

## **#EvidAPPchat EVIDENCE CHATS in TWITTER: AAC and APPS (mobile technology apps)**

Dr. Bronwyn Hemsley (The University of Queensland) and Dr. Tricia McCabe (The University of Sydney) in Australia have joined the forces of AAC and EBP (evidence-based practice) to develop a method for people in Twitter to discuss evidence relating to mobile technology apps. The method, currently in development, will be adapted from two other campaigns for improving access to and knowledge about “evidence” and appraising evidence:

- SpeechBITE (an Australia-based database for rating studies in speech pathology) [www.speechbite.com](http://www.speechbite.com)
- Critically Appraised Paper (CAP) and Critically Appraised Topic (CAT) methods of reviewing studies. For more information about CAP and CAT papers, see the NSW Evidence Based Practice website [http://www.ciap.health.nsw.gov.au/specialties/ebp\\_sp\\_path/resources.html](http://www.ciap.health.nsw.gov.au/specialties/ebp_sp_path/resources.html)

### **#EvidAPPchat: Appraising the Evidence on Apps, in Twitter**

Bronwyn and Tricia are currently (a) developing a format similar to the CAP and CAT system, for people to use when “appraising” an app according to evidence (available soon), and (b) moderating some discussion topics in the Twitter network to develop a shared framework of understanding for the “critical” appraisal of apps.

The hashtag to use in Twitter is #EvidAppChat. Anybody can post a tweet with that hashtag, and anybody can participate in the chat about appraising apps. People can also “lurk” (which means you click on the hashtag and read the topic chat, without sending any tweets yourself). It is okay to “listen” to the tweets that way, or but you can also “chat” by sending a tweet. We are hoping that all stakeholders with an interest in communication-related apps will take part – clinicians, researchers, industry, parents, people with communication difficulties, teachers, app developers – so that a range of views are expressed and in this way we can build a shared understanding of what we mean by “evidence” and how it relates to apps.

### **Examples of future discussion topics in #EvidAppChat:**

1. What do YOU mean by research when you talk about an app? (current topic)
2. What are some different types of research that might occur in relation to an “app”? (current topic)
3. What kind of “evidence” might be available on app development or use?
4. What claims are being made by the developer about an app?
5. What evidence is there to support those claims?



The #EvidAPPchat is not designed to judge an app as a “good” or “bad”, or to “review” apps (by describing or a recommending an app). The purpose is to establish a method for people to “appraise” evidence relating to apps in a standard way for shared understanding across stakeholders. When people are comfortable with how they look for and find evidence relating to apps, we will commence topics to appraise selected apps in the chat. Of particular interest to Bronwyn and Tricia are apps claiming to be for “measurement” or “therapy”, or those that make claims in relation to “improving skills” for particular populations.

#EvidAppChat: Please contact Dr. Bronwyn Hemsley (ISAAC Australia) [b.hemsley@uq.edu.au](mailto:b.hemsley@uq.edu.au) or find and follow Bronwyn in Twitter on @bronwynah to find out more about #EvidAppChat or to participate in the discussions.

- Submitted September 9, 2011 by [Bronwyn Hemsley](#), ISAAC-Australia