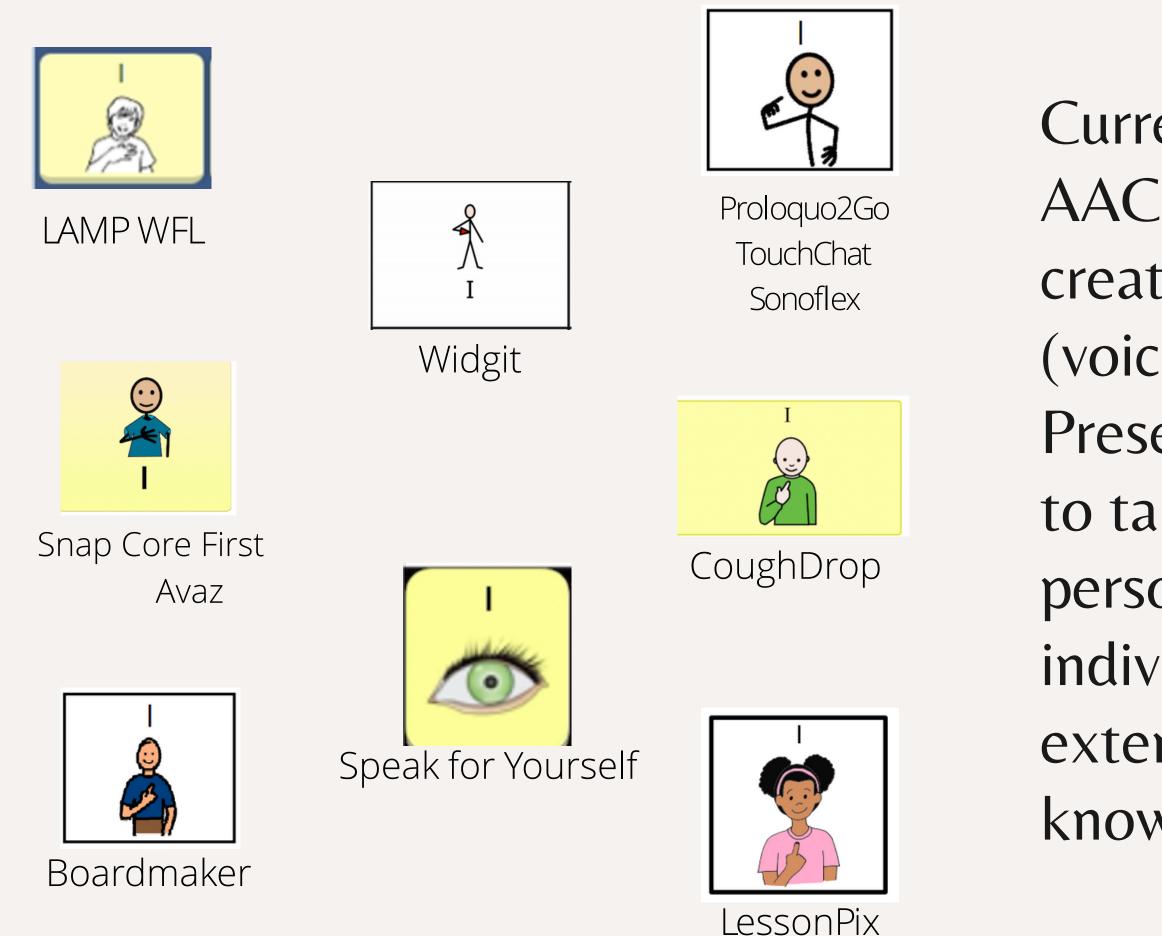
## **WORKAROUNDS & ACCESS TO TRAINING**

### HOPE FOR FUTURE ADVANCEMENTS IN AAC



## LET'S ALIGN TO MEET THE NEEDS OF ALL AAC USERS

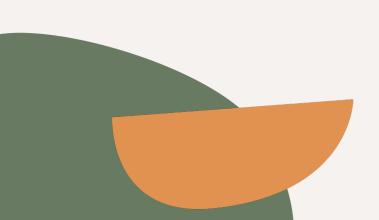


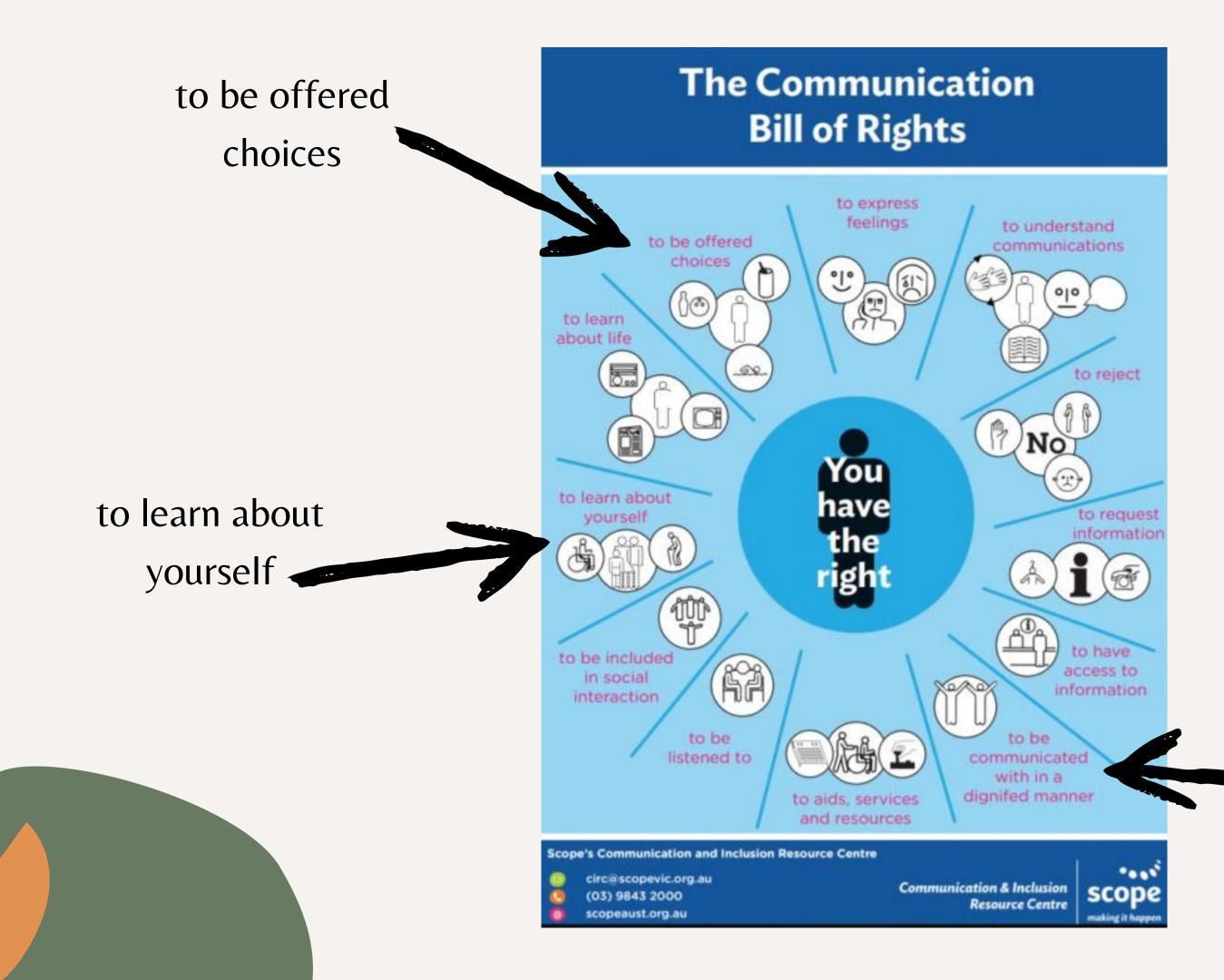


Currently, culturally diverse AAC users have difficulty creating a personal likeness (voice, appearance, dialect). Presently, professionals have to take extra steps to personalize a device to fit the individual's needs, requiring extensive AAC programming knowledge and time.

## ITS A MATTER OF RESPECT

As professionals who respect the right and power of communication, we also encourage our AAC users to accept their device as part of their personal identity. The National Joint Committee for the **Communication Needs of Persons With Severe** Disabilities (NJC) states that all people have "the right to have clear, meaningful, and culturally and linguistically appropriate communications."

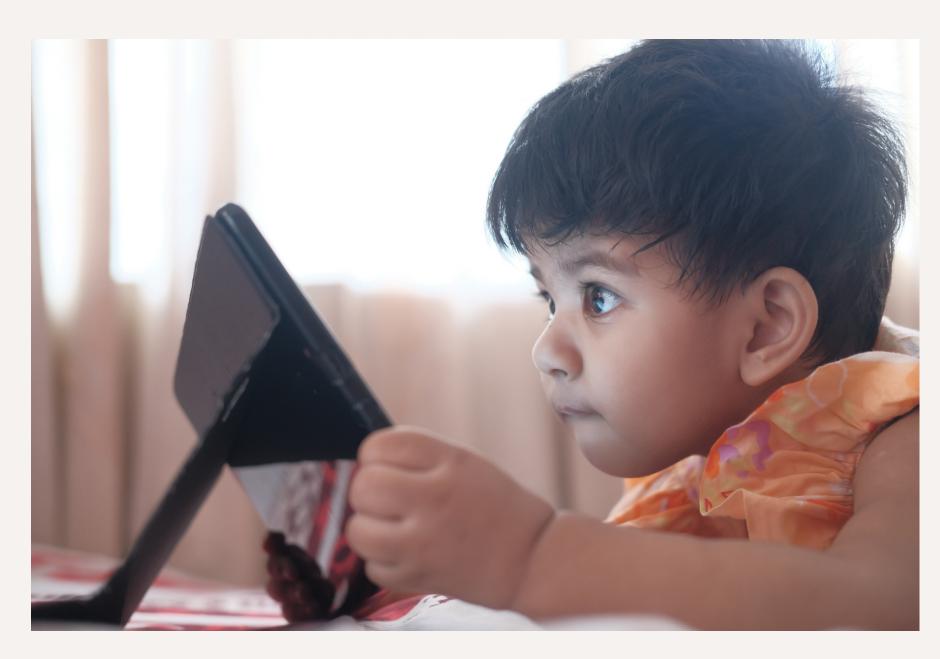




#### NJC's Communication Bill of Rights adapted by Scope

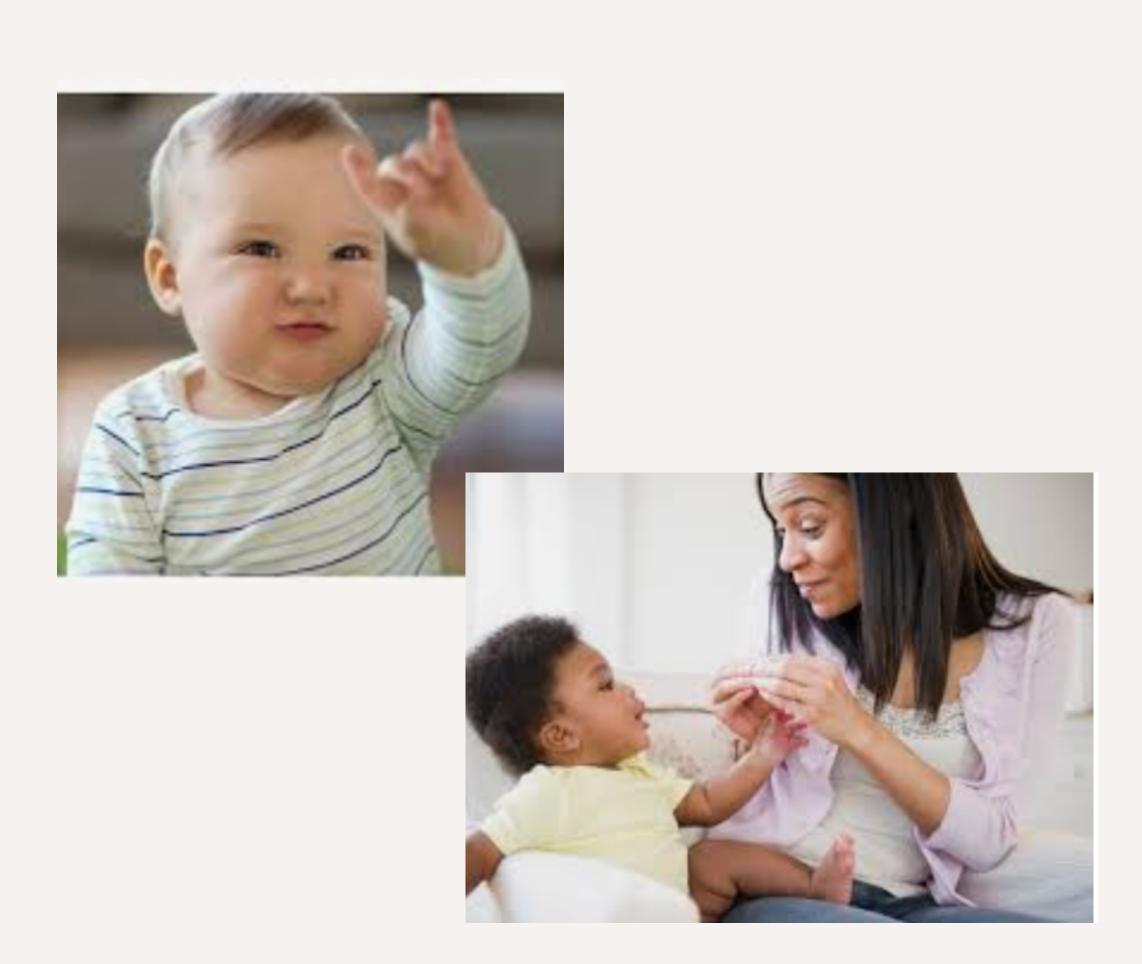
to be communicated with in a dignified manner

## 



There is NO evidence to suggest that children have to be a certain chronological age to benefit from AAC (Romski & Sevcik, 2005). One myth is the belief that introducing AAC at an early age will impede the development of verbal speech as the primary mode of communication.

Research has shown that the introduction of AAC actually improves verbal speech, EVEN when no speech therapy has been given (Ballinger, n.d.). Early forms of AAC are seen in the use teaching sign language as early as 6-8 months of age.

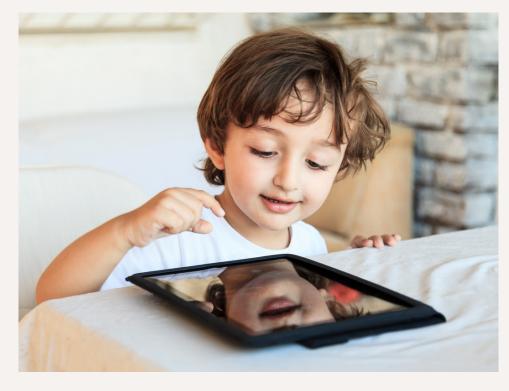




Self-awareness begins around 15-24 months when children start recognizing themselves in a mirror or photograph.

Theory of mind develops around age five.

The AAC system should represent how they choose to see themselves.





### MULTILINGUALISM AND AAC

MYTH BUSTING: Because this AAC user struggles learning one language, he/she will struggle learning two. --- FALSE!

"There are no detrimental effects to the linguistic, cognitive, and social development of children, including those who use AAC...in fact maintenance of the home language is imperative!

Need for culturally accessible, family-centered "training" as opposed to "parent training." Needs to be respectful, compassionate, informative and reciprocal- Gloria Soto, 2021- PALSs training (McNamara, 2018, Angulo-Jimenes 2018, Guiberson 2013)



al., 2001.)

THE EARLIER THE BETTER WITH HIGH-TECH BILINGUAL AAC

- Research shows that once introduced to signs or unaided communication styles, Latino families preferred signs over high-tech AAC (McCord et al., 2004) and thought that AAC would be better used in the school settings (McCord et al., 2004, Blackstone, 1999; Huer et

#### **CONSIDERATIONS FOR AAC USE IN** HOME LANGUAGE

When creating a bilingual AAC system, it is not enough to simply translate the same vocabulary into a different language" -Soto and Yu 2004

syntax is different (eg: Spanish:

LISTS!"- Dr. Gloria Soto, 2021

- Modeling language is different because the noun+adjective, English: adjective+noun)
- -It's not the same thing to translate icons or place a Spanish word on an English icon.
- **"DO NOT TRANSLATE CORE WORD**

## PERSONALIZATION







# **VOCABULARY**



## VOICE

# CODESWITCHING

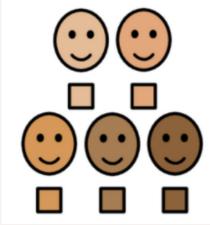


#### **INCLUDE THE STUDENT AND FAMILY** IN THE ICON AND LANGUAGE **SELECTION PROCESS** "Personalization of the device, whether light tech or high tech, needs to happen immediately with the student's unique cultural or linguistic considerations in mind. Engaging the student in vocabulary and symbol selection...embeds the chosen vocabulary word/phrase and its associated symbol into the student's lexicon, possessing intrinsic meaning and value to the student."

"Vocabulary that includes extended family (or nontraditional families), heritage foods, religious engagement, cultural greetings, and so forth may also assist in bridging the AAC home-school divide. Icon selection also plays a significant role in facilitating family acceptance of AAC in the home. Not all vocabulary is crosslinguistically available, and not all images are appropriate across cultures."

> Bridging the School and Home Divide for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Families Using Augmentative and Alternative Communication Systems (2018) Mindel & John

## PHYSICAL FEATURES Skintone



#### SymbolStix



#### Mayer-Johnson PCS

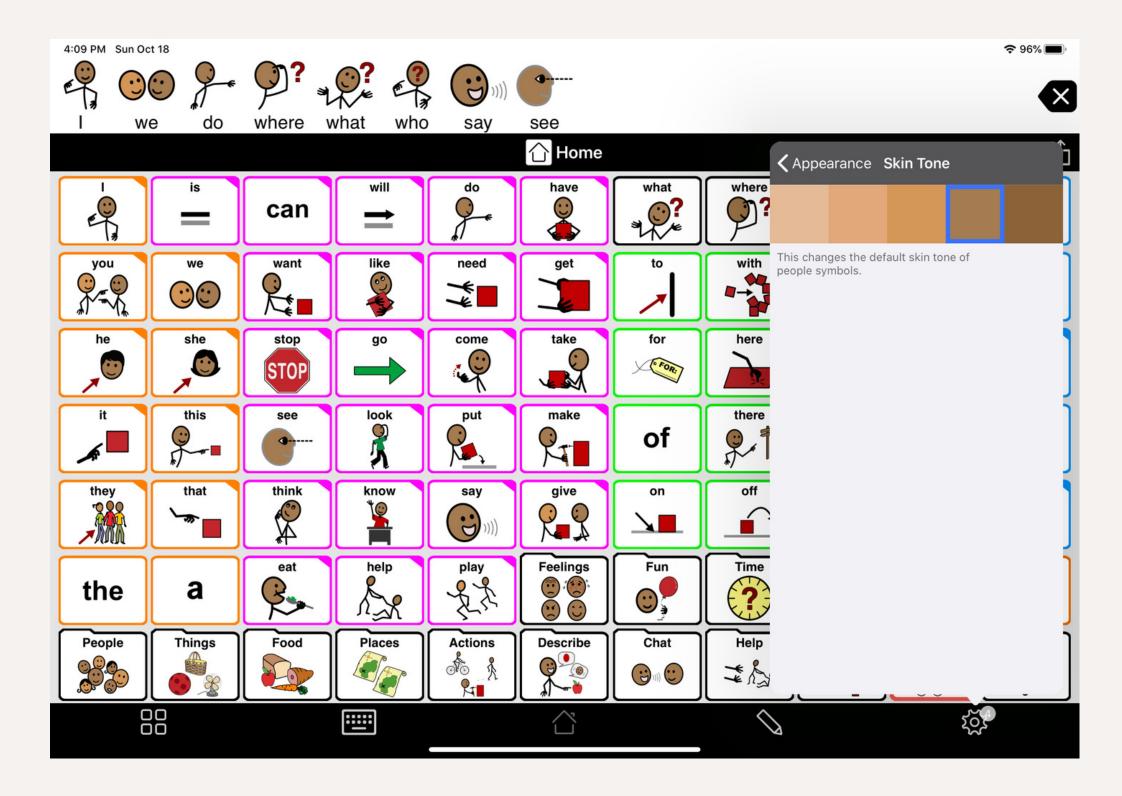


#### Smarty Symbols



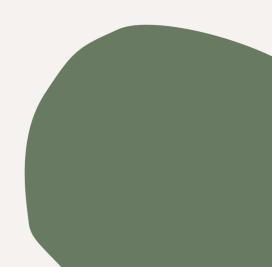
#### Unity/UNIDAD Symbols

## CURRENT WORK AROUNDS

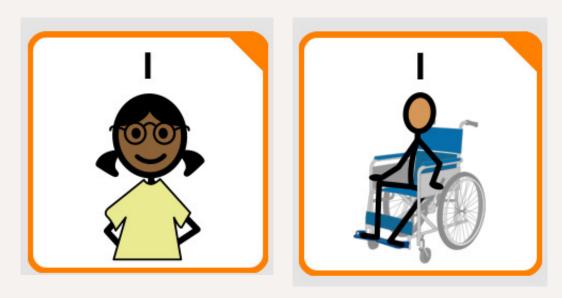


## ROUNDS SKIN TONE Proloquo2Go

#### YouTube: Diverse AAC



## PHYSICAL FEATURES OTHER PHYSICAL FEATURES



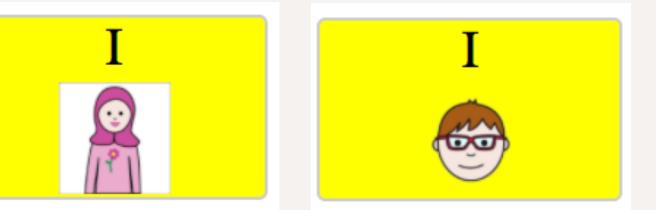
#### SymbolStix



PCS



#### Smarty Symbols



#### Open Symbols

## LANGUAGE FEATURES



LAMP WFL/Unity



ouchChat

**TouchChat WP** 

HD WordPower<sup>™</sup>

Currently available in English,
Spanish, Arabic, Canadian
French, & Hebrew

• LAMP WFL is offered in English &

• Unity & UNIDAD language systems

• Unity has been translated in 12+

Spanish/English

languages



Snap Core First



#### Proloquo2Go



 CoughDrop is available in English, Spanish, German, Arabic, Dutch, Portuguese, French, Catalan, Czech, Danish, Swedish, Norwegian, Nynorsk. Greek, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Chinese, Polish, Russian, Turkish



Avaz

 Available in English (US/CAN/UK), Spanish (SP/MX), French (FR/CAN), Portuguese (BR/PT), Chinese, Italian, & 9 more languages

 Currently offered in English and bilingual Spanish-English, English-French, Dutch-French

 Currently available in English (US/ UK/AUS), 6 Indian languages, French, Danish, Icelandic, Swedish, Sinhala, & Tamil

## CURRENT WORK AROUNDS

6:35 PM Thu Apr 22

6.35 PM Thu Apr	6:35 PM Thu Apr 22								
Vocab									Menu
ABC 123	PEOPLE	QUESTION <sup>®</sup>	ACTIONS	PLACES	;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;		GROUPS C	DESCRIBE	good 🖗
clear	ľ	me	don't	to	⊜ be-	come 🤗	EXTRA <sup>Prob</sup> It WORDS Up	a	more
•	₩	ean	eat ®	drink	finish	go 🖻	€	the	that
delete wd	ë	ø	get 🖗	help	know <sup>©</sup>	listen	about	and	at
-s	ø you	e is		need		STOP	for	© in	øwith
we	⊚ уоиг	⊜ have	think	want	watch	work	of	on	out

#### CODE SWITCHING

## Example: TouchChat WP

YouTube: Diverse AAC

## VOICE/DIALECT

## FEATURES

## ACAPELA **VOICE KEEPER VOCAL ID** PRONUNCIATIONS

## UJRREN'I' WOORK ARODINDS

#### LAVPy Friedung Penningative atias

Vocab

D

Menu

finished mine little up yes good some no +Pronunciations Done and aand please that and me my wear am in 1+1=2 Beyonce ₩. > **X** THIS BELONGS TO: ( )a beeo'nsay chic-fil-a is were was on to chick fill ay we are to+ +en +ed embarrass +ING +S ehm barrass play like work have new feel you they embarrassed ehm barrassed PA \$ 0 \$ Y fajita **@** m fuhheeta do he all come time want go fajitas fuhhee tas tista live right look slow think said hear liv she live A.T. UNE. mein 2 MORE VIDEOS and now lim going to add it to one of the ones on the list.

#### PRONUNCIATION

## Example: LAMP WFL

YouTube: Diverse AAC



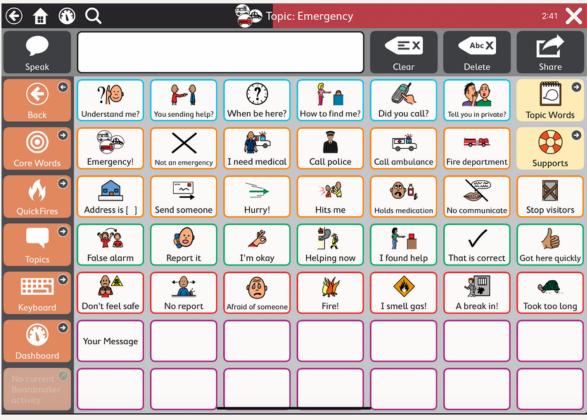
## VOCABULARY FEATURES

## **GENDER INCLUSIVE** PRONOUNS **ADVOCACY ADULT VOCABULARY**

#### RRENT WORK ARDUNDS MATURE VOCABULARY & **ADVOCACY** Example: **SNAP CORE FIRST** 🗲 🔒 🚯 Q Topic: Emergency Ξx Abc X

E î 🚯	Q	<b>8, 93, 9</b> Alt A	🖞 Topic: Advocc	÷ 🖉 🖉		
Speak				Clear	Abc X Delete	Share
Back	Disabled family?	? What would you do?	Do you have any advice?	Help me?	Support us?	Topic Words
Core Words	Need help with	() Idea	Contraction of the hard way	Let's review [ ]	L + Need more time	Supports
QuickFires	Need more info	A plan	Discuss []	I vote	Call that office	Get info
Topics	Do that myself	Have a choice	Have control	Expand options	Important to me	Support that law
Keyboard	Don't want	No options	Lack of choices	رین Have no control	I have concerns	← ↔ Don't support
Dashboard	Your Message					

🏦 🕄	Q		🚽 Торі	ic: Sexuality			2:03 🗙
Speak					Clear	Abc X Delete	Share
Back ©	Birth control?	STD?	Is it safe?	Explain that?	Call my doctor?	Love me?	Topic Words
Core Words	Be intimate	Fell you	Birth control	Reference to the second	Have sex	Watch pornography	Supports
QuickFires	Trouble with something	Abused	Concerns	Need talk to you	Call doctor	Feel better	Tt's itching
Topics	Helpful	Don't have STD	Right	Feeling better	Trust you	Thank you	() () Feels good
€ Keyboard	Not helpful	X That's wrong	Have STD	Very painful	Embarrassed	Don't like that	Don't touch me
Dashboard	Your Message						
No current Boardmaker activity							



YouTube: Diverse AAC



## CURRENT WORK AROUNDS



## DIVERSE PRONOUNS ProloQuo2Go

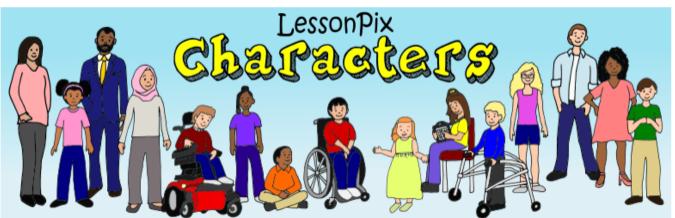
YouTube: Diverse AAC

## COMING SOON? TAMIRA

## ASSISTIVEWARE PRC/SALTILLO TOBII DYNAVOX



## CURRENT WORK AROUNDS



#### Meet the New LessonPix Characters

The LessonPix <u>Characters folder</u> contains symbols of specific people of different ages, cultures, race, and disabilities in various positions. While most of the people in the clip art library are drawn fairly neutral and can be changed to any skin tone, these characters each have an uniqe identity.



These characters work well with our <u>Symbol Builder</u>. Because the characters are shown in different positions, you can build custom images of one child, the same child, doing different tasks. (Hint: use a white circle or square to hide parts of images or people to replace with the character.)

Use Symbol Builder to make new symbols with the same character.

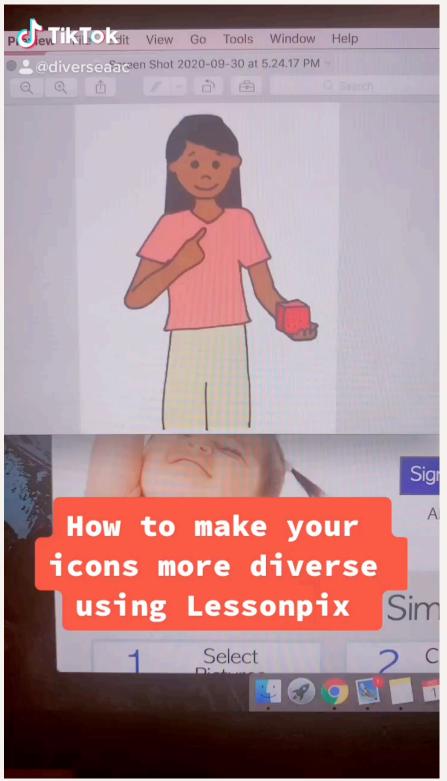


And in addition, do not forget our <u>Re-Color and Customize tool</u>. This will allow you to further customize the symbols to match your specific needs. (Hint: Add pony tails, glasses, or other details in the Symbol Builder, and then change the color.)



-Pros: low cost materials

-Change skin tones and create characters



## The Future of AAC

WE ARE HOPEFUL!

Y

Y

Y

AAE Male & Child Voice -Coming soon on more devices!

Physical features (hair, eye color, glasses, cultural attire, etc.)

Dialect variations

Culturally-relevant vocabulary sets

## TALK TO US

WE'RE READY TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS

Email

Instagram @diverseaac

Diverse AAC

#### diverseaac@gmail.com

- YouTube Channel