3-12-2011 Chatlog

Tony Gentry

Jamie says to Admin (20:51):

How do you go about testing someone that may be low on the spectrum for the use of one of these devices?

Admin says to (20:50):

A lot depends on the person's age, motoric involvement, sensory issues and communication skills, so it's hard to speak generically about this. If you are interested in using reminder alarms, a good strategy is to set an alarm and see if the person respond appropriately to it. There are a number of apps that "teach" you how to use the device. For little tykes, my current favorite is Talking Tom. For older folks, one of the free bubble popping apps can work well.

Lena408 says to (20:53):

Do you have any app recommendations to work on pre-writing/writing/literacy skills for a child who is 5 years old with fine motor difficulties.

Admin says to (20:54):

Yes, my favorites are Word Magic and FW Sampler (these are Apple Apps). Pictures, fill letters in the blank and immediate auditory feedback.

Bill says to (20:55):

Did I understand that some PDAs may produce text messaging without a monthly plan?

Admin says to (20:55):

Not text messaging, but email is available and instant message emails, as long as both devices have a wi-fi connection.

Fiona says to (20:57):

What is the youngest child you have seen successfully use an iPod touch or similar?

Admin says to (20:57):

Typically, I start at age 14, because that's transition age, and a good time for kids to start taking control of their everyday chores. But with ipads, especially the learning apps, I've helped one child with autism who is 5 get started, and it's working.

kathi adams says to (20:59):

where would you start with pre-school students who are not verbal? would you start with the larger I-Pad or can you go right to the PDA/Smart Phone?

Admin says to (20:59):

I'm a fan of the Ipad, because of its larger, more engaging screen and ease of access, which is attractive for preschoolers. Talking Tom can be a fun app to encourage vocalizing and even sort of teaches turn-taking and how to sympathize with others.

Lena408 says to (21:00):

Got the WordMagic just now on my Ipad. FW Sampler is not coming up, did i get the name wrong?

Admin says to (21:00):

I think it's also called "First Words Sampler" (from Learning Touch).

Scott says to (21:02):

Being from a non profit agency, do you find that there is any grants available to assist with PDA's?

Admin says to (21:02):

I know of one non-profit that was able to get a no-tax 7% discount on Apple products from their local Genius Store. Beyond that, I don't know of any grants that support PDA purchase. I'd go with IEP. For older people, if an OT can write to the insurance

Lena408 says to (21:03):

Could you elaborate on how you used the learning apps for the 5 yr old.

Admin says to (21:03):

This will take more than the few lines I'm allotted, I'm afraid. Email me with this question, so I can elaborate. The first step is helping the student become engaged with the device.

wwilson says to (21:04):

How do schools insure these devices and do they allow students to take these home?

Admin says to (21:04):

In Virginia, every school district has its own policy. Some do, some don't (wish all did, since these things can really help with home chores and homework).

Lena408 says to (21:05):

Thank you so much for your insight! Is your e-mail pulished on the ace web site?

Admin says to (21:05):

[logentry@vcu.edu](mailto:logentry@vcu.edu)

Bill says to (21:07):

Middle school clients text but recoil at writing in school. How can I address this opportunity via PDA route??

Admin says to (21:07):

I've seen that too. Would love to see a collaborative essay or short story authored via text messaging!

Admin says to (21:09):

Another thought might be encouraging students to script and perform video performances, news casts, etc. using the PDA video cam.

Admin says to (21:10):

My kids tend to love doing homework on an Ipad, but as you said recoil at paper and pen. Is it just that it's new or is there something more going on?

Admin says to (21:14):

Any more questions? If not, let's sign off now, and we can take later discussion to the webboard?

Bill says to (21:14):

I appreciate the vast possibilities with technology use holds for kids with talent that is not traditionally measurable. My goal is to show them another way to shine if possible. Good ideas on the video production. Thanks for your info.

Admin says to (21:14):

You're welcome and totally agree. Please share what you learn on this!

\*\*\*