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Autism in the New Age of Technology

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Received: May 02, 2019; **Published:** July 08, 2019

With new communication devices and applications, children and adults with autism spectrum disorder (aka ASD) cannot communicate at levels unlike the past. Assistive technology has evolved over the years to give a voice to the voiceless. Those with ASD that don't have the ability to speak can now expand their social interactions as well as increasing interactions by the use of augmentative and alternative communication. Sign language with the use of picture boards were the main source of communication in the past. Non-verbal children can be taught to use applications and south boards at a very early age. This compared to signing language that can take much more time to grasp. Some of the best evidence of this can be seen in autism therapies. Applied Behavioral Analysis has incorporated this technology in preparing these children for what lies ahead. In regards to the learning process, technology has increased test scores in education and in general cognitive communication ability as a whole.

Parents and doctors now have a better understanding of a child's health as they can divulge their symptoms both physically and mentally. Speech and language therapists focus on the use of these tools now more than ever before. Many of these devices can cost an abundant amount of money. With the expansion of applications one can benefit with this type of technology without incurring enormous debt. Most applications are set with pictures in correlations with saying the word as well. This utilities both optical and auditory processes.

Many children with autism spectrum disorder are visual learners; by using applications that expose them to vivid and colorful pictures. This helps them to correlate the word with the picture they are looking at on the communication device. These communication devices help in daily life skills and activities. For example, scheduling one's daily routines for ones self has also added in things like teeth brushing, getting dressed and decreasing incontinence. It's best to use an application that allows the caregiver or therapist to add words so that the individual can build upon their vocabulary and skill level. A speech, behavioral or special needs therapist can best help in assessing the best application or communication device for the non-verbal individual.

Assistive technology may help those individuals with autism by helping to increase verbal skills. Second, by showing that new abilities help to prosper social interaction. Lastly, is that the technology can promote a person's confidence and self-esteem.

Competitive employment opportunities can be possible with newer applications and assistive technologies. Jobs that were once thought to be too difficult for an autistic person may now be in their grasp because of these assistive technologies. These technologies hold promise for the future of individuals with autism spectrum disorder. In many ways, it has opened a new way to express their knowledge which was difficult to do in the past.

Future technology of this type may have unlimited potential in many aspects of autism spectrum disorders. With communication being one of the most immense barriers in autism, these new technologies extend new opportunities unlike never before.

Volume 11 Issue 8 August 2019