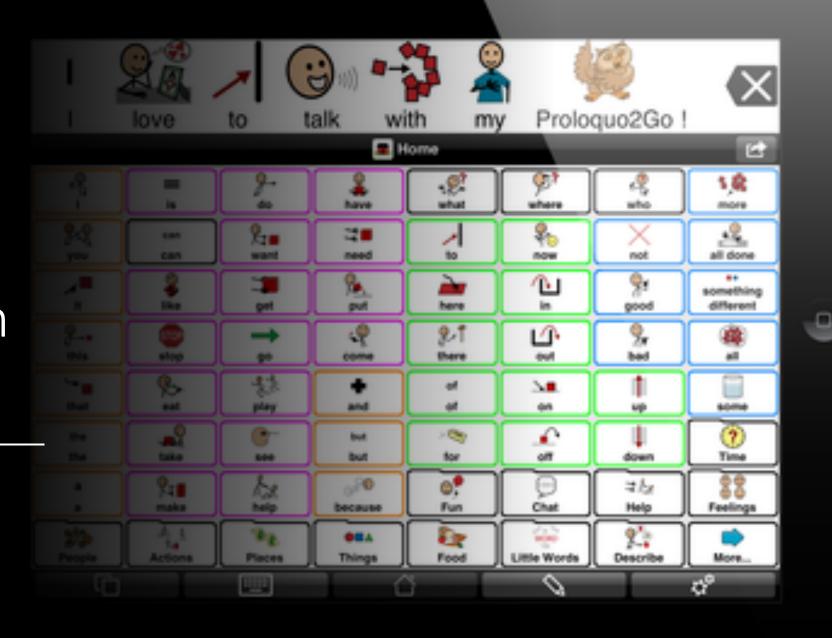
Augmentative
Alternative
Communication
(AAC)

Lessons Learned during COVID-19

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Remote therapy & evaluations are possible!

...with the right supports

- Tech Savvy caregivers
- Access to high-speed internet/tablet
- Online assessment tools
- Collaboration with other providers
 - -home providers (ABA, EI)

But not always ideal...

- Seeing what the child can do independently
- Can't change or modify systems "on the fly"
- More time spent modeling and training parents
- Difficulty collecting data
- Limitations in engagement at times

Expanded Access to therapy and learning

- Families able to access assessments and therapy from their remote "bubble"
 - broadened access to AAC to otherwise limited specialists
 - Easier for clinicians to identify gaps in caregiver educational needs
 - Goals more in-tune with real life needs
- Funding through insurance allowed coverage for teletherapy for the first time = less disruption in services

Reduced access for others

Difficulty supporting families through the transitions at home

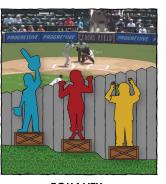
Sharing devices and internet for school/home/work

Less tech-savvy families, less able to access AAC and online therapy supports

Non-English speaking families – accessing interpreter services more challenging

Possibilities

- Changing the way therapists support families
 - In person, online, hybrid
 - Synchronous/asynchronous modalities
- Consider policies and funding structures that will support AAC access to all





EQUALITY

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