

Single message communication devices



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Single message communication devices consist of a button or switch which, when activated, plays a pre-recorded message. These devices can be a simple yet effective tool as part of a person's communication toolbox.

At Superyou Tech we have put together some considerations when selecting a single message communication device. Consider the importance of device features when working out which device which best suits a person's needs. Use the attached Comparison Chart to help you match the features to the device. Then review the Teaching Tips for advice on from our experienced Speech Pathologist on how to support device use.



Device features

Recording time available

Will you just be recording brief messages or needing longer messages?

Size of the activation area (button) and colours

Is it difficult for the person to see or control their body movement, which may require a bigger activation area to press or high contrast colours

Pressure required to activate:

Does the person have muscle weakness and require light touch to activate?

Removable caps:

Does the device come with a removable clear cap to add a symbol, text or tactile surface so the person knows what function the device will have?

Number of switches or buttons for recorded messages

Does the person need to be able to say more than one message?

Power source

Does it use replaceable batteries, or will it need recharging?

Options to mount or secure the device

Is the device compatible with mounting plates? Is it magnetic or does it have a flat surface for hook and loop tape? Aim to find a position for the device which allows the person to activate it (or learn to) with a movement they can produce reliably. A mount or other option such as hook and loop tape may be needed to keep the device securely in place.

Input switch jack

Does the device have the option to connect an alternative switch to activate if the inbuilt button/switch is not accessible to the person controlling it?

Output switch jack and cable for controlling toys and equipment

Does the devices have the option to control other switch accessible equipment in addition to providing voice output when activated?

Teaching Tips

Wait

Provide plenty of time for the user to process the opportunity, plan and initiate what they want to do.

Model

Use the single message device yourself so the user can see the function and how it can be used.

Talk about the function, not the device

If needing to provide feedback or a prompt or cue, rather than saying "press the switch" focus on its' function e.g. "It's your turn to share your news", "I'd love to hear your joke."

Avoid fly in fly out switches/devices

Avoid sharing a device amongst people, moving it from one person to another as this increases wait time, leads to boredom and passivity and is not how we naturally communicate.

Consider as part of broader communication toolbox

Does the person have, or would they benefit from, other communication tools which allow them to communicate a wider range of messages?

COMPARISON CHART

Product	BIGMack	LITTMack	iTalk2	TalkingBrix 2	BIG TalkingBrix
					
Recording time	2 minutes	2 minutes	There are three levels per switch and you can record single messages on each level. There is a total of 4 minutes recording time.	10 seconds per Talking Brix	10 seconds per Talking Brix
Activation Surface Size	12.7 cm	6.4 cm	6.4 cm per button	6.35 cm	8.8 cm
Activation force	85-140 grams	57-85 grams	57-142 grams	57 grams	71 grams
Power source	9 volt battery	9 volt battery	9 volt battery	Rechargeable	Rechargeable
Mounting connection	Compatible with Universal mounting plate	Compatible with Universal mounting plate	Compatible with Universal mounting plate	Internal magnet in each TalkingBrix	Internal magnet in each TalkingBrix
Number of inbuilt switches/buttons	1	1	2	3	3
Clear cap provided	Yes	Yes	Yes per button	Yes	Yes
Switch input jack	Yes	Yes	Yes, 2	No	No
Output switch jack for toy/appliance	Yes	Yes	Yes, 2	No	No
Extra features	4 Changeable coloured tops provided.	4 Changeable coloured tops provided.	3 levels to store recorded messages. 6 messages can be stored in total.	Can connect Talking Brix 2 together to form a multi-message device or keep separate.	Can connect Big Talking Brix together to form a multi-message device or keep separate.