

TRANSCRIPT: AAC – ipad

Kris Williams

Mark is 18 years old. He is a young man with severe learning difficulties. He's also got verbal dyspraxia, which means it's hard for him to make himself understood.

Mark's currently using an *Apple iPad* and we've got a piece of software on there called *Proloquo2Go*.

The *iPad* is a technology that people are very used to and it's very intuitive to use. One of the other big advantages is they're about ten per cent of the cost of a standard communication device and it's something that pupils enjoy using. It's quite a desirable piece of technology and if they're out in the community doesn't look out of place. It's not identifying them as somebody that's got a special need. It just looks like somebody carrying something that anyone else their age would have.

He's got his favourite films and his favourite music on there. He can go on the internet on it. So it becomes something that he enjoys using and not something that he's made to use and Mark just sees the *iPad* as another part of his communication skills.

All the research that we've seen and our practical experience is that, if somebody's using a communication aid their spoken language will actually improve when they start to use it, rather than decline. And we have seen that increase in confidence come about as he's started to use the *iPad*.