RUBRIC for EVALUATING the LANGUAGE of APPS for AAC: RELAAACs

Parker & Zangari, 2012

PURPOSE: This rubric is designed to help speech-language pathologists compare AAC apps on the dimension of language and communication. It should be used in conjunction with more comprehensive checklists that address a variety of app features, such as those developed by Gosnell (2011) and Marfilius and Fonner (2012). When selecting AAC apps for an individual, this rubric should be used in the context of a comprehensive AAC evaluation, which considers a range of strategies and tools.

App Name: _____   Evaluator: _____

App Version: _____   Date of Evaluation: _____

	DOES NOT SUPPORT 1	LITTLE SUPPORT 2	SOME SUPPORT 3	CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT 4	FULLY SUPPORTS 5
FUNCTIONAL COMMUNICATION LEARNING					
1. **Object/action requests, choices**	1: No capacity for making requests of desired objects or actions	2: Very limited capacity for prestored OR generative requests of desired objects, actions	3: Some capacity for prestored & generative requests objects or actions	4: Fairly good capacity for prestored & generative requests of objects or actions	5: Excellent capacity for prestored & generative requests of objects or actions
How well does this app support requests for desired activities, people, and objects, and support expression of preferences?					
2. **Other requests** (help, attention, people, negotiation)	1: No capacity for more abstract requests	2: Very limited capacity for more abstract requests (prestored or generative)	3: Some capacity for more abstract requests (prestored or generative)	4: Fairly good capacity for more abstract requests (prestored & generative)	5: Excellent capacity for more abstract requests (prestored & generative)
How well does this app support other kinds of requests, such as asking for help or attention, requesting to be with certain people, and negotiating.					
3. **Negation, rejection, protest**	1: No capacity for prestored or generative negation	2: Little capacity for prestored or generative negation	3: Some capacity for prestored & generative negation	4: Considerable capacity for prestored & generative negation	5: Excellent capacity for prestored & generative negation
How well does this app support the expression of negative concepts? Think about its capacity for protesting, negation (not, don't, can't, won't), and rejection.					
4. **Social interaction**	1: No capacity for social interaction words	2: Very limited capacity for prestored OR generative for social interaction words	3: Some capacity for prestored & generative for social interaction words	4: Fairly good capacity for prestored & generative for social interaction words	5: Excellent capacity for prestored & generative for social interaction words

How well does this app support the development and maintenance of social relationships? Think about its capacity for greeting/leave-taking, small talk, partner-focused questions, compliments, and etiquette (e.g., Excuse me. I'm sorry. Thank you). Think about scripting and reciprocal exchanges/turn-taking, partner-focused questions, and appropriate means of initiating, maintaining, redirecting, and terminating conversations.					
5. Telling, commenting	1: No capacity to tell, show, or report	2: Very limited capacity for prestored OR generative to tell, show, or report	3: Some capacity for prestored & generative to tell, show, or report	4: Fairly good capacity for prestored & generative to tell, show, or report	5: Excellent capacity for prestored & generative to tell, show, or report
How well does this app support expression to share, tell, or make a comment?					
6. Asking for info	1: No capacity for asking questions	2: Very limited capacity for prestored OR generative for asking questions	3: Some capacity for prestored & generative for asking questions	4: Fairly good capacity for prestored & generative negation for asking questions	5: Excellent capacity for prestored & generative for asking questions
How well does this app support the request for information? Think about its capacity for asking questions (e.g., What time do we leave? Where are we going? Who is coming?).					
7. Clarifying	1: No capacity for clarifying by repeating, rephrasing, &/or questioning	2: Very limited capacity for prestored OR generative by repeating, rephrasing, &/or questioning	3: Some capacity for prestored & generative by repeating, rephrasing, &/or questioning	4: Fairly good capacity for prestored & generative negation by repeating, rephrasing, and/or questioning	5: Excellent capacity for prestored & generative by repeating, rephrasing, &/or questioning
How well does this app support the repair of communication breakdowns? Think about its capacity for repairing communication breakdowns through repetition, paraphrasing, asking for clarification ("What did you say? "huh?"), and negotiation.					
8. Answering, labeling	1: No capacity for answering/ labeling with single OR multi word sentences	2: Very limited capacity for prestored OR generative answering/ labeling with single OR multi word sentences	3: Some capacity for prestored & generative answering/ labeling with single OR multi word sentences	4: Fairly good capacity for prestored & generative negation answering/ labeling with single OR multi word sentences	5: Excellent capacity for prestored & generative answering/ labeling with single OR multi word sentences
How well does this app support the delivery of information? Think about its capacity for offering new information and answering questions.					
9. Self-calming	1: No capacity for self calming words & sentences	2: Very limited capacity for prestored OR generative self calming words & sentences	3: Some capacity for prestored & generative self calming words & sentences	4: Fairly good capacity for prestored & generative self calming words & sentences	5: Excellent capacity for prestored & generative self calming words & sentences
How well does this app support the ability to prevent emotional breakdowns, minimize distress, calm oneself, and regain composure?					
SUBTOTAL	___ out of 45 possible points				
LINGUISTIC/LANGUAGE LEARNING					
10. Core vocabulary (amount, word class diversity, organization)	1: No capacity for core word messages	2: Very limited capacity for core word messages	3: Some capacity for core word messages	4: Fairly good capacity for core word messages	5: Excellent capacity for core word messages

How well does this app support the most frequently used words? Think about common pronouns, helping verbs, descriptors, and conjunctions.					
11. Syntax & sentence-building	1: No capacity for syntactic learning or sentence-building	2: Very limited capacity for syntactic learning or sentence-building	3: Some capacity for syntactic learning & sentence-building	4: Fairly good capacity for syntactic learning & sentence-building	5: Excellent capacity for syntactic learning & sentence-building
How well does this app support language competence through word combinations? Think about its capacity for assembling single words into phrases/sentences. Consider modals and other words that allow us to speak in grammatically correct sentences.					
12. Morphology & word forms	1: No capacity for modifying word forms	2: Very limited capacity for modifying word forms	3: Some capacity for modifying word forms	4: Fairly good capacity for modifying word forms	5: Excellent capacity for modifying word forms
How well does this app support language competence by permitting variations of word forms? Think about its capacity for verb conjugation, changing verb tense, singular/plural, comparative/superlative, etc.					
13. Narratives & story telling	1: No capacity for telling prestored stories or creating new ones	2: Very limited capacity for telling prestored stories or creating new ones	3: Some capacity for telling prestored stories & creating new ones	4: Fairly good capacity for telling prestored stories & creating new ones	5: Excellent capacity for telling prestored stories & creating new ones
How well does this app support storytelling? Think about personal narratives (e.g., recounts, accounts), stories, scripts, and eventcasts.					
14. Semantics & new word learning	1: No capacity for planned expansion or extensive restriction in word types	2: Very limited capacity for planned expansion or significant restriction in word types	3: Some capacity for planned expansion & some variety in word types	4: Fairly good capacity for planned expansion & good variety in word types	5: Excellent capacity for planned expansion & extensive variety in word types
How well does this app support the learning and use of new words? Think about organizational features of the app, ability to hide/show and support for exploration of language and lexical diversity.					
15. Linguistic aspects of this app seem best suited for:	Very beginning communicator (not yet using words)	Beginning communicator (1 word/1 cell)	Early sentence users (2-5 words using multiple cells)	More complex sentence users	Adult-like language users
SUBTOTAL	_____ Out of 25 possible points				
16. Customization (5 poss pts)	1: Either no premade displays or no customizability	2: Inadequate balance of premade displays & customizability	3: Moderate balance of premade displays & customizability	4: Fairly good balance of premade displays & customizability	5: Excellent balance of premade displays & customizability
How well does this app strike a balance between being entirely pre-set and fully customizable? Think about how much is pre-stored and how much the user needs to create.					
TOTAL	_____ out of 75 possible points [Points can be used to compare one AAC app to another.]				