

## **Gateway To Language and Learning Manual Set Addendum**

Gateway to Language and Learning is an application created by Joan Bruno, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, for the DynaVox<sub>3100</sub> series of products. All of these page sets, including Gateway Jr., Gateway 30, Gateway 54 and Gateway 75, are now featured in one application. This document provides a brief summary of the newly revised page sets.

**Gateway Jr.** features developmentally based vocabulary page sets. It includes a 12-button page set designed for children whose receptive language performance is at the 18-24 month level. Gateway Jr. also has a 20-button format that is appropriate for children whose receptive skills are at the 24-30 month level. Individual 36-button and 40-button page sets are included to meet the needs of children whose skills are at the 30-48 month level. The vocabulary contents of these two page sets are the same, but children who require a keyguard may be more successful with the 40-button format.

**Gateway 30** is a 30-button page set designed for adolescents and adults who demonstrate limitations in cognitive language performance to an extent that their language output would not be expected to include word endings or function words such as “a” and “the.” Gateway 30 pages include words that are commonly used by this population to direct their care and to actively participate in many daily living activities.

**Gateway 54** accommodates children and adults whose receptive language skills have reached at least a 4-year level and who need a reduced number of locations on a screen. This 54-button page can be presented on the DynaMyte<sub>3100</sub> in an adequate size for individuals whose fine motor skills are good. It is also suitable for individuals who access their systems through group row-column scanning.

The Gateway 54 page set has been upgraded to include category searches on the People, Little Words, Words That Tell, Things, Foods and Places pages. Popups that were formerly *autoclose* can now easily be set to *Stay Open*. Contractions were added and can be accessed with the Apostrophe Key.

**Note:** Before you can use the Contractions feature, Abbreviation Expansion must be set to auto-expand.

An ECU page has been created for this page set. In addition, the *gw54TOLPP-3* page can be linked to the *Reading* button on the Main Page to administer the *TOLDP-3* (Test of Language Development, Primary 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition) test. This is a standardized test of language abilities that is not a component of Gateway. The *gw54TOLPP-3* page contains words which are needed for completion of the test but are not a part of the main vocabulary set. Gateway 54 also enables children to actively participate in a literacy activity by including vocabulary needed to read two “Clifford” books (*Clifford’s Manners* and *Clifford’s Family*). Each book is stored on its own page and can be linked to the *Reading* button on the main page when it is being used as a part of a literacy activity.

**Gateway 75** is designed for users who can access up to 75 buttons on a page via direct selection or scanning. This page set maximizes communication efficiency by including a *Pronoun* popup that allows all pronouns to be accessed with only two key selections. Gateway 75 has category searches on the People, Little Words, Words That Tell, Things, Foods and Place pages. The spelling page can be used as the main page for users who use spelling as their primary means of generating messages, as it now contains links to the Pronouns, Little Words, Words That Tell, Things, Foods and Places pages. This helps to increase access to frequently used words. Popups that were formerly *autoclose* can now easily be set to *Stay Open*. An ECU page has been designed to provide users with remote control access to their TVs, VCRs and some household appliances.

A consistent color-coding strategy is used throughout all Gateway page sets. Each page has a black background, which enhances the contrast between the background and the buttons. The buttons are colored to correspond with the Fitzgerald Key: People=yellow; Verbs=green; Little Words=pink; Words That Tell

About=blue; Things and Foods=orange; and Places=purple. Word morphology buttons are colored to match the part of speech with which they are typically used. For example, the *possessive noun* Command button is colored yellow, as it is used with *people*. The *noun plural* Command button is orange, as it is typically used with *things*. Teal buttons with a gray border speak the message from the verbal cue, instead of the message window. Any button that contains a sentence is white with a teal border. The ellipsis indicates whether words are missing before or after the label. A *Like This* page is designed to match each page set where the feature is used. At present, the 75-button *Like This* page is set as the default. If an individual is using any other page configuration, the default should be changed to match the corresponding configuration.

A complete description of each page set is contained within its own specific manual.

## Visual and Auditory Scanning Considerations

Gateway to Language and Learning is an application that can be used by a wide range of augmented communicators. Design modifications may be necessary to meet some individuals' needs, specifically for auditory and visual scanning. The versatility of Dynavox System Software supports these modifications to the Gateway application. The following steps should be followed if there is a need to modify the application for visual scanners or should one need to program for individuals who require auditory scanning. Please refer to your DynaVox Reference Manual for more detailed information.

### Directions for Modifying Visual Scanning

DynaVox System Software highlights or outlines the buttons and message window as they are presented in the scan pattern. The choice between *Highlight* and *Outline* is referred to as the *Scan Style* and can be customized in the **Scan Controls Menu**. The default setting for visual scanning in the Gateway application is *Highlight*. When the *Scan Style* option ring is set to *Highlight* the color of the background, border and label of each button will change to indicate that it can be selected.

### **Scan Style: Highlight**

When the *Scan Style* option ring is set to *Highlight*, you may need to modify the background and/or border color of a button. This may be a necessary modification if seeing the highlighted color becomes difficult for a user. Use the following path in the DynaVox System Software to change the background and/or border color of a button.

**Path: /Setup Menu**  
    **/Edit Page Menu**  
        **/select specific button to edit**  
            **/Edit Button Menu**  
                **/Edit Button Style**  
**Sub-menus: /Select Button Color**  
                **/Select Border Color**

### **Scan Style: Outline**

When the *Scan Style* option ring is set to *Outline*, the buttons and message window will appear with a black border during the scan pattern. The recommended modification for individuals using visual scanning and their *Scan Style* as *Outline* is to change the background color on the pages to a color that will present a high contrast to the black border outline color.

**Path: /Setup Menu**  
    **/Edit Page Menu**  
        **/Select**  
            **/Page**  
                **/Edit Page Properties**  
**Sub-menu: /Select Background Color**

## Directions for Auditory Scanning

The Gateway application is not programmed for auditory scanning. However, the pages can be programmed for auditory scanning by following the steps outlined below. Be informed that all of the pages and popups being utilized for communication will need to be programmed with auditory scan cues. The auditory scanning feature of the DynaVox System Software provides the user with the ability to use or incorporate audio feedback in the scan pattern. The choices for modifying the *audio feedback* can be found in the **Audio Feedback Menu**, which lets you specify the voice, volume and rate. The menu also includes three option rings for how the audio feedback will be announced: *Announce Output*, *Announce Buttons* and *Announce Using*. The default settings for auditory scanning are the current settings represented in the **Scan Controls** and **Audio Feedback Menus**.

Auditory Scanning Suggestions:

1. Use a voice, volume and rate that is different than the main speaking voice to allow the individual to discriminate the difference between the scanning and speaking voices.

**Path: /Setup Menu**

**/Selection Method Menu**

**/Selection Method Controls**

**/Audio Feedback**

**Sub-menu: /Voice**

**/Volume**

**/Rate**

2. Specify in the *Announce Using Option* ring which button field (label, message, verbal cue or audio scan cue) will provide the audio feedback/cue when the button is highlighted or outlined in the scan pattern. It may be appropriate to add or change the vocabulary in the message, verbal cue or audio scan cue in Gateway.

**Path: /Setup Menu**  
**/Selection Method Menu**  
**/Selection method Controls**  
**/Audio Feedback**  
**/Audio Feedback Menu**  
**Sub-menu: /Announce Using Option Ring**

3. Audio Scan cues should be salient and incorporate a prompt strategy.  
To add audio scan cues, use the *Modify Audio Scan Cue* from Modify in the Edit Button menu.

**Path: /Setup Menu**  
**/Edit Page Menu**  
**/select specific button to edit**  
**/Edit Button Menu**  
**/Modify**  
**/Modify Audio Scan Cue**