

VOCA

Voice Output Communication Aids (VOCAs) are any type of electronic or battery operated communication aid which has an 'electronic' or recorded voice. The voice speaks a message which the person has chosen by pressing a **button** or **switch**. The output can be just one word or a small number of messages (BIGmacks, Go Talk) through to enough messages to be used for independent conversation. Most communication aids are operated by finger-press but many can also be operated by individuals who have restricted movements (Eye Gaze). Communication software programmes (Proloquo2go) can turn a computer/iPad into a communication aid.



BIGmacks/switches

Simple one message aids may be used at a basic level to help people gain attention and make requests e.g. being programmed to say, "Bore Da" during Circle Time. Recording on these devices is simple to do. They can be used with a range of children.

Aids with a small number of messages may enable the person to make daily choices and gain more independence in communicating.



Go Talk



EyeGaze/Proloquo2go

More sophisticated aids need a greater level of understanding to be used effectively. Most aids can be adapted for use by people with a physical disability, often by using a switch-aided operation. Children who have been identified as benefitting from these devices will be given specialist support from the Speech and Language Therapy Team.