Tablets

Tablet technology is now recognised as a useful tool for a range of purposes. Tablets can be used for motivation and reward.

There is small scale research and a great deal of anecdotal evidence that support use of tablet devices for communication and learning. Many apps have been designed specifically for these. Some children and young people have a heightened technical aptitude for Information Technology and demonstrate outstanding competence.

Tablets are now well established as a useful tool for both learning and communication. YouTube has myriad video clips and stories of the benefits for children and young people who find everyday communication a challenge, many of whom are autistic.

Schools and colleges are exploring the use of tablets to host the many alternative and augmentative communication systems that traditionally have been computer based.

In the UK decisions about communication and the modes and tools used with deaf autistic children often sit with the health service and the speech and language therapist. There is an established procedure before a child can use a tablet or computer for communication in schools. Children are referred for assessment to regional ACE centres. Historically, the expectation seems to be that a hard copy/paper Picture Exchange Communication system (PECs) has been successfully established before referral.

Useful sources for guidance and use for both the tablet and apps:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FGU1EjS7bQ last accessed 11/9/2016

Apps for Autism wheel

Call Scotland University of Edinburgh 2014 iPads for communication, Access, Literacy and learning (iCALL)
or
http://www.callscotland.org.uk/downloads/books/ipads-for-communication-access-literacy-and-learning/


Deafness and Autism iPad technologyJSR

Boyd L., Short R. Great leap forward in Communication 2011 Autumn pp. 24-5 available from NAS Information Centre

Brady L.J. Apps for Autism 2011 Future Horizons

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