

## Our Service

The ILC Technology service provides information, advice and training on specialised computer access, technologies to support education and augmentative and alternative communication equipment for people of all ages.

Information regarding assistive and educational technologies is available to students, teachers, parents and tutors by appointment.

There is a wide range of adaptive technology, software, hardware, communication devices and environmental control systems on display. Sally & Evana (Occupational Therapists), Kelly (Speech Pathologist) and Alana (Education Technology Specialist) can assist you to choose the most suitable option.

The ILC Hire Service specialises in the short term hire of equipment to provide you with an opportunity to trial before purchase.

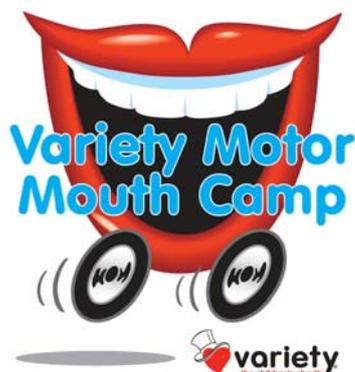
## Our Team

**Sally** [sally@ilc.com.au](mailto:sally@ilc.com.au)

**Alana** [alana@ilc.com.au](mailto:alana@ilc.com.au)

**Kelly** [kelly@ilc.com.au](mailto:kelly@ilc.com.au)

**Evana** [evana@ilc.com.au](mailto:evana@ilc.com.au)



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## Motor Mouth Camp 2011 Seeking expressions of interest

**School Holidays, 29th April – 3rd May 2011 (NEW DATE)**

The Motor Mouth Camp is a five day, four night camp for school aged children who use augmentative and alternative communication aids and voice output devices. Their parents/ carers and siblings also attend. The camp will be held at the accessible Point Walter Camp Site and will be staffed by volunteer Speech Pathologists and Occupational Therapists. We are currently seeking expressions of interest from families who are motivated to improve their child's communication skills and who are willing to stay for the full duration of the camp.

### What happens at Camp?

- Intensive communication therapy is provided in mornings
- Fun activities with family members in the afternoons to practice skills learnt that morning
- Sibling recreation program in the mornings
- AAC support, training and networking for parents, carers and other support people as well as mentoring from an adult AAC user
- Fun evening events

The camp fee is \$200 per family. Scholarships are available to assist with this fee.

The Motor Mouth Camp will be a fantastic opportunity for children using AAC to get to know other children in the same situation, share experiences and make new friends. The primary aim of the camp is for children using AAC to improve their system use and become more competent communicators in a fun and relaxing environment. We hope that this camp will be the first step in starting to develop a stronger community of AAC users in WA!

To express your interest in attending the camp or for more information, please email Kelly Moore (Camp Coordinator) [kelly@ilc.com.au](mailto:kelly@ilc.com.au) or call 9381 0622. We would like to encourage teachers and therapists to share information about this camp with appropriate students and encourage their families to apply.

The expressions of interest closing date for AAC users and families has been extended to 23rd August 2010. It is also possible for the AAC users teacher, education assistant and/or therapists to attend portions of the camp. Please contact Kelly for more information.

Lastly, we will also be seeking volunteer Speech Pathologists, Speech Pathology Students and Occupational Therapists to assist with running the camp. This is a fantastic professional development opportunity to work with experienced AAC therapists and a range of students with complex communication needs. Please contact Kelly to register your interest. Volunteers will be required to stay for the full duration of the camp and stay overnight at the campsite.

Autism Games is a collaboration between Swinburne University's Multimedia Design Program, Bulleen Heights Specialist School, Swinburne Autism Bio-Research Initiative (SABRI) and the National eTherapy Centre (NeTC).

The purpose of this project is to assist children with moderate to severe autism to develop independent living skills. Created by more than 80 students, 8 lecturers and 10 autism specialists, the project represents more than 16,000 hours of research and development. Autism Games integrates two websites: [www.autismgames.com.au](http://www.autismgames.com.au) is a site for parents and teachers, giving instructions on how to use the games and their purpose. [www.whizkidgames.com](http://www.whizkidgames.com) is the portal through which the children can access the games, with parental controls to limit other computer and internet functions.

Each game has keywords such as 'special activity' that are reinforced so that in-game learning can be transferred into real world situations.

Example games include;

- Ron gets dressed
- Eric goes to the airport
- Bob & Friends

Skills targeted in the games include;

- Coping with change
- Transactions
- Emotions
- Nonverbal gestures
- Schedules
- Making Eye Contact

# Events & Conferences

Let us know about any upcoming  
Conferences and professional development events

## Spectronics Conference Sessions 25-28th May 2010

The 2010 Spectronics "Inclusive Learning Technologies" three day conference held on the Gold Coast during May was the place to be for finding out about new products and evidence based practice as well as networking and having fun. The days started at nine and presentations finished at five. Prioritizing and choosing from the many choices available for each session was difficult. With lunch time presentations and product displays there was no time for wasting.

E.A Draffan, who is currently a research team member for the University of Southampton Learning Societies Lab was one of the five key note speakers. Working in the university and college environment she was able to give an insight into programs used by tertiary students. Her Mind Mapping presentation provided information on how to choose the tool best suited to your needs. A concept map is a diagram with the information such as a question or idea printed in a "node" compared to a mind map that uses phrases as connectors. The following link is to Tony Buzan's mind mapping web site which explains the mind mapping process and also has a free trial to download. <http://www.mind-mapping.co.uk/make-mind-map.htm>

Freemind is a free mind mapping tool that is also worth investigating. The following Wikipedia site provides a matrix list of free downloads that allow the creation of or support of mind mapping programs. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_mind\\_mapping\\_software](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_mind_mapping_software) An online mind mapping site that provides a free basic package that is also worth a look is MindMeister.

The above represents a fraction of the information E.A. Draffan shared during her presentation which gives you an idea of the wealth of knowledge and expertise conference participants enjoyed. I have already marked the next Spectronics conference in my calendar for 2012 and can recommend it to all.

*Alana Arcus – Education Technology Specialist*

I attended a pre-conference full day workshop presented by Caroline Musselwhite and Gretchen Hanser. *Write Now: Facilitating Writing Development for Students with Significant Disabilities*. This was a motivating session which has encouraged me to ensure that we are providing alternative pencils for meaningful literacy activities to our students with disabilities in the earliest stages of their development. Caroline and Gretchen talked about how regular children are given the opportunity to "scribble" for at least 3 years before we expect them to start forming and using letters in their formal literacy instruction. Most of our students with disabilities have missed out on this important early literacy exposure. Therefore, we can expect that our students with disabilities will need at least this long to "scribble" and we need to provide our students with this opportunity as early as possible. This scribble may involve regular pencils for our students that can physically use them. But in most cases, we need to look at alternative pencils such as alphabet boards, scanning alphabet flip charts, colour coded eye gaze boards and even giving students early access to a keyboard and other technology. This session also focused on bringing relevance, meaning and social interaction to the early literacy activities that students are expected to engage in. One example included using remnant books for students with complex communication needs to choose what they want to write about. Other functional and meaningful writing tasks included writing lists (shopping list), cards to friends, simple poems, having a voting box in the classroom, writing a calendar book, using label makers and incorporating literacy tasks into play activities (e.g. making signs for a toy car activity). Caroline and Gretchen provided many examples of real authentic reasons for students to write such as writing a lunch order, thank you message, the name of the student they want to sit next to, sign in sheet and many more. The take home message urged us to show children the function of writing first and to embed emergent literacy tasks in meaningful social interaction. For more information, visit this websites. <http://www.aacintervention.com/>

*Kelly Moore – Senior Speech Pathologist*



## New Products at ILC Tech

### Tobii Communicator

Tobii Communicator is a software package that can be used as an AAC system that enables the user to 'speak' via their computer. The speech output can either be achieved through the computerized voice or pre recorded speech that is stored in the system. The user can type what they want to say or use symbol and word/ phrase based pages to access personalised vocabulary.



Tobii Communicator can also be used to access email, internet, mobile phones and some environmental control systems (GEWA prog) through a simplified and accessible interface. Accessible features include:

- Music player
- Video player
- Webcam



The user can select between a variety of pre-made board-sets. Pages can be individually customized by modifying cells to incorporate symbols, letters, words, images and videos. The editing process can occur free-hand or in grid mode. There is the option to import boards from Boardmaker and continue working on them in Tobii Communicator.

The Tobii Communicator software can be loaded onto a computer and it is also installed on several communication devices such as the My Tobii eye gaze system, Tobii C8 and Tobii C12.



Directly accessing the program can be achieved through an onscreen keyboard and mouse emulator; alternatively it can also be set up to incorporate a number of accessible options:

- scanning
- touch screens
- mouse options (direct access)
- eye gaze systems
- head tracking device
- Keyboard

There are a variety of keyboard layouts – QWERTY, ABC or scan optimised. This software allows the user to develop and use sentence building with text or symbols or both. Additionally Tobii communicator has word prediction, abbreviation expansion and grammar support.

The Tobii Communicator software can be purchased through

<http://www.spectronicsinoz.com/>

Please contact ILC Tech to arrange a demonstration or trial.

## New Communication Devices

There are a number of new communication devices on the market. Check out these supplier websites for more information

### ProxTalker

<http://www.zytec.com.au/products/communication%20systems/Proxtalker.html>

### ZinguiPlus

<http://www.zytec.com.au/products/communication%20systems/Zingui.html>



### TalkingBrix

<http://www.spectronicsinoz.com/product/talking-brix-communicators>



### TobiiS32

<http://www.spectronicsinoz.com/product/tobii-s32>



## USEFUL WEBSITES

The Center for AAC & Autism

[www.aacandautism.com](http://www.aacandautism.com)

The Center for AAC & Autism is dedicated to building awareness of the power of AAC to change the lives of children with autism and other developmental disabilities, who are challenged by limited spontaneous communication skills.

## CALL Scotland

Communication Apps for iPhone, iPad and iPod Touch Using Mainstream handheld devices as communication aids?

<http://callscotland.org.uk/Common-Assets/spaw2/uploads/files/Using-Mainstream-handheld-devices-as-communication-aids.pdf>

This document details several Apps for communication that can be downloaded to your iPod, iPad or iPhone. If you are having difficulty downloading this document, feel free to email ILC Tech and it can be sent through to you as a PDF.

## 2010-2011 ILC COUNTRY VISITS

The ILC Tech team is able to provide a limited number of country visits each year. During these visits, we can see a range of adult and paediatric clients who are interested in low and high tech communication aids, computer use and access, software and environmental controls.

Please contact Kelly on 9381 0600 to enquire about an upcoming trip to your town.

## Professional Development

The ILC Tech can provide professional development on topics that include:

- Communication Aids
- Using Visual Supports
- Training for Communication Partners
- Aided Language Stimulation
- Literacy Support Tools
- Boardmaker
- Software specific training

In addition, we can provide customised training or support for your organisation or school. Please contact us to discuss your specific training requirements.

## Boardmaker Workshop

Learn how to maximise the use of Boardmaker software to build resources for your students or clients. This interactive small group training will take you through the steps involved in using Boardmaker to create tools such as visual timetables, prompts for specific activities, communication boards and books, other visual supports and therapy resources.

The following dates have been set for Term 3. Additional workshops can be arranged to suit small groups if required.

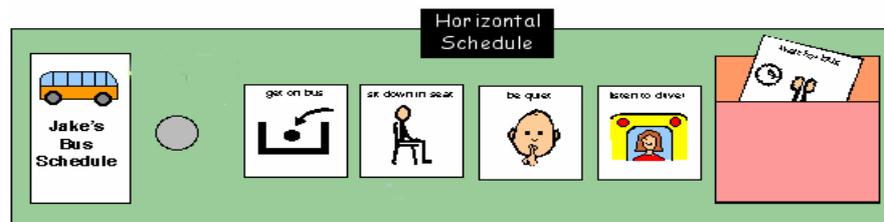
Workshops run for 2 hours and cost **\$88** per person (inc GST).

**Dates:** Friday 3rd Sept (9:30 –11:30am)

Contact ILC Tech on 9381 0600 or via email to register your interest.

## Boardmaker Plus & Speaking Dynamically Pro Workshop (NB. Experience in the use of Boardmaker software is required for this workshop)

No dates have been set for these workshops in Term 3. If you are interested in this training, please contact Kelly on 9381 0600 or [kelly@ilc.com.au](mailto:kelly@ilc.com.au)



## Calendar of Events

Event Title	Date	Place
Assistive Technology Bootcamp	3rd—6th August Contact <a href="mailto:sally@ilc.com.au">sally@ilc.com.au</a>	The Niche, Nedlands
ARATA Conference Assistive Technology Conference	11th - 13th August Visit the conference website for more information <a href="http://www.arata.org.au/conf.php">http://www.arata.org.au/conf.php</a>	Hotel Grand Chancellor Hobart, Tasmania

**The Niche, Suite A**  
**11 Aberdare Road, Nedlands**  
**Western Australia 6009**

**Telephone: 08 9381 0600**  
**Facsimile: 08 9381 0611**  
**Local Call: 1300 885 886**

[technology@ilc.com.au](mailto:technology@ilc.com.au) [www.ilc.com.au](http://www.ilc.com.au)