Communication:
Quicktalkers and other mid-tech devices

What is it?

Quick talkers and other mid-tech communication devices are AAC devices that typically feature pre-recorded messages and customizable buttons that users can press to convey specific words, phrases, or sentences. Unlike high-tech devices, which may include advanced features like touch screens and dynamic displays, mid-tech devices are simpler and more user-friendly, making them accessible and easy to use for individuals of varying ages and abilities.

Why use it?

These mid-tech devices offer simplicity and ease of use with customizable, pre-recorded messages that users can activate with the press of a button, ensuring that individuals with cognitive, motor, or language challenges can reliably express their needs and thoughts without the learning curve associated with more advanced technology. By choosing mid-tech devices, educators support appropriate access to AAC tools, promoting independence and active participation in both educational and social settings.

How to use it?

First, program the device with relevant messages by recording specific words, phrases, or sentences tailored to the user's needs. The user can activate these messages by pressing the corresponding buttons on the device. Regularly update and customize the messages to reflect changing needs and contexts. Additionally, incorporate the device into daily routines and activities, encouraging the user to utilize it for communication in various settings, such as at home, in school, or during social interactions.

Examples we use in Bellevue School District

- Single button devices (e.g. Big Mack)
- Multiple message recordable devices (e.g. Step-by-Step, Cheap Talk)
- Single/multiple overlay devices: (e.g. Communication builder, Go Talk Lite)