

There's an APP for that!

New software application provides a "cool" way to communicate

When Annaclaire Heaton enters the 10th grade this fall, she'll be sporting a brand new communication device that fits right in her pocket! And thanks to the new iPod Proloquo2Go augmentative communication software application, she'll be the queen of "cool".

The Heaton's are long-time proponents of augmentative communication and are ecstatic about this

What is Proloquo2Go?

According to the manufacturer's website, Proloquo2Go™ is a new product from AssistiveWare that provides a full-featured communication solution for people who have difficulty speaking. It brings natural sounding text-to-speech voices, up-to-date symbols, powerful automatic conjugations, a default vocabulary of over 7000 items, full expandability and extreme ease of use to the iPhone and the iPod touch.

new technology. According to mom Debby, "Annaclaire was diagnosed with autism before age two. When it became apparent she would not have that language explosion around age four, we immediately jumped on augmentative communication. Annaclaire has used top-of-the-line Daynavox products since age four and wowed her teachers, her peers, parents of peers, and her own parents because of her ability to weigh in socially and academically with augmentative communication." Using the Dynavox device, Annaclaire's teachers were able to assign her speaking parts in grade-level programs; she contributed answers/information about the theme of the week; she called out spelling words to the class; she presented her group's poetry project; and she made her student council campaign speech in 5th grade (and then got elected)!

For the Heaton's, the Proloquo2Go is an attractive option because it is so much smaller than traditional communication devices and relatively simple to use. However, Debby points out that while the smaller size works for Annaclaire who has good fine motor skills, this may not be the best option

for individuals who have difficulties with dexterity. The Heaton's say the price is affordable: Basic equipment includes an iPod touch or iPhone (around \$200); Proloquo2Go software (\$149); and an iTouch attachable speaker (\$27). And then there's the teenage "cool" factor. "Like most teenagers, Annaclaire is pretty much surgically attached to her iPod, so she looks cool, feels cool and communicates cool!", Debby says.

For more information about the iTouch/iPhone Proloquo2Go Augmentative Communication application, go to <http://www.proloquo2go.com/>. If you would like to try it out before making the investment, contact the Texas Technology Access Program at 1-800-828-7839 or <http://techaccess.edb.utexas.edu/>.

