The following questions have been designed as a prompt to help you to think about what features of electronic text based AAC are important to you.

There are many products and resources on the market, and all offer different features. There is no ‘best one’, only one that provides you with the ***features you*** ***need*** to support ***your communication***.

1. What is easier for me?

(please tick)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Physical keyboard (with actual keys) | Touch screen keyboard |
|  |  |

When typing with my hands/ fingers, how easy is it to move my hands around a keyboard?

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Very difficult | Somewhat difficult | Not sure | Easy | Very easy |
|  |  |  |  |  |

If it is difficult, what would help? (tick or circle any of the below that apply)

* My movements are effortful and I experience tiredness but I don’t have problems with accuracy. Perhaps I could try a smaller keyboard/ screen.
* I have difficulty with coordination and making accurate movements. Perhaps a larger keyboard/ screen/ or device with larger targets or a keyguard would help me.
* I have difficulty controlling my fingers when I am typing. I could try a stylus.

1. Would you prefer a qwerty or abc keyboard? Which would be most familiar to you?

Or do you find spelling words letter by letter difficult? Would whole words be helpful?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| QWERTY | ABC | Whole words | Not sure |
|  |  |  |  |

1. How important is the sound of the voice to me?

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Not at all | Not very | Not sure | Quite important | Very important |
|  |  |  |  |  |

(Some apps have limited choice of voices, others have more choice. The quality of the voices also varies)

Voice banking is the systematic recording of your own voice using software that uses that recording to create a synthetic version of your voice.

1. Have you banked your own voice?

Y / N

What website/ company did you use to do this? (you will need an app/ device that will allow you to use this voice/ be compatible)

Name of website/ company\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Do you want to be able to add recorded messages using your own voice or the voice of someone you know saying certain phrases? This is called ‘message banking’.

Y / N

Word prediction is a tool that can speed up message input. Using it can take practice to remember to select words from the word prediction row rather than continuing to type the whole word.

Some people find they are distracted by word prediction and prefer not to use it.

You may have seen word prediction when texting on a phone.

1. Would word prediction be helpful to me?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| No | Maybe | Yes |
|  |  |  |

*Typing speed*

If you are only using the device to clarify occasional words then typing speed maybe less important however if you are *typing everything* you want to say and tend to communicate in full sentences then tools such as ***phrase prediction, chat history and abbreviation expansion*** may be helpful in increasing efficiency.

1. How important is typing/ input speed when I am communicating?

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Not at all | Not very | Not sure | Quite important | Very important |
|  |  |  |  |  |

Some apps/ devices have inbuilt links to other software/ apps for example to email or WhatsApp to enable you to use the communication app for composing messages to send on elsewhere.

If you are not experiencing any difficulties with using standard email or other apps then you may not need this however if you benefit from specific keyboard layouts or other settings that a communication app will provide then it maybe helpful to have the options to use this app for multiple functions.

1. How important is the option to share things I’ve typed with other apps?

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Not at all | Not very | Not sure | Quite important | Very important |
|  |  |  |  |  |

You may wish to share this information with your Speech and Language Therapist who may have some resources /examples to show you. Alternatively, you can use this information yourself to help you to choose a resource /app /device that offers these features.

For further support/ information about any of the above content please call Ace Centre on

0800 080 3115