



iPads with SPEAKall! software for learners with severe autism in the Fort Wayne area

AWS Foundation, SPEAK MODalities LLC, and the Purdue Research Lab on Augmentative and Alternative Communication in Autism (Professor Wendt) have partnered to make an impact for the autism community in Fort Wayne! 20 iPads and 40 SPEAKall! software licenses will be given to Fort Wayne agencies that serve learners with autism who are minimally verbal.

Fort Wayne autism agencies and programs can apply to receive an iPad and/or software licenses at no cost if they meet the following criteria:

- Institution is located in Fort Wayne or in close proximity
- Serving individuals with severe autism and little to no functional speech (learners that are non-verbal or do not have more than 10-15 functional word utterances)
- Personnel can participate in SPEAKall! training
- Learners can be assessed for communication performance before and after SPEAKall! intervention to document project outcomes

iPad devices and software will remain with the agencies as donations after project completion.

What is SPEAKall!?	Who is SPEAK MODalities?
SPEAKall! is an evidence-based mobile application to target functional communication, natural speech production, and social-pragmatic behaviors. Research and development of SPEAKall! are sponsored by the National Institutes of Health.	SPEAK MODalities is a start-up at Purdue University with the mission to provide scientifically validated speech and language learning tools for families and individuals affected by autism or developmental disabilities.

For questions please feel free to contact Professor Wendt's research lab at wendto@purdue.edu. To apply for iPads and/or software please send the following information to research assistant Ms. Katelyn Warner at warner24@purdue.edu:

1. Name of institution
2. Contact information of clinic director or other designated official
3. Number of learners your institution will agree to use SPEAKall! and be assessed before and after intervention.

Note: There is no restriction to the age of the learners. The youngest SPEAKall! users were 3 years old, the oldest 20+ years.

PLEASE DO NOT SUBMIT PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION/SCHOOL RECORDS.



For further product information please see any of the following:

www.speakmod.com | www.facebook.com/speakmod | www.twitter.com/speakmodalities



SPEAKall! Project Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):

- **Do you have a specific range of ages that you prefer? Adults or children?**

The SPEAKall! application targets individuals with a need for functional communication. Regardless if the learner is an adult or child, if therapy goals include learning to communicate using an augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) device and combining symbols to create meaningful language then SPEAKall! would be a useful tool. There is no age limit to this application.
- **What does the pre-/post-assessment entail?**

The pre- and post-assessments include a brief questionnaire for either the clinician, parent, or caretaker to complete. Also, a short observation of the learner will be conducted. The duration will not be longer than 45-60 minutes. Members of the Purdue AAC Research Lab will conduct these assessments. We plan to do the pre – assessment in early summer at the time iPads are donated to the agencies. Post-assessments would take place about 6-9 months after iPad intervention has started. Assessments can take place at the agency that provides services. Having the clinician or major caretaker present would be preferable.
- **Who, where, and how much training will be involved?**

Training will be offered by the Purdue AAC Research Team for implementing an iPad with SPEAKall! for the selected learners. Training is not strictly mandatory, but could be helpful when agencies have little experience with AAC interventions or don't have trained AAC specialists available. These trainings are typically more than simple product introductions; the focus is on proper instructional and intervention procedures surrounding the technology. For an overview on possible training workshops see the SPEAK MODalities website at <http://speakmod.com/support/reference-materials/>. The training can take place at the agency or at a place where several agencies can come together. There are many training opportunities, and training needs would be determined in close collaboration with the professionals implementing the application.
- **How much monitoring/feedback will be needed?**

The trained professionals implementing the SPEAKall! app can provide as much feedback as they wish. Evaluation of learner progress will primarily be done through pre- and post-assessments and data analytics within the SPEAKall! application. Any additional feedback from caretakers or clinicians who have worked with the app is much appreciated but not mandatory. There is no specified format or daily log that is required.
- **What is the provided technical support?**

For clinical questions, the graduate assistant at the Purdue AAC Research Lab is available during weekdays and consultations can be scheduled by individual appointment. Technical support for the SPEAKall! application is available via in-app email. An additional phone number for tech support will be made available to agencies and families.
- **What are the expectations for the individuals involved?**

Expectations for the professionals implementing the app include utilizing the application in meaningful ways that benefit their learners. If guidance is needed, the Purdue AAC Research Lab can provide input on setting speech/language/social communication goals. Specific questions can be addressed to the Purdue AAC Research Lab at any time during the project period. Expectations for the learners include: This should be a client who would clearly benefit from an iPad-based communication intervention. Caretaker and family involvement is highly encouraged, but not mandatory.
- **Is there a specific protocol?**

Every agency may use the app for different learners in different scenarios. There is no required protocol to follow other than the pre- and post-assessments and potential participation in training as needed.



- **Can we keep the iPads?**

Yes, iPads will remain with the agency or family during and after the completion of the project. If the donation is made to an agency then they would decide what happens with the device.
- **What are the next steps?**
 1. Send in your application for evaluation; if necessary, the Purdue research team will contact you for further information on the learner.
 2. The Purdue research team will come to Fort Wayne for delivering and implementing iPads, and conducting pre-assessments (May 2017). Appointments will be made with agencies or families.
 3. At the site visit, the research team will discuss potential intervention goals, outline best use of the technology, and determine your training needs. We would like to emphasize that proper instruction and intervention are critical for learner success on top of providing the technology.
 4. The Purdue research team will provide as much training as needed and be available for follow-up consultations and guidance throughout the project period.
- **What is the application deadline?**

Because iPad roll-out to agencies or families will need to start in May, the application deadline is May 1. Late applications will be considered as much as capacities permit.
- **Who can we contact for further questions?**

Please feel free to send any questions to Professor Wendt's AAC and Autism Research Lab at wendto@purdue.edu, phone 765-494-2462; or to research assistant Ms. Katelyn Warner at warner24@purdue.edu.