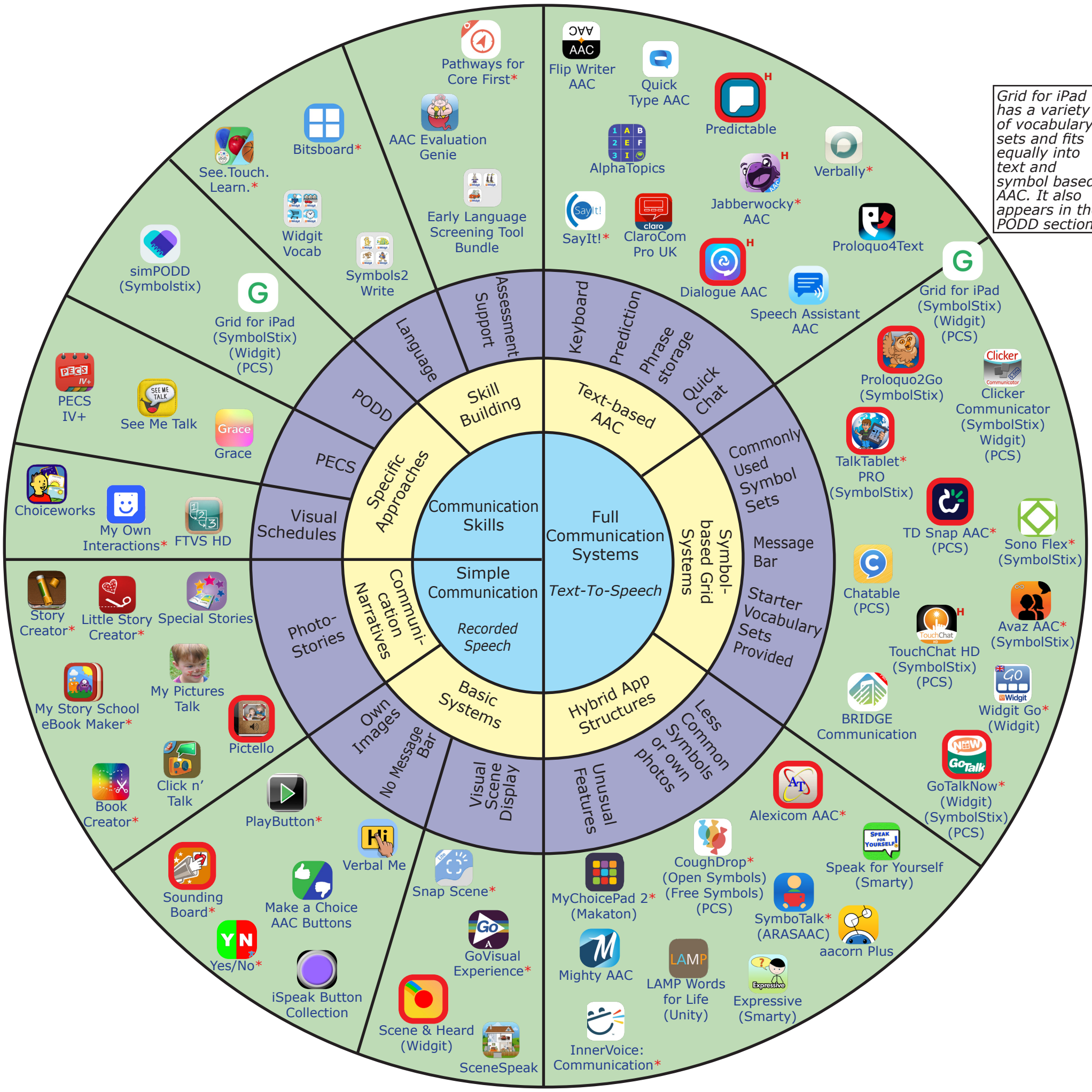
iPad Apps for Complex Communication Support Needs: Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC)



Grid for iPad has a variety of vocabulary sets and fits equally into text and symbol based AAC. It also appears in the PODD section.

Identifying Suitable Apps

Identifying AAC Apps from the many available can be a difficult task, we hope that this wheel will help with that purpose. It includes a selection of Apps organised by category, that we broadly find reliable, useful, stand out in their category, and have continued support from the developer. Due to their features, some Apps could be listed under multiple categories, so we have chosen to assign them according to their primary feature(s).

Trialling Apps & Free Versions - *

When selecting Apps, most individuals prefer to 'try before you buy' to avoid inappropriate purchases. It is wise to first seek out specialist assessment from an AAC expert/service such as CALL Scotland, who may have equipment available for trial. Some App developers if approached, may offer a specific trial, otherwise some Apps have free versions allowing this. They usually have features limited in some way. These are marked in the wheel with an * next to the App name.

Alternative Access:
Switch - ▢ and Head Tracking (Face ID/Attention) - H

Relatively few Apps are designed with in-built alternative access, such as switch scanning and the newer head tracking (only iPad Pro with a TrueDepth front-facing camera). These Apps offer the most usable and widest range of access options, and may be the 'safest' choice for users needing effective alternative access.
Apps with switch access are marked in the wheel with a red border ▢ around the App image, head tracking is marked with an **H**.
Accessibility settings built-in to the iPad can improve access to all Apps and the iPad itself and include Touch, Switch control and Face ID/ Attention (iPad Pro), however due to the App design, not all are usable with alternative access.

Downloadable Version

A digital version of the wheel can be downloaded from
http://www.callscotland.org.uk/downloads/posters-and-leaflets
In this, App names are clickable and link to the Apple App Store UK.

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