


Appropriate use of technology

2nd December 2014

By
 Veronica Montanaro B.Sc (Hons), M.Sc (Shef)
 Speech & Language Department
veronica.montanaro@gov.mt
 21230822

Speech & Language Department

Introduction



Speech & Language Department

Who am I?

- I am a Speech & Language Pathologist
- M.Sc Language and Communication Impairment in children-The University of Sheffield
- Have a special interest in Augmentative & Alternative Communication (AAC).
- I work at the Speech and Language Department-Ingiered Road Luqa.
 - Gzira Health Centre
 - San Miguel Resource Centre
 - AAC Clinic
- I lecture the B.Sc (Hons) Communication Therapy Alternative Service delivery






Speech & Language Department

Interest in touch screen technology

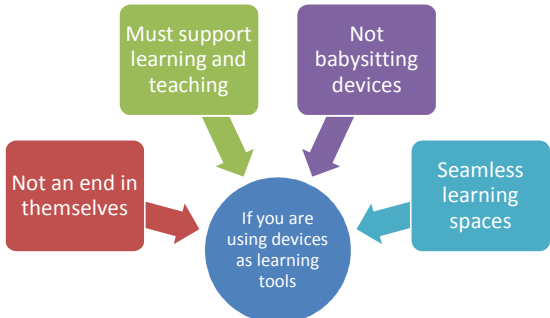
- B.Sc (Hons.) Communication Therapy dissertation
- M.Sc (Hons.) How young learn how to use iPads
- Provide several training workshops for parents and LSAs on:
 - Literacy and iPads
 - ASD and iPads
 - Communication using iPads



* You can visit <http://www.speechlanguage.gov.mt> for more information about the workshops offered by the SLD.


Speech & Language Department

How useful are mobile devices?



Speech & Language Department

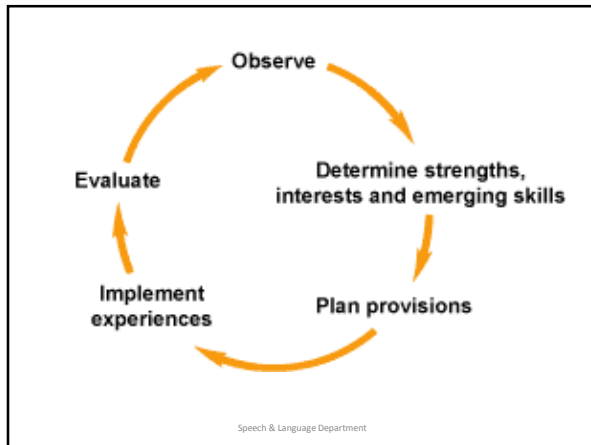
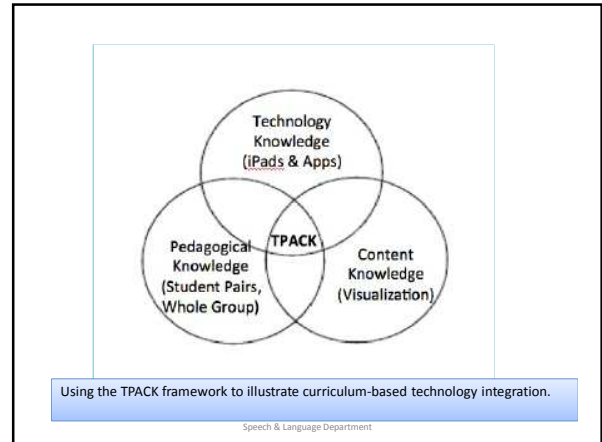
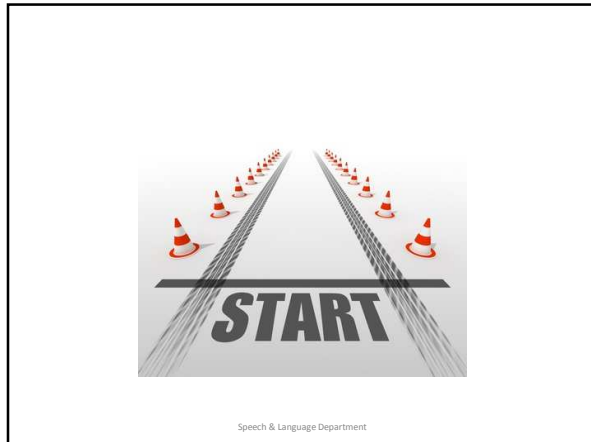
Benefits



- We hear a lot about the wonders of tablets and what they can do for children with difficulties. But we sometimes don't know where to start from.
- There are over 900,000 apps available- This can be quite daunting.

Remember: Tablets are "not a cure" in themselves but they can be used as tools to enhance a child's learning environment.

Speech & Language Department



Identify individual's needs and interests

- Take what you already know and turn it into a useful tool.
- The key to finding great apps is understanding the specific needs that your children and/or students have.
- Once you have clearly identified what these needs are, it is easier to find programmes that will help a child progress in the desired area.

Your needs

Speech & Language Department

- ### Examples of Where people communicate online?
- Social networking sites
 - Gaming Sites
 - Video Sharing sites
 - Shopping Sites
 - Chat sites
 - Search Engines
 - Advice Sites
- Speech & Language Department

- ### Benefits of using technology
- There are real benefits to young people with learning disabilities and autism using the Internet to support learning and social interaction. Increasingly the Internet caters for children and young people with learning disabilities and autism through using accessible design and simplified language, as well as instantly available video clips. For children with complex needs these can provide wonderful opportunities for learning.
 - Young people with autism and other communication disorders often find Internet communication easier than face to face communication. On the Internet peoples use of consistent and easily recognisable emoticons replaces the need to decode people's body language, facial expressions and vocal tone that can be problematic in personal communications.
 - Internet-learning provides opportunities for learning through repetition that supports children who take longer to learn new things and embeds the learning they do in the classroom by undertaking activities as many times as they need to, in order to consolidate their learning.
- Speech & Language Department

Potential Risks

- Alongside the many benefits to children and young people there are also a number of risks.
- With access to technology comes the potential for cyberbullying, online grooming and risk of exposure to inappropriate content. This is a **risk for all children** and young people using the Internet but the risk can be more profound for young people with a learning disability as a result of increased vulnerability, tendencies towards obsessive compulsive behaviour and social naivety.

Speech & Language Department

Making your internet Safe

- The Internet contains a wealth of images, video and information. Much of it is positive, but there is also content that is not appropriate for children to see. There are a number of things parents can do on home networks to make it as safe as possible.

Speech & Language Department

A few tips for online safety

- **Keep computers in family rooms:** Most internet safety guidance suggests that one of the most effective ways of ensuring that the content your child views is appropriate is to place the computer in a family room with the screen facing into the room.
- **Install Internet filters:** Internet filters are software which are designed to control what content a user can see. It is used to restrict material delivered over the web.
- **Install child-friendly browsers:** Child-friendly browsers automatically filter results that are adult in content.
- **Protect against viruses:** Computer viruses are a small piece of software that can damage your computer. Anti-virus software should be installed.
- **Install parental guidance locks on popular sites:** Most browsers and video playback sites have the capacity to lock adult content and prevent it from being viewed through the use of a pin code.
- **Prevent postural problems:** Set up your computer area in a way that encourages your child to sit in a beneficial position, and demonstrate how you expect them to sit.

Speech & Language Department

- lbrowsesafely.com.mt

- **Get Netwise** - <http://www.kids.getnetwise.org/tools/>
Website which supports parents to choose tools to filter the content their child can receive and identify child friendly web browsers and software that can contribute to keeping children safe.
- **UK Safer Internet Centre** - www.saferinternet.org.uk
This site contains advice on how to use the Internet and new technologies safely and responsibly as well as a range of practical resources, news and events focussing on the safe and responsible use of the Internet and new technologies.

Speech & Language Department