Other augmentative and alternative communication apps for nonverbal kids:

- Sona Flex - $99 - iOS only
- ACC Speech Buddy - $279.99 - Android only
- LetMeTalk - Free - iOS and Android

Users can quickly and easily create customized speech sets using their own photos or collected images, or using images from the AACSpeech.com image repository.

https://aacspeech.com/pages/download

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“The breakthrough was when she didn’t have to use behavior to communicate,” Kerr says. “Before, she would have gotten up and brought the water to us, or bolted, or screamed because we had no idea what she wanted. Now, she can tell us.”

In private life, Kerr worries about the widespread attachment to electronic devices. Her professional life is just the opposite.

“I want that child so invested in their device that it’s not seen as work,” she says of her therapy sessions for children with alternative communication devices. “It’s where their power is. It should be about their freedom, their ideas, their wants and needs. It’s simply their voice.”

The love affair with electronic devices has an upside for the children Kerr works with. The stigma attached to electronic devices is disappearing, she says. “Almost all kids are carrying screens around nowadays.”

Kerr works in a specialized field of speech pathology, augmentative and alternative communication. “It’s a whole world in and of itself,” says Jim Runyon, executive vice president of Easter Seals. “But they can be a breakthrough experience for families with a child they’ve never been able to communicate with and who has never been able to communicate with them.”

Assisted-communication apps are available for iPhones and other electronic devices. Some units, like Sono Flex, are designed for children, like Oelschlager, to develop verbal skills.