

# Assistive Technology Screening

Date(s): 3-12-09 to 5-8-09

## GENERAL INFORMATION

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Client Name	<u>V.</u>	Contact Name	<u>P. X.</u>
Address	_____	Relationship	<u>Program Manager</u>
Phone	_____	Phone	_____
Date of Birth	<u>January 15,</u>	Contact Name	<u>C. O.</u>
Age	_____	Relationship	<u>Life Coach</u>
		Phone	_____
		Contact Name	<u>G. B.</u>
		Relationship	<u>Case Manager</u>
		Phone	_____

## DESIRED OUTCOMES

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**Goal 1:** To become more independent in effective communication with professionals i.e. (Doctor, Podiatrist, etc.) and with people who don't know him well i.e. (people at church, cashiers, taxi drivers, waiters and waitresses.)

**Goal 2:** To be able to communicate with his mother in Spanish, by phone.

**Goal 3:** To remember daily needs (i.e. medication, water, eat small amounts throughout the day.)

**Goal 4:** To be able to put on supportive shoes and compression socks to help with blood circulation in the legs.

**Goal 5:** To find things in the kitchen more easily and to make his paper schedule for the day program more useful to him.

## PRIOR EMPLOYMENT

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Cook in Chinese restaurant  
Manager of a car wash

## **CURRENT STATUS**

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Diagnosis: Cognitive Disorder NOS, right hemiparesis, & Severe expressive aphasia  
due to- Cerebral Vascular Accident- 19XX & Diabetic Coma –  
Neuropsychological Evaluation 11-15-20XX

<b>Abilities</b>	<b>Challenges</b>
Receptive language skills	Non verbal intellectual functioning
Vision and hearing	Expressive language skills
Social skills	Visual memory
Retrieval of remote memories	Right sided hemi-paresis
Visual recognition (a relative strength)	Academics delayed
Matrix reasoning (a relative strength)	Cognitive functioning
Global memory (a relative strength)	Verbal judgment and abstract reasoning
Learn new nonverbal information (a relative strength)	Short-term memory
Geographic directions-physical locations	Distractibility
Generally positive outlook	Money management- Calculate change
Eager to please	Problem solving
Friendly	Time management
Good sense of humor	
Renewed Desire to succeed	

## **CURRENT ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGIES**

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Quad cane for mobility outside his home  
Blood sugar testing kit  
Easy-reacher  
Plate food guard  
Rocker knife  
Lifeline  
Shoehorn

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## **INTERVIEWS**

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3-12-09 Life Coach

C. O. has been V's life coach for almost five years. She shared about his situation, His needs, his process of recovery, and the strategies they are using to deal with difficulties. He is 47 years old. 10 years ago he had a stroke that left him with very limited use of the right side of his body. He has very limited functioning of his right hand and is unable to grasp anything with it. His speech is limited, having difficulty with articulation and word retrieval. At times he switches from Spanish to English and back with out realizing it. He often tries to rely on others to speak for him. He often agrees with anything that is said and laughs, perhaps indicating a lack of understanding. He has lived in the United States for over 25 years but cannot read and is only able to write his name. He enjoys pictures and being with people, especially children.

He rides the Fastran to the Annandale Adult Day Health Care Center, three or four days per week. He goes with friends to church several days a week. C. O. takes him to doctors' appointments, the grocery store, to the park, to other stores, and to the mall to walk for exercise.

A situation was mentioned in this interview that V's own mother cannot understand his speech. It makes him very sad to be cut off from the very important relationship. Because V's mother only speaks Spanish, and because she is in El Salvador, he must have a voice output device that is bilingual and that the language can be changed to fit the current situation. The voice output must be able to be used on the phone.

C. O. also mentioned that, as a result of several medical events, V's health, memory, and ability to organize have been negatively compromised. There are times when he forgets to eat until he becomes ravenous, which, because he has diabetes, is detrimental to his health. He has a hard time remembering other things that he should be doing. Having a device that can be set to remind him to review a picture checklist of things to remember could be very helpful.

She described the calendar he has posted on his refrigerator. Every month they go through the dates and highlight the activities he wants to remember. Some of his favorite activities are Bingo, church events, swim class, and watching television. She sets up his medication and has color coordinated his meals so he knows when to eat larger meals and when to eat smaller ones.

3-25-09 V & C. O. at V's home

Although V. is able to communicate with close friends, housemates, and those who see him regularly, using a combination of verbalizations, facial expressions, and gestures, it is very difficult for him to communicate effectively with unfamiliar people. In the interview, V expressed his concern with his ability to communicate with others. He said that before he could speak 3-5 languages including Chinese and now he is discouraged because he can't communicate well in any language! He has been working hard to practice using his language due to the positive support of C. O. and others. People can understand him better but it is still difficult. He also was dismayed when he said that his mother does not understand him anymore. He can understand a lot but at times he is confused about things. He has good days and bad days due to the brain injury. Sometimes he has headaches and other times not.

V. and C. O. showed some of the many strategies they employ to deal with V.'s difficulties. He uses a Lifeline system in case he is ever in difficulty and needs emergency help. He has his blood sugar checked with a special machine. He must have help to do that. Someone comes in twice a day to help with getting ready in the morning and in the evening. Food is either prepared ahead or is purchased as quick but healthy meals. He has two sizes depending on the activities of the day. On days that he attends the center, he eats his big meal there so at home he has a smaller supper, usually a white package and a bag of frozen vegetables. Days when he does not go to the center, V. chooses a green meal that is a larger, more substantial meal. He has emergency numbers posted and C. O. helps him go through his mail and take care of business.

He spoke about the going to the center. There is a nurse at the center who helps him with things especially testing his blood sugar. At the center he loves Bingo. V. said that he has trouble with recognizing numbers and letters when playing Bingo. The numbers get mixed up. He gets confused. He would like to be able to recognize the cards more independently.

With V.'s health issues, it is important that he be able to let doctors know the exact status of his health, rather than relying on interpretation through another person. It is extremely important that he be able to communicate his needs about keeping his blood sugar at an appropriate level and keeping hydrated.

4-08-09 O. M. - Office Manager- Annandale Adult Day Health Care Center

When V. was asked if he was able to choose his meals for the Day Center, he indicated that he always ate the same salad. He did not seem to really understand the question. O. M. was able to clarify that he does sit down with someone to decide what meals he wants for the week. He often chooses a salad, but he does have a choice.

O. M. was also able to provide the center schedule of activities for March through May.

4-08-09 V.

V. said that he always ate chicken salad and that he loves coffee. He said that he enjoys going to the center. His favorite activities are Bingo and dancing. He indicated that he enjoys coffee and makes it at home. He also likes to be with people, especially children.

4-09-09 G. B.

G. B. mentioned that V. had speech therapy, occupational therapy, and physical therapy for several months in 2004. He could not get a copy of the Speech and Language Evaluation.

G. B. mentioned some times when V. has been in a situation with a stranger such as in a taxicab trying to get to a certain destination, in the confusion of the person not being able to understand him he has missed some appointments and was unable to get where he needs to go. Currently, to deal with that difficulty, he has been going to his appointments with his Life Coach or someone else to help. If possible, it is very important that V. become more independent in being able to communicate with others, especially those who do not know him well.

G. B. brought some paperwork, a NeuroPsychological Evaluation, November 15, 2004, and the Life Skills Training Assessment Summary, August 18, 2004, for review. In V.'s Life Skills Training Assessment Summary, one of the suggestions was that items in the kitchen be labeled with picture labels. During the interview with C. O. on March 25, 2009, she also mentioned the need for labeling certain items in the kitchen. Because of V.'s inability to read, pictures could be used for labels.

## **OBSERVATIONS**

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4-08-09 Annandale Adult Day Health Care Center

The Day Center is held in several rooms of a comfortably refurbished school building. Although V. seemed to enjoy all of the activities; his participation was somewhat limited. He would communicate through facial expressions, gestures, and short vocalizations that were difficult to understand unless context clues were available. He did interact with other participants and with the people who worked there, with big smiles and nods. Those around him were very responsive to his indications of needs and desires. When he spoke, they seemed to understand much of what he said and were able to get clarification when needed. There were several times when his expression indicated that he was agreeing because he wasn't sure how to help the person understand his exact meaning.

After lunch, V. rested while watching a video and then eagerly prepared for Bingo. A young girl helped him manipulate his cards and get the chips ready for use. V. needed some cues to recognize the letters and numbers being called. He found a few independently but needed cues for others. When he won, he was able to call out the numbers and letters of many but the young girl helped him with others. There were times when he confused the place value of two digit numbers and would call 47 instead of 74.

4-09-09 Dr. L.'s Office

While at the podiatrist V. indicated that his legs were swollen and by gestures and facial expressions indicated that he was concerned. With the encouragement and help of V.'s coach, the message was conveyed to the podiatrist. The podiatrist mentioned that one way to help with the swelling and to promote better foot care would be to wear sturdy shoes and compression socks. He said that it would keep the blood circulating better in the legs and feet. He also mentioned that compression socks could be difficult to put on and that V. may need help.

When the doctor asked a question, V. tried to vocalize a response but looked to C. O. for support. She helped clarify the response so the doctor would know that he was watching his sugar intake, was exercising 30 minutes a day and walking, too. It was difficult for V. to convey precise information to the doctor without help. He had difficulty signing his name because the paper kept moving and when he went to put his card back in his wallet, V. wanted C. O. to do it for him. She encouraged him and he was able to brace the wallet on a chair to accomplish the task independently.

4-17-09 Walmart

V. walked around glancing at things. He was not really shopping for particular items. As we neared the register, he picked up a candy bar and was asking if he could purchase it. He was assured that it was his choice but was reminded to look at the nutrition label to see if it would be a healthy choice considering that he had not had lunch and had not checked his blood sugar recently. He put the bar down, deciding that it would be better not to get it. He only interacted verbally with the two others in his company.

#### Chipotle Restaurant

As he walked in, V. looked around and got in line. He kept looking at C. O. for direction. She kept encouraging him letting him know that he could order for himself. When it was his turn, he was able to let the cashier know what he wanted with a little repetition for clarification. He got his order, paid for it, and enjoyed the meal.

V. seems to have thrived under the caring support and encouragement towards independence that has consistently been delivered by C. O. and his team of care providers. He has advanced from a wheelchair to a quad cane and from virtual silence to actively trying to verbalize. Increasing his independence is a continuing goal.

## **TRIALS**

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3-25-09- communication cards, talking photo album, and Spring board

A communication card was shown to V. and explained. He thought that would be good. Ideas were requested to create more cards.

Then he was shown how a talking photo album could help him "talk." He was able to push the buttons to activate the speech. He thought that would work.

Then an augmentative communication device, a Springboard, was shown with things he might want to tell a doctor. He was able to activate the buttons by locating the icon that related to what he wanted to say. He was able to combine icons to create sentences. An icon based, dynamic augmentative communication device like this was shown to have great possibilities. He said that he does not vision issues so that smaller icons were

all right. He thought that the larger device might be more difficult to handle because of the limitations of one of his hands. The smaller devices might be more easily handled and used.

He was shown PixWriter that could help him with identifying words. He liked the way the pictures were with the words.

He was shown a PDA device to help him with his schedules, doctors' appointments, and remembering to eat, drink, and exercise.

He expressed interest in using the devices he was shown.

4-8-09- Talking picture album

V. was shown a talking photo album was tried during a game of Bingo. It took him too long to find the page. He is able to say, "Bingo! I won!" much faster and he is able to say it so that all could understand.

5-5-09 Card and magnetic pictures for his schedule

V. was given the new cards. There were three different styles and sizes. He looked at them and tried holding them and pointing. He preferred the smallest size and thought that they could be kept on his key ring for easy access.

He was shown the picture magnets for his Day Center schedule. He tried putting them up on the schedule that was on his refrigerator and moved them around. He was able to manipulate them and put them where they were needed. He thought they would help him know what the words on the schedule meant.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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A need that kept recurring through all the interviews, observations, and trials was the need to communicate. V. has difficulty communicating with strangers due to Aphasia. Difficulty with word retrieval and articulation makes communication with professional personnel, strangers, and even his mother, a challenge. V. often responds by accepting what others think he wants or needs rather than to attempt to express or clarify his thoughts if misunderstood. This can be detrimental, especially in the area of health where it is vital for V. to accurately relay the critical symptoms of his current conditions. With V.'s tendency to allow others to express his needs and desires he is often a casual observer on the periphery rather than an active participant in his own life. The inability to communicate with his mother negatively affects V.'s mental outlook and emphasizes a vital missing link with the past. Sometimes, low tech cards could help him clarify communication, other times a dynamic augmentative communication device could return his right to communicate independently, that he once enjoyed and continues to deserve.

The major recommendations that were explored were:

- Augmentative Communication Aids for both English and Spanish
- Reminders and Schedule Aids
- Dressing Aids
- Pictures Paired with Words

*Please Note:*

The following are only recommendations and should not be used as requirements from an official assistive technology assessment. This information is provided to assist clients in discovering and learning about technology that may be appropriate for their needs.

## Augmentative Communication

**Goal 1:** To become more independent in effective communication with professionals.

### Communication Cards

#### G 1 1. Homemade Cue Cards

These cards could be created using any word processing software and pictures from the Internet, from a digital camera, or from drawings. They should be about the size of a business card or little bit larger and each side could have several pictures that V. could use as a communication clarification when needed. The cards could be color coded to indicate different categories. They could be laminated to protect from wear and tear. He could keep the packets of cards in a pocket or attached to his belt with a clip or retractable cord so that it would be with him at all times.



PROS	CONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Very inexpensive to make</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Someone would have to make them</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Can be created as the need arises</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ It would take time to make them</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Geared toward V.'s needs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Someone would have to understand what V.'s needs were</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Little training needed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Vocabulary would have to be anticipated</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Light and easy to carry</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Computer and printer are helpful but pictures could be drawn</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Categories could be color coded for easy retrieval</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Lamination would make them durable</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪</li> </ul>

G 1 2. **Picture Cue Cards**

The Picture Cue Cards are designed to help individuals with cognitive, communication, or speech disabilities. There are three sets of cards, 288 cards for shopping, 144 cards for choosing meals, and 192 cards showing daily activity. As with the home made cards, each one has a word or phrase that is paired with a picture. These cards can be used for V. to communicate or for someone to create a picture schedule with him.



**Contact Info:**

[FlagHouse, Inc.](http://www.flaghouse.com) 601 Flaghouse Drive, Hasbrouck Heights, New Jersey 07604-3116

**Phone:** 1 (800) 793-7900 or 1 (201) 288-7600.

**Fax:** 1 (800) 793-7922 or 1(201) 288-7887.

**Web:** <http://www.flaghouse.com>.

**E-mail:** [sales@flaghouse.com](mailto:sales@flaghouse.com).

**Price:** \$95.00

PROS	CONS
▪ Easy to use	▪ Expensive

G 1 3. **Communication Photo Album**

Any small photo album could hold pictures with labels to help V. clarify what he is trying to communicate. The pictures could be very similar to those that would be used for the communication cards. They could be slipped into the pages and easily changed as his needs change. If small enough, V. could keep the album in a pocket and take it out when needed. A talking photo album could be used to add voice output.



Prices vary but can be very inexpensive and found in many stores such as- K-Mart, AC Moore, and department stores.

PROS	CONS
▪ Inexpensive	▪ Could be bulky for carrying
▪ Very easy to use	▪ May be time consuming to find desired picture
▪ Pages would be created for specific situations and/or environments	▪ Someone would have to understand V.'s needs to create it
▪ V. could choose the photo album cover	▪ Vocabulary would have to be anticipated
▪ Could be easily adapted to new situations and environments	▪



## High Tech Solutions for Goals 1 & 2

### G 1 4. Say-it Sam Communicator 2

The Say-it! SAM Communicator is a popular hand held communicator. It can be set up for the icon based communication that V. needs to recognize what he needs to clarify his words. With the touch screen he only needs to touch a button and the words he needs would be spoken. It has a new design with a larger speaker for better sound, plus more battery life, a faster processor, and an easy-to-use, charging port.



#### **Contact info:**

Words+, Inc., 42505 10th Street West, Lancaster, CA 93534-7059

**Phone:** 800-869-8521

**Fax:** (661)723-2114

**Web:** [http://www.words-plus.com/website/products/syst/say\\_it\\_sam2.htm](http://www.words-plus.com/website/products/syst/say_it_sam2.htm)

PROS	CONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Small easy to carry- 14 ounces</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Needs a little bit more fine motor coordination</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Would look like a PDA that other adults use</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Does not speak in Spanish</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Speaks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Would take training</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Touchscreen</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Very expensive</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Day light display</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Has organization and reminder capabilities that would need to be turned off if it were paid for by Medicare</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ NeoSpeech option</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Small screen</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ten hours battery time</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪</li> </ul>

**Goal 2:** To be able to communicate with his mother in Spanish, by phone. These would also resolve goal 1.

### G 1 & 2 1. Combination Acer Aspire ONE 8.9" & Speaking Dynamically Pro Software

This possible solution combines a small, light, portable Notebook laptop with Speaking Dynamically Pro software installed. This small notebook laptop has slots for memory cards and 3 USB connections. It has a keyboard, touchpad as well as a video cam. It has 512 KB of memory with 1 GB of RAM. The dimensions are 1.3"h x 10.3"w x 7.3"d and it weighs 2.6 pounds.



The notebook along with this powerful augmentative software, has the capability of displaying boards that are set up to contain pictures with words and phrases needed for each of V.'s environments. It has 4,500 Picture Communication Symbols (PCS). It is a drawing program with a database filled with symbols which can be programmed to speak in 44 languages, including English and Spanish. It can also play recorded sounds and voices as well as movie clips. This software could also be used a part of the solution for goal 5 for labels and picture schedules.

**Price:** Portable Notebook- \$ 319.00  
 Software- \$ 649.00  
 Combination- \$ 968.00

**Contact Info:**

Aspire Portable Notebook- PC Connection, Inc., Route 101A, 730 Milford Road, Merrimack, NH 03054-4631

**Phone:** 1-888-213-0260

**Web:** <http://www.pcconnection.com/IPA/Shop/Product/Detail.htm?sku=9456928>

**Price:** Portable Notebook \$ 319.00

Speaking Dynamically Pro- Mayer-Johnson LLC, 2100 Wharton St, Ste 400, Pittsburgh, PA 15203

**Phone:** 800-588-4548

**Web:** <http://www.nextag.com/Acer-Aspire-one-8-620601171/prices-html?nxtg=8a940a1c0520-049598FFED56B076>

**Price:** Software \$ 649.00

PROS	CONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Less expensive than integrated units</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ May be more difficult to set up than integrated units</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Multi lingual- Including English &amp; Spanish</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Would need to be set up by someone who knows the software and hardware</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A way to express wants, needs, thoughts in a variety of settings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Would need to be set up by someone who knows V.'s needs</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Small- 1.3"h x 10.3"w x 7.3"d</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Light- 2.6 pounds</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Icon based - Dynamic boards</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Human voices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Can record sounds and voices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪</li> </ul>

G 1, 2, & 3    2.    **DynaVox M3**

The M<sup>3</sup> by DynaVox is a dynamic display AAC device that has a combination of concrete scenes and symbols representing ideas and objects making it helpful for V. as he establishes the context or topic of an interaction to augment his verbalizations. It has page sets to accommodate his vocabulary. He would be able to express himself more clearly in any setting including a physician's office. This bilingual Spanish/English communication device would enable V. to experience easy transition from one language to the other. This would help him speak with his Mom and communicate in groups whether they are speaking in Spanish or English. An accessory is made for this device that would also enable V. to use it for phone conversations with his Mom.

**Contact Info:**

DynaVox Mayer-Johnson, 2100 Wharton Street, Suite 400, Pittsburgh, PA 15203

**Phone:** 1 (866) DYNAVOX (396-2869)

**Fax:** 1 (412) 381-5241

**Web:** <http://www.dynavoxtech.com/products/m3/>

**Price:** \$3285.00

PROS	CONS
▪ Speaks English and Spanish depending on the setting	▪ Heavier than a hand held device but only 4 pounds 11 ounces
▪ Easy to switch between languages	▪ Someone would have to set up the device
▪ Speaks	▪ Would require training
▪ Touchscreen	▪ Very expensive
▪ Dynamic screens	▪ Expensive yet half the price of some other devices
▪ Works with PhoneIT an accessory that for use with a telephone	▪ Has a limited number of messages for a small set of specific contexts because of the fewer buttons
▪ Multiple voice choices	▪
▪ Choice of colors	▪
▪ Six hour battery	▪
▪ Magnesium case is light & strong	▪
▪ Fewer buttons	▪
▪ Has a picture dictionary	▪
▪ Simple set up wizard	▪
▪ Created for all cognitive levels	▪
▪ Concrete scenes and symbols	▪
▪ Medicare funding	▪

G 1 & 2      3.      **DynaVox V**

This bilingual communication device would also enable V. to speak in Spanish or English. It transitions easily one language to the other. This device is a full computer with Internet access. It may be more complicated and more difficult for V., as a non-reader.



**Contact Info:**

DynaVox Mayer-Johnson, 2100 Wharton Street, Suite 400, Pittsburgh, PA 15203

**Phone:** 1 (866) DYNAVOX (396-2869)

**Fax:** 1 (412) 381-5241

**Web:** <http://www.dynavoxtech.com/products/v/>

**Price:** \$ 7645

PROS	CONS
▪ Speaks English and Spanish depending on the setting	▪ Heavier than a hand held device but only 4 pounds 11 ounces
▪ Easy to switch between languages	▪ Someone would have to set up the device
▪ Speaks	▪ Would take training
▪ Touchscreen	▪ Very expensive
▪ Magnesium outer shell and a water-resistant front surface	▪ Has organization and reminder capabilities (Must be disabled if paid for by Medicare)
▪ Created for all cognitive levels	▪ Much more complicated than the M3
▪ Multiple voice choices	▪ Can be set up for Icons but is set up for readers

▪ Dynamic screens	▪
▪ Choice of colors	▪
▪ Five hour battery	▪
▪ E-book reader	▪
▪ Standard configuration is a full Windows XP computer	▪
▪ Works with PhoneIT an accessory for telephone use	▪
▪ More buttons possible per page than with the M3	▪

G 1 & 2      4.      **Phone IT**

If V. had a combination of a PhoneIT with either the M3 or the DynaVox V, he could speak with his Mom privately on the telephone with a standard telephone landline. He could dial her phone number and speak to her in Spanish.



**Contact Info:**

DynaVox Mayer-Johnson, 2100 Wharton Street, Suite 400, Pittsburgh, PA 15203

**Phone:** 1 (866) DYNAVOX (396-2869)

**Fax:** 1 (412) 381-5241

**Web:** <http://www.dynavoxtech.com/products/v/>

**Price:** \$ 305.00

PROS	CONS
▪ V. could speak with his Mom again	▪ V. may need help learning how to use this device
▪ High quality sound	▪
▪ A speaker and headset volume control dial	▪
▪ A ringer that notifies the user of incoming calls	▪
▪ LED that indicates when PhoneIT is off-hook	▪

G 1 & 2 5. **Jive**

This hand held communicator from Great Britain and Australia has many great features including 5 sets of vocabularies, a consistent look and feel from one screen to another, and environmental controls. It does include Spanish vocabulary but it is difficult to determine how easy it would be to transition from one language to another. It does include Telephone capabilities.



**Contact Info:**

Possum, 8 Farmbrough Close, Stocklake Park Industrial Estate, Aylesbury  
Buckinghamshire, U.K., HP20 1DQ

**Phone:** +44 (0)1296 461000

**Fax:** +44 (0) 871 666 3520

**Web:** [www.possum.co.uk](http://www.possum.co.uk)

**E-mail:** [sales@possum.co.uk](mailto:sales@possum.co.uk)

**Price:** \$ 2895.00 (UK Pounds)

PROS	CONS
. Works with Spanish vocabulary	. Expensive
. Logically progressing from simple system usage all the way to complex message building	. From Great Britain or Australia may be difficult to get support
. Contemporary look	. Although it uses Spanish vocabulary, it may not be easy to transition from one language to another.
. Communication and access with 5 vocabularies	.
. Fully programmable	.
. Suitable for children and adults	.
. Incorporates Life Skills concept and develops it through to full home control	.
. Consistent look and feel throughout the layouts	.
. Two year warrantee	.
. Icon based	.
. Environmental Control	.
. Small and weighs only 12.4 ounces	.
. Touch accessible, highly visible screen (even in bright sunlight)	.
. Message building using Mayer-Johnson PCS Symbols	.
. Programmable - On device or via PC	.
. Works with a telephone	.
. Selectable scrolling cells for easy word retrieval	.

**Goal 3:** To remember daily needs (i.e. medication, water, eat small amounts throughout the day)

**Organization and Reminders**

G 3 1. **Vibralite Vibrating Watch**

This watch has the capacity to set a variety of alarms and is ideal for setting up reminders for V.. It has three alert options, audible beep, a vibration or both. It has two alarms and for reminders with either audio, vibration, or both. It can be set for an hourly alarm or for 3 hours. It has an automatically loaded count down timer. When it vibrates it could remind him to look at a picture check list which could remind him of specific things to do.



**Contact Info:**

Different Roads to Learning, 37 East 18th Street, 10th Floor, New York, NY 10003

**Phone:** 1 (800) 853-1057

**Fax:** (800) 317-9146 (212) 206-9329

**Web:** <http://www.difflearn.com/>

**E-mail:** [info@difflearn.com](mailto:info@difflearn.com)

**Price:** \$49.95

PROS	CONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Can be set for multiple reminders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ May be difficult for non reader to set</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ can be set to vibrate and/or have a sound</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Velcro band for ease of use</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪</li> </ul>

G 3 2. **Timex Men's Ironman Data Link USB Watch**

This is another type of watch that can be set to help V. remember things he needs to do. It is an inconspicuous way to augment his memory. It has countdown timers that could be set with messages. Unfortunately it is not icon based and would be difficult for V. to understand the messages.



**Contact Info:**

Jomashop.com , 328 8th Ave., #158 New York, NY 10001

**Phone:** 1 (877) 834-1434

**Fax:** 1 (212) 924-3108

**Web:** <http://www.jomashop.com/timex-t53722.html>



**Price:** \$ 54.47

PROS	CONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Personal organizer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ May be difficult to learn all the functions</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Set with PC software</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ May be confusing</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 200 lap chronograph</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ May be difficult for non reader to use</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Multisession memory and display flipping</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Up to 200 countdown timers with messages and an optional halfway alert</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 5 minute back-up alarm</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ INDIGLO. night-light with NIGHT-MODE feature.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Water resistant to 100 meters</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪</li> </ul>

G 3 3. **Community Integration Suite**

This hand held, picture-supported cell phone would help V. with his schedule. It has a scheduling system with audio and picture cues. It could be deal to deal with V.’s short-term memory issues. It can also provide step by step visual and auditory prompts for tasks that need to be done. It can hold picture and auditory information about his scheduled events.



**Contact Info:**

Mayer-Johnson LLC, 2100 Wharton St, Ste 400, Pittsburgh, PA 15203

**Phone:** 1 (800) 588-4548

**Fax:** 1 (858) 550-0449

**Web:** <http://www.mayer-johnson.com/MainEduSoft.aspx?MainCategoryID=5350&CategoryID=5386&SubCategoryID=5677>

**Price:** \$1,799.00

PROS	CONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Promotes independent functioning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ May be difficult to program</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provides time-based cues and specific instructions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ May be only for scheduling but may give limited help with communication</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Useful for short-term memory problems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Expensive especially if an augmentative communication device is also needed</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Daily, weekly and monthly tasks can be set up on handheld device</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Would need someone to program it and set up schedules</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fits in a hand or a pocket</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Automatically turns on for cuing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Could cue V. to begin a task, travel to a specific location or remember an event</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Design reduces stigma and encourages inclusion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Caregivers can set up various daily, weekly and monthly tasks on the computer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Appointments and events entered into the system can use recorded audio messages, photos and symbols to prompt V.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Combination of time-based audio messages and picture cues are ideal for meeting bus schedules, medication reminders, taking work breaks, maintaining schedules, and completing routines</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No program restrictions on the number of steps, tasks, pictures or record time for audio cues</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪</li> </ul>

G 3 4. **DynaVox Co-Pilot**

DynaVox Co-Pilot by AbleLink Technologies is a hand-held device that supports independence. With this device, V. could manage daily tasks and responses by using the reminder system with auditory, visual and vibration cues. He could get help with tasks by having access to instructions with step by step auditory and visual cues. It could also help him keep track of his schedule with an event scheduler.



**Contact Info:**

**DynaVox Mayer-Johnson**, 2100 Wharton Street, Suite 400, Pittsburgh, PA 15203

**Phone:** 1 (866) DYNAVOX (396-2869) **Fax.** 1 (412) 381-5241

**Web:** <http://www.dynavoxtech.com/products/copilot/>

**Price:** \$3199.00

\$ 49.00 Belt clip

PROS	CONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Promotes Independent Functioning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ May be difficult to program</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Appointments and events entered into the system can use recorded audio messages, photos and symbols to prompt users</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ May be only for scheduling but may give limited help with communication</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provides time-based auditory and visual specific instructions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Expensive especially if an augmentative communication device is also needed</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Useful to deal with short-term memory problems.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fits in a hand or a pocket</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Design reduces stigma and encourages inclusion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provides time-based auditory and visual cues</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Helps manage daily tasks and responses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Buttons can be locked to minimize confusion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Can create lists of tasks to do</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Can be personalized by using familiar pictures for reminders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪</li> </ul>

**Goal 4:** To be able to put on supportive shoes and compression socks to help with blood circulation in the legs.

**Dressing Aids**

G 4 1. **Tylastic Shoe Laces**

The Tylastic Shoe Laces, model 6066, are elastic shoe laces designed to allow shoes to be slipped on or off without tying or untying shoe laces. Since V. has difficulty with one hand, he may be more likely to wear his sturdy shoes if he didn't need to worry about tying them.



**Contact Info:**

P.O. Box 5071, Bolingbrook, Illinois 60440-5071

**Phone:** 1 (800) 323-5547 or 1 (630) 378-6000.

**Web:** <http://www.sammonspreston.com>.

**Fax:** 1 (800) 547-4333 or 1 (630) 378-6010.

**E-mail:** [customersupport@patterson-medical.com](mailto:customersupport@patterson-medical.com).



**Price:** Under \$10.00

PROS	CONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Holds shoes secure yet they are easier to put on and take off</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Light and made of elastic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Inexpensive</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ White, brown or black.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪</li> </ul>

G 4 2. **Stocking Aid**

The Stocking Aid is a sock or stocking aid that could help V. to put on here's compression socks. There are two models. Model AA4650 is contoured and model AA4652 has side notches to help secure the sock. Both are of flexible plastic and have a cloth strap fed through holes to create an end to hold in each hand.



**Contact Info:**

P.O. Box 5071, Bolingbrook, Illinois 60440-5071

**Phone:** 1 (800) 323-5547 or 1 (630) 378-6000.

**Web:** <http://www.sammonspreston.com>.

**Fax:** 1 (800) 547-4333 or 1 (630) 378-6010.

**Email:** [customersupport@patterson-medical.com](mailto:customersupport@patterson-medical.com).

**Price:** \$10.49

PROS	CONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fairly inexpensive</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ May only work with regular socks</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Durable /flexible plastic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Needs strength in 2 hands</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Light</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ May be difficult to get the compression socks on the device</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ smaller &amp; less bulky</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Nylon chord</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ One model has Side notches to help secure socks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ One model is contoured</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪</li> </ul>

G 4 3. **Compression Stocking Aid**

This is a durable yet flexible plastic form with contoured side walls comes in two sizes. It has room for the foot with nylon chord for an easier way to pull on compression socks.

**Contact Info:**

Active Forever.com, 10799 N. 90th Street, Scottsdale, AZ 85260

**Phone:** 1 (800) 377-8033

Scottsdale **Fax:** 1 (602) 296-0297

**Web:** <http://www.activeforever.com/p-269-compression-socking-aid.aspx>



**Price:** \$32.95

PROS	CONS
▪ Fairly inexpensive	▪ May only work with regular socks
▪ Durable /flexible plastic	▪ May be difficult managing with one hand
▪ Light	▪
▪ smaller & less bulky	▪
▪ Nylon chord	▪

G 4 4. **Compression Stocking Application Aid**

This is a wire frame to help V. put on his compression socks more independently. One sock is put over the middle section and V. would put his toe in the sock and pull up on the two handles.



**Contact Info:**

Mountain View Medical Supply, PO Box 0117, Broomfield, CO 80038-0117

**Phone:** 1 (800) 873-7121

**Fax:** 303-455-1333

**Web:** <http://www.edlpm.com/costapaid.html> **E-mail:** [customer.service@mvms.com](mailto:customer.service@mvms.com)

**Price:** \$24.92

PROS	CONS
▪ Inexpensive	▪ May be difficult managing with one hand
▪ Durable /wire	▪
▪ Light	▪
▪ Less bulky than the plastic aid	▪

G 4 5. **Compression Stocking Aid**

This Compression Stocking Aid could help V. put on his compression stockings. He would drape his stocking over the cone, put his toes in the stocking opening and pull up on the handles. His stocking should slide on! Handles are 17" high so he won't need to bend or reach. It is made of lightweight heavy duty plastic.



**Contact Info:**

Beauty Boutique, 6864 Engle Road, Cleveland OH 44130

**Phone:** 1 (800) 816-5313

**Web:** [http://www.beautyboutique.com/cgi-bin/beauty/postkey\\_find.html?keywords=028455&mode=](http://www.beautyboutique.com/cgi-bin/beauty/postkey_find.html?keywords=028455&mode=)

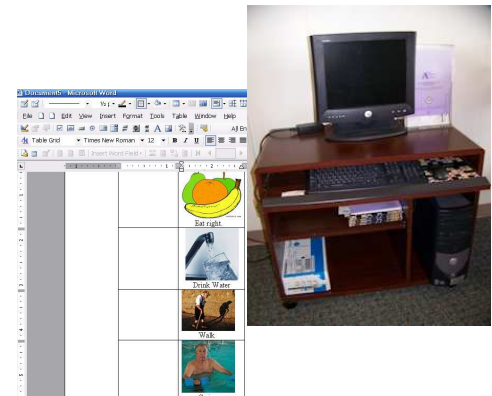
**Price:** \$29.99

PROS	CONS
▪ Holds stockings open so they can be put on independently	▪ Bulky
▪ Lightweight – Heavy duty plastic	▪ Not sure if it works
▪ 17 inch handles	▪
▪ Made for compression stockings	▪
▪ Inexpensive	▪

**Goal 5:** To find things in the kitchen more easily and to make his paper schedule for the day program more useful to him.

G 5 1. **Picture Reminders**

Using word processing software with pictures and or graphics that is on the computer in Montgomery House or the computer at the Adult Day Center, labels could be made for anything in V.'s kitchen or anywhere else. A table could be created and a word and picture put inside each rectangle and put on the appropriate item with a label. Pictures could also be created for the schedule V. keeps on his refrigerator and for any sets of directions, menu choices at the Day Center, or other information.



**Price:** Already available in Montgomery House and at the Day Center

PROS	CONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Computer is already available at the Center</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Printing may be an issue</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fairly easy for someone familiar with computers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Someone would need to do it for him</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attach labels with tape</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>

**Picture to Text Software**

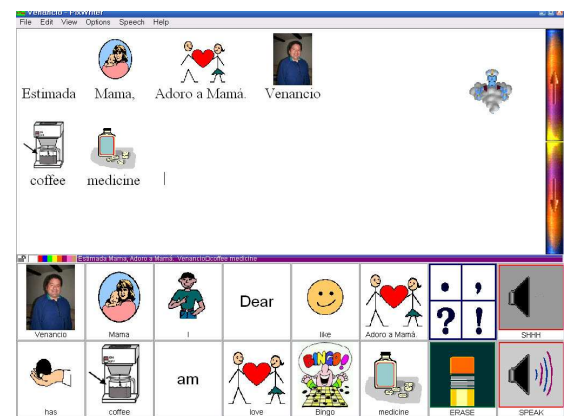
G 1, 2, & 5 2. **Speaking Dynamically Pro Software**

See description in Goal 2 #1.



G 1, 2, & 5 2. **PixWriter**

Because V. cannot read or write, using picture-to-text software would be any easy way to pair pictures with words. Other adults could set up templates for him to use to write letters to his Mom in Spanish. He could use the pictures to know what words he wanted to write. He can also use these pictures to create picture labels and picture schedules.



**Contact Info:**

Slater Software, Inc., 351 Badger Circle, Guffey, CO 80820  
**Phone:** 1 (877) 306-6968 **Fax:** 1 (719) 479-2254  
**Web:** <http://www.slattersoftware.com/pixwriter.html>

**Price:** \$199

PROS	CONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It works with Spanish and English vocabulary</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training would be needed</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Could be used to label items</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not a dynamic device</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Could be used for Communication cards</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conversation would have to be constructed</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relatively inexpensive (Compared with Speaking Dynamically Pro)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Another person would have to set up the pallets</li> </ul>

▪ Could be used to write his Mom	▪
▪ Could be used for Schedule picture magnets	▪

***PLEASE NOTE***

Advances in technology are being made at a rapid rate. To assure that V. continue to make progress with existing technologies as well as have the opportunity to benefit from future technology, assistive technology screenings and evaluations should be on-going. Indicators for such activities may be a change in different environments, modifications to existing goals and objectives, or when his progress and/or motivation show signs of distress.

Respectfully submitted by:

Susan Kenney, MS SPED, PhD Student  
Assistive Technology Graduate Student  
Kellar Institute for Human disAbilities  
George Mason University