

Speech Generated Devices (SGD's) (the following information is summarized from raisingchildren.net.au)

Speech-generating devices are **hand-held electronic devices that play pre-recorded words or phrases** when the user touches a switch or presses buttons or keys. Some devices 'speak' words as the words are typed on a keyboard (or tablet).

Speech-generating devices are (specialized) devices used only for communication. They also include tablets, laptops or other common devices with speech-generating apps or functions. These devices are also known as communication devices, electronic augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) devices or systems, and voice output communication aids.

Some of our students use SGD's for communication in the academic environment. There are many different software programs used for our preschool aged children including, *TouchChat*, *ProoquoToGo*, and *WordPower*.

Who are SGD's for?

(Any aged person who has) difficulty developing language or communicating using speech use speech-generating devices.

What are SGD's used for?

Speech-generating devices let people 'speak' words and sentences electronically.

Where do SGD's come from?

Speech-generating devices have been used to help (individuals) communicate since the 1990s.

What is the idea behind SGD's?

Speech-generating devices allow people who (are unable to) use spoken language to 'speak' electronically. Some individuals may become frustrated and develop negative behaviors as a result of being unable to communicate with others. Because speech-generating devices have the ability to give non or less verbal people a way to communicate, they might help with reducing negative behavior too.

How do SGD's work?

The individual touches or selects an icon on the speech-generating device that corresponds to what they want to 'say'. For example, if the student wants to eat an apple, he/she can push the button with a picture of an apple. The device plays a recorded human voice or computer-generated voice that says, 'apple'. More complex devices allow users to communicate by typing words and sentences.

Below is a link to a video of a student and an adult using a SGD to join in a shared reading activity with the story "Big Green Monster".

<https://youtu.be/FaaCJ9fEIYo>