

The tablet as an useful device for AAC and learning

Sven Reinhard, Seebergschule Bensheim
Igor Krstoski, Lassbergschule (KBZO), Sigmaringen



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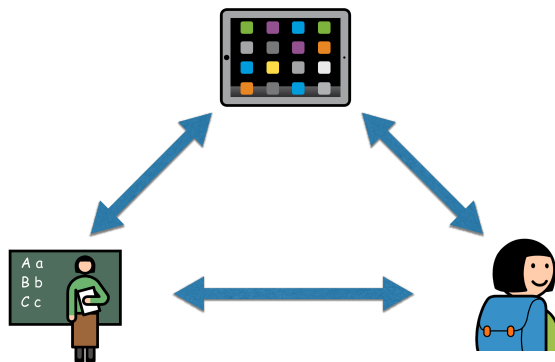


About what kind of tablet we are talking

- We talk about the iPad, because:
- Compared to mobile devices there are a lot of AAC apps for the iPad
- There is a wide range of useful accessories for this device.
- There are a lot of questions about the iPad as an device for AAC

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Paedagogical Triangle



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Using of iPads for AAC and Learning

Three factors

- AAC-user
- environment (parents, teachers, care-givers)
- mobile device

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The position of the AAC-users

- The intuitive handling of the iPad is the most important factor.
- Because of the capacitive touchmonitor, more people benefit from this technology.
- In Combination with certain apps, some students get access to some topics of education, like writing letters and words or communication.
- Students with complex communication needs are able to gain experience in self-efficacy.

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Mobile Device - Apps

- There are 3 mainstream OS (Win8.1, Android, iOS)
- Most Apps for AAC and learning are available for iOS
- because of its weight and the capacity of the battery it's made for portable using
- Wide range of accessories is available only for iPads
- iOS is a „closed“ OS - students with mental and/or physical disabilities benefit of this OS

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Environment

- Worldwide sold iPads (till 2 quarter 2014): 211 Mio.
- Relatively low costs for this solution (iPad, Apps, Case). Some parents are getting more involved into AAC.
- „Digital immigrants“ are encouraged to use iPads for AAC and in class

(http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apple_iPad#Verkaufszahlen)

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Conclusions: Mobile Devices - Apps

Pro

- The iPad has crushed the market for traditional SGDs
- Some distributors for communications aids offer now mobiles devices as an communication device
- Even school for special needs are purchasing more and more iPads

Con

- Apps with complex grammar function haven't been developed yet (e.g german language).
- There are a lot of apps, which aren't fitting to certain didactics

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Conclusions: AAC-user

Pro

- The number of people with special needs using the iPad as a communication device or for learning increased
- For some with complex communication needs this is the most suitable device

Con

- High risk on only focusing on the technical aspects of the device, without looking on the communication and learning needs of the students.
- Alternative access with the iPad isn't possible at this moment (e.g. eye-gaze, scanning ...)

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Conclusions: Environment

Pro

- Ease of use and the availability of apps has led to more people are involved into using the iPad as an communication device
- For parents and professional care gives the iPad is a smart device.

Con

- Many people want an iPad as an communication device, without thinking about the communication needs.
- The iPad can also be used in addition to traditional learning materials.
- As a alternative for traditional SGD, people, who advise parents etc. about AAC need more knowledge, to recognize the iPad as a communication device.

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Thank you



- Igor Krstoski:

igor.krstoski@gmx.de

UK-App-Blog.Blogspot.de



- Sven Reinhard:

sven.reinhard@t-online.de

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