

IN THIS ISSUE - details of a new DynaVox product launched in America last week, and a chance to have your say in John Bercow MP's review of experiences of AAC for children.

Announcing the new digitised DynaVox M³

At Closing the Gap in America last week DynaVox announced its latest product – the M³, which is a digitised device aimed primarily at emergent communicators with context based functional communication. Effectively the M³ will replace the current MightyMo and MiniMo which are being discontinued due to a dwindling supply of component parts on the world market, although we will continue to maintain and support both of these devices.



The M³ has a screen that is, in size, half way between that of the MiniMo and MightyMo. Operationally it is very similar to its predecessors but benefits from several new features and improvements, for instance:

On the Hardware side the screen is flush with the outer casing, making the fitting of keyguards easier and less space for dribble or other liquids to gain access to the device. The casing is a rugged magnesium, in white, and has 2 front facing speakers for better sound quality. It also has 1 GB of flash storage and a much faster processor. The device will be shipped with a free external microphone for even clearer recordings.

On the software side we have added some elements of the InterAACT language framework for faster communication, including Facilitator Master Pages that provide communication partners with buttons for each topic in the page set which make it easy to quickly locate appropriate pages for the person using the device; Visual Scenes containing background images and active areas to provide augmented communicators with context for communication and "Quickfires" for casual, routine and formal situations, and groups of phrases that can shift from past to present or future tense with the touch of a button help increase a user's communication rate. PCS is included as standard and users can also import and use custom symbol sets. The traditional facility for infra red control is also included, as it is with all DynaVox built products.

We have also taken the opportunity to make some specific software changes that have been asked for in the past, including automated switch off of the cooling fan whilst recording is on and the back up and restore now take all the information.

In the UK the product should be available for demonstration and loan towards the end of November and we are expecting full shipments to start in early December. We will continue to take orders for the MightyMo and Minimo until the end of December. The price in the UK will be £2,495 (plus VAT if applicable).

To celebrate the launch we are offering a 20% discount if a fully working DynaVox 3 or 4 series, Dynamo, MightyMo or MiniMo is traded in against an M³, or a 10% discount if a non working device is traded in PLUS you can select ONE accessory of your choice, to the value of £100 (no cash alternative or discount). This offer cannot be combined with any other special price or discount.

John Bercow MP's review

The John Bercow Review has now announced its 'Call for Evidence' – a questionnaire, which can be completed online or on paper regarding people's experiences of services for children with speech, language and communication needs. Anyone who has an interest in and/or experience of AAC (users, families, carers, professionals etc) are encouraged to contribute. You can find a link on our website or details at:

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/conDetails.cfm?consultationId=1513>

And finally, if you know anyone who is not receiving these updates and who should, please ask them to email their details to carl.white@dynavox.co.uk and we'll add them to our email mailing list