

# Proloquo2Go for Emerging Communicators

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**Problem: Emerging communicators can become discouraged when page navigation is too complicated. They need a simple way to experience success in the early stages.**

Caveat: This is for the first few weeks only. Students can easily become stunted in their use of an AAC device by taking away access to the full array of language. Smart teams will continually increase the complexity of speech choices and device features on the student's AAC device!

## **SOLUTION 1: OPTIMIZE SETTINGS IN THE SETTINGS APP FOR PROLOQUO**

- Find your settings app (gears) and scroll down on the left-hand column until you see Proloquo2Go and open it.
- Open the "Appearance" settings and toggle the message window to off. The message window usually appears at the top of the screen and is for AAC users who will store whole sentences before they speak them. Beginning AAC users won't need that. **Be sure to enable this feature again as soon as your student begins to construct sentences.**
- Select the best item size for your student. For example, "small" gives you five items across and five rows for 25 speech choices visible at once. If this seems like too much, go to the "medium" size to limit the number of visible choices to 16 or "large" to reduce the number to 9. If you want many choices visible at once, go to a smaller size. "Ultra-small" provides 8 x 8 = 64 choices per screen.
- In the Appearance settings, set the toolbar size to "standard" to make it a smaller target. Your student will not need that for now.
- Go back to the Proloquo settings by touching the grey "Proloquo" arrow at the top of the right column. Open the "speech" settings. Turn "speak message only" off and "speak all" on. This will make the buttons speak right away for faster speech. **When your student begins to build full sentences, turn both on.** Advanced users can use speak message only to deliver full sentences and saved messages.

## **SOLUTION 2: CHOOSE A VOICE**

- Close the Settings App and open Proloquo2Go from the main menu. Press the settings button, it looks like two squares. Press "Options". Use this page to select a voice, pitch, volume, and voice speed. There are two adult and two child voices, one for each gender. Make it sound older or younger by changing the pitch in the "voice personalization" options. I like a faster speech rate so the student can get the message out fast.

## **SOLUTION 3: MAKE A CUSTOM PAGE FOR YOUR STUDENT**

- Open Proloquo from the main menu and go to the home page if not already there by pressing the house button at the bottom.

- Press the pencil button at the bottom to enter Edit Mode, and the + button to make a new entry. Type in the name of your student, or the name for your new page. Press DONE on the keyboard to make it go away. Press Add Photo or Symbol and either take a picture of the student or choose a symbol from the library. If you type “boy” in the search window, you will see images of boys to choose from.
- After choosing or taking the picture, press the button that says “Add as New Category” and hit the OK button after that. You should see your new category on the home page.
- You can cut and paste into your new page as long as you are in Edit Mode. Press the checkmark to leave Edit Mode.
- To make custom speech choices, open the page you want it in, and hit the pencil, then the + sign. Put the words and picture you want in, and press the “Add” button to add it to the page.
- I like to start with either whole sentences (e.g. Want to play?), or with fill in the blank sentences. Example: “May I go...” followed by separate choices “Outside?”, “To recess?”, “To the bathroom?”, and “Home?”
- I like to make each row a theme: one row of places to go, one row of things I want, one row of clarifying your instructions, one row to play with a partner, one row to choose activities, one row of silly things to say. There is no limit to the number of choices per page, just flick down to make more room.
- You can move items, but it is tricky. Enter Edit Mode and hold the button down until it vibrates. Drag it to where you want it. The problem is that other buttons will move to make room and they get mixed up. I found it worked the best to arrange the bottom row first, top row last.
- **IMPORTANT: Experts tell us that AAC users need buttons to stay in the same place or speaking will never become automatic.** Imagine how much trouble you would have typing if I decided to move a couple of the letters around! Think about where you want to place speech choices, and then leave them there.

#### **SOLUTION 4: KEEP ADDING NEW SPEECH CHOICES**

- After a few weeks you should be ready to offer your student a page for food choices, a page for classroom activities, a page for conversation, etc. You can either restore the default home page from the settings menu (two squares). Or keep adding new pages to your custom page as new categories. I prefer going custom for everything, but lots of users don’t.
- Try to resist taking the iPad away from your student to put new things in. Write down what you want to add, and then add new items after school when it is not being used. It is rude to take away a person’s voice, even for a short time. Imagine if someone put tape over your mouth for a few minutes?
- You can make changes on your PC and then sync the iPad to it to update Proloquo2Go if you prefer. It also gives you a way to make sure you have saved all the work you have done! If the iPad dies, any unsaved work is gone forever.

#### **SOLUTION 5: THE IPAD KEEPS TURNING OFF!**

- In the Settings App (gears) in the General Settings, you can reset auto lock to a longer time or just set it to NEVER. Warning, if you turn it off, good chance the battery will run down faster. I’d set that to 10 or 15 minutes.
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