SGD vs. Mainstream Tablets

Speech Generating Devices (SGD)

Speech Generating Devices (SGD) are high technology devices which are specifically manufactured and designed to be used as a communication device. They range from simple to sophisticated devices with a wide range of specifications and options. In this handout, we compare the high-end SGDs with dynamic display to mainstream tablets.

Features include:

- **Dedicated:** The hardware and software is designed solely for communication purposes.
- **Integrated communication software:** The communication software is already installed on the device (hardware).
- **Access:** Some SGDs provide multiple built-in access options, for example touchscreen, direct selection using hand, head pointing, eye-gaze, or via switch access scanning methods.

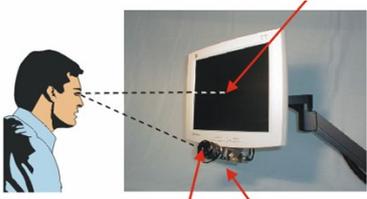Accent 1200   Tellus 5   Tobii Dynavox

Mainstream Tablets

Mainstream tablets refer to computer tablets which are designed and manufactured for the general public use. These may be used for a wide range of purposes such as for education, entertainment, and productivity purposes. A mainstream tablet may be turned into a communication device by downloading a communication application on it.

Factors to Consider:

There are several factors to consider when deciding on whether to choose a SGD or a mainstream tablet as a communication tool. On the next page is a table which outlines some important considerations that may help you with your decision-making:
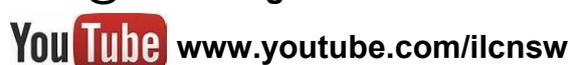
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Speech Generating Devices	Mainstream Tablets
Are usually durable but might be less portable. Mounting options are available.	Are lightweight but might be less durable.
Stands, sound system, or speakers are built-in.	May need additional accessories, e.g. case, stand, speaker, etc.
Additional functions, e.g. environmental control, computer access, telecommunications	May have more than one communication app installed
Warranty and maintenance	Positive social attitude - feeling of inclusion General public familiarity with mainstream tablets
Suppliers may provide consumer support/ training. Comprehensive manuals available.	Support and training may be limited. Online forums or videos may be available.
More expensive but may be funded through government schemes	Affordable
Trialing equipment - Suppliers may lend SGD to trial	Often unable to trial full version of apps before purchase
Multiple access methods built-in or could be added to devices, such as eye-gaze	Access methods: Devices have built-in accessibility features. However, other access methods may need to be added to device.

For more information, please contact:

Assistive Technology Australia

Shop 4019, Level 4, Westpoint Shopping Centre, 17 Patrick Street, Blacktown NSW 2148

Infoline: 1300 452 679   Email: EveryoneConnects@at-aust.org   Web: www.at-aust.org

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