

Access Screening Tool

Welcome! This screening tool is designed to point you toward potential access methods for communication devices in just a few minutes.

What will you do?

1. Do the screening activities (no communication device required).

Pick the ones that are appropriate based on the individual's abilities and age. "Play" activities allow you to observe skills in activities that will be fun and engaging. "Direct" activities are more straight-forward. They are best used for adults or older children.

2. Try out access methods that have potential on a communication device.

If you don't have a communication device to try, learn where to find one in the FAQs.

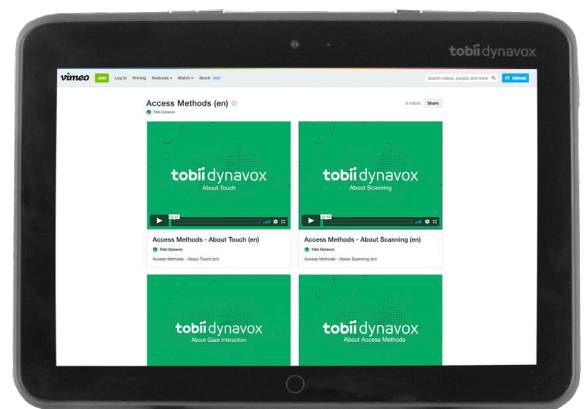
3. Select the access method that provides the individual the most accurate and efficient access to his/her communication device.

This screening tool can point you in a direction but remember to reach out to others supporting this individual; in particular, those who have beneficial knowledge like an occupational therapist and/or specialist in augmentative communication. Their unique expertise can offer valuable direction and information.

What is an access method?

An access method is how a person makes selections on a piece of equipment like a computer, tablet or a communication device. They might touch the screen with their hand, use a mouse, or use their eyes among other possibilities.

If you want more information, open the "Access Methods" album at <https://vimeo.com/album/3235930> to see what these access methods look like on the communication device and some of the ways that you can customize them to increase accurate and efficient use.



1. Access Screening Tool FAQ's

1. How long should the entire process take?

Time required to complete the screening will vary based on the individual's participation in the activities but, in general, it will take less than 15 minutes.

2. How long should I spend on each activity?

Spend 1 to 5 minutes on each activity. Remember that it is meant just to identify potential.

3. Do I need to try all the access methods?

You do not have to do try all the access methods. If you feel confident in the one or ones you have tried, feel free to stop. However, you might want to continue since one you try later may offer more accuracy and efficiency than an earlier one.

Remember that this is a screening tool that points you toward potential access methods. You will want to try the potential access methods with devices and consult other team members to make the final decisions.

4. I've identified an access method with potential but I don't have a communication device or the equipment to try it. What do I do?

Contact your local Tobii Dynavox Sales Consultant to try out identified access methods on communication devices. They also have access equipment such as keyguards, switches, and head-controlled mouse that can be tried during the appointment.

Your speech-language pathologist, occupational therapist, or assistive technology consultant may also be able to try communication devices and access equipment with you.

5. How do I find a specialist in my area?

Your local Tobii Dynavox Sales Consultant, speech-language pathologist or other team member may be aware of professionals with special knowledge of access methods. Contact them to locate someone in your area.

6. Should I use this screening tool instead of going to an OT?

Occupational therapists have specialized knowledge of the body that can be of great assistance as you explore access methods. We strongly suggest that you work with your occupational therapist in this process as well as other team members. Their familiarity with the individual and specialized knowledge can enhance decision-making and benefit to the individual.

1. Touch

Goal: Use any of the following activities to determine if this individual has potential to use their finger, or other part of their hand, to access their communication device.



Activities:

Direct

- Ask the individual how small a target he/she can point to then have them demonstrate
- Ask the individual to touch items or images of increasingly small size (eg, items in photographs, buttons on a screen)

Play

- With a favorite toy/item (eg action figure, stuffed animal, toy car, doll, etc) , ask the individual to touch increasingly small parts
- Use preferred photos or a favorite magazine and have them touch increasingly small items in the photos
- Sing “finger play” songs with your client that include hand motion and gestures (eg Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes, or Itsy Bitsy Spider, etc.)
- Play a concentration / matching game with picture of favorite characters or even of family members

Observe:

- Were they able to point with a single finger and touch different items accurately? If so, which finger?
- Were they able to isolate some other part of their hand to point to and touch items in the activities accurately?
- Do you feel your client demonstrated sufficient strength when participating in the activities?
- Did using Touch seem tiring or become less accurate over time?

Decide:

Do you feel that your client demonstrated sufficient potential to explore Touch as a way to access their communication device?

Yes: Contact your Tobii Dynavox Sales Consultant to try touch access methods on a communication device. Continue to next activity to try additional access methods.

No: Move on to Activity 2 - Mouse

2. Mouse (Hand)

Goal: Use any of the following activities to determine if this individual has potential to use a mouse to access their communication device.



Activities:

Direct

- Ask the individual to show you how he/she can use a mouse on a computer to click on increasingly small objects

Play

- Using a website of interest, have the individual point to and click on items on the screen
- Play a preferred computer game using the mouse
- Using music or videos of interest on the computer or online, have the individual select play and pause

Observe:

- Was the individual able to move the mouse to targets?
- Was he/she able to click on targets or able to allow pointer to dwell on a target for a period of time?
- Was the individual motivated to use the a mouse as a way to access the computer?

Tip:

- Clicking is not necessary for successful use of a mouse on a communication device. Selection can occur by allowing the mouse to dwell on a target for a set amount of time.
- Standard mouse options may be difficult for some people. You might consider a specialty mouse such as trackball, wireless, joystick.

Decide:

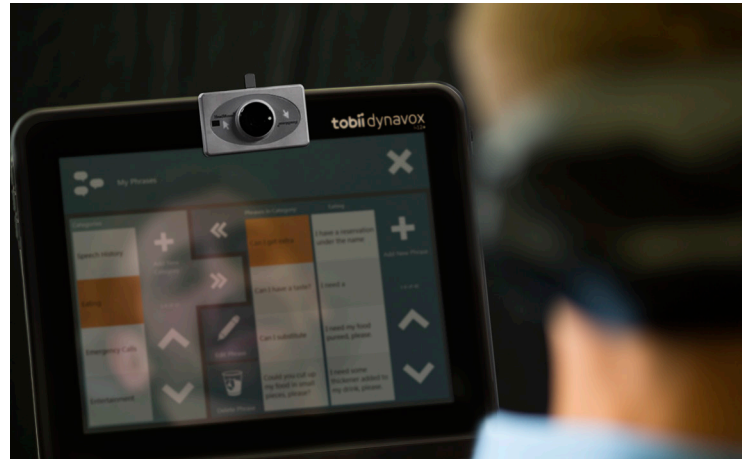
Do you feel that your client demonstrated sufficient potential to explore Mouse as a way to access their communication device?

Yes: Contact your Tobii Dynavox Sales Consultant to try mouse access methods on a communication device. Continue to next activity to try additional access methods.

No: Move on to Activity 3 - **Head-controlled Mouse**

3. Head-controlled Mouse

Goal: Use any of the following activities to determine if this individual has potential to use a head-controlled mouse to access their communication device.



Activities:

Direct

- Ask the individual to pretend he/she has a dot between his/her eyebrows and have them point it toward various items in the room, on a screen or a piece of paper
- Actually put a dot between the person's eyebrows or on his/her glasses and ask him/her to point toward various items in the room, on a screen or a piece of paper
- If available, use a simple laser pointer attached to a head band and have the individual point to items in the room or on a screen/paper

Play

- Have the individual point toward items as a whole with their head such as:
 - Toys (eg doll, action figure, stuffed animal, toy cars, etc)
 - Animals
 - Books
 - Pictures
- Have the person follow your hand with their head as you move it to four corners and center of a screen or piece of paper
- Observe the individual's head movement as they track a preferred person or item

Observe:

- Was the individual able to move his/her head in the direction of all targets?
- Was he/she able to maintain head position toward the target?
- Was he/she able to maintain head position throughout the activity?

Decide:

Do you feel that your client demonstrated sufficient potential to explore a head-controlled mouse as a way to access their communication device?

Yes: Contact your Tobii Dynavox Sales Consultant to try head-controlled mouse access methods on a communication device. Continue to next activity to try additional access methods.

No: Move on to Activity 4 - Eye Tracking

4. Eye Tracking

Goal: Use any of the following activities to determine if this individual has potential to use their eyes to access their communication device.



Activities:

Direct

- Stand so that you can see where the individual is looking and ask the individual to point to various items in the room, on a screen or on a piece of paper with his/her eyes

Play

- Play “tag” using eye gaze looking at objects around the room, on a computer screen or piece of paper
- Have the person follow your hand with their eyes as you move it to four corners and middle of a screen or piece of paper
- Observe the individual’s eye movement as they track a preferred person or item

Observe:

- Do they have a steady gaze when looking at a desired object or preferred person?
- Are they able to shift and hold their gaze between objects?

Decide:

Do you feel that your client demonstrated sufficient potential to explore eye tracking as a way to access their communication device?

Yes: Contact your Tobii Dynavox Sales Consultant to try eye tracking on a communication device. Continue to next activity to try additional access methods.

No: Move on to Activity 4 - **Scanning**

5. Scanning

Goal: Use any of the following activities to determine if this individual has potential to use Scanning to access their communication device.



Activities:

Direct

- Ask the person to show you which body part(s) they can move most consistently
 - Ask him/her to repeat the movement(s) five times
 - Ask him/her to perform the movement(s) when you say, "now"
 - Ask him/her if any of these body parts might be more accurate and consistent than what he/she has shown: hand, finger, head, shoulder, elbow, knee, foot

Play

- Play Simon Says directing the individual to move various body parts
 - Direct them to move body parts in this order: hand, finger, head, shoulder, elbow, knee, foot
- Have the person copy your movements with various body parts
 - Direct them to move body parts in this order: hand, finger, head, shoulder, elbow, knee, foot

Observe:

- Which body part was easiest for the individual to move?
- How accurate and consistent was the movement of the body part when asked to do so?
- Was there a second body part that the individual was able to move accurately and consistently?
- Could the person perform the movement(s) on command and in a timely manner?

Decide:

Do you feel that your client demonstrated sufficient potential to explore Scanning as a way to access their communication device?

Yes: Contact your Tobii Dynavox Sales Consultant to try scanning access methods on a communication device.

No: Try the access method that seemed to have the most potential and reach out to other team members and/or your local Sales Consultant.

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