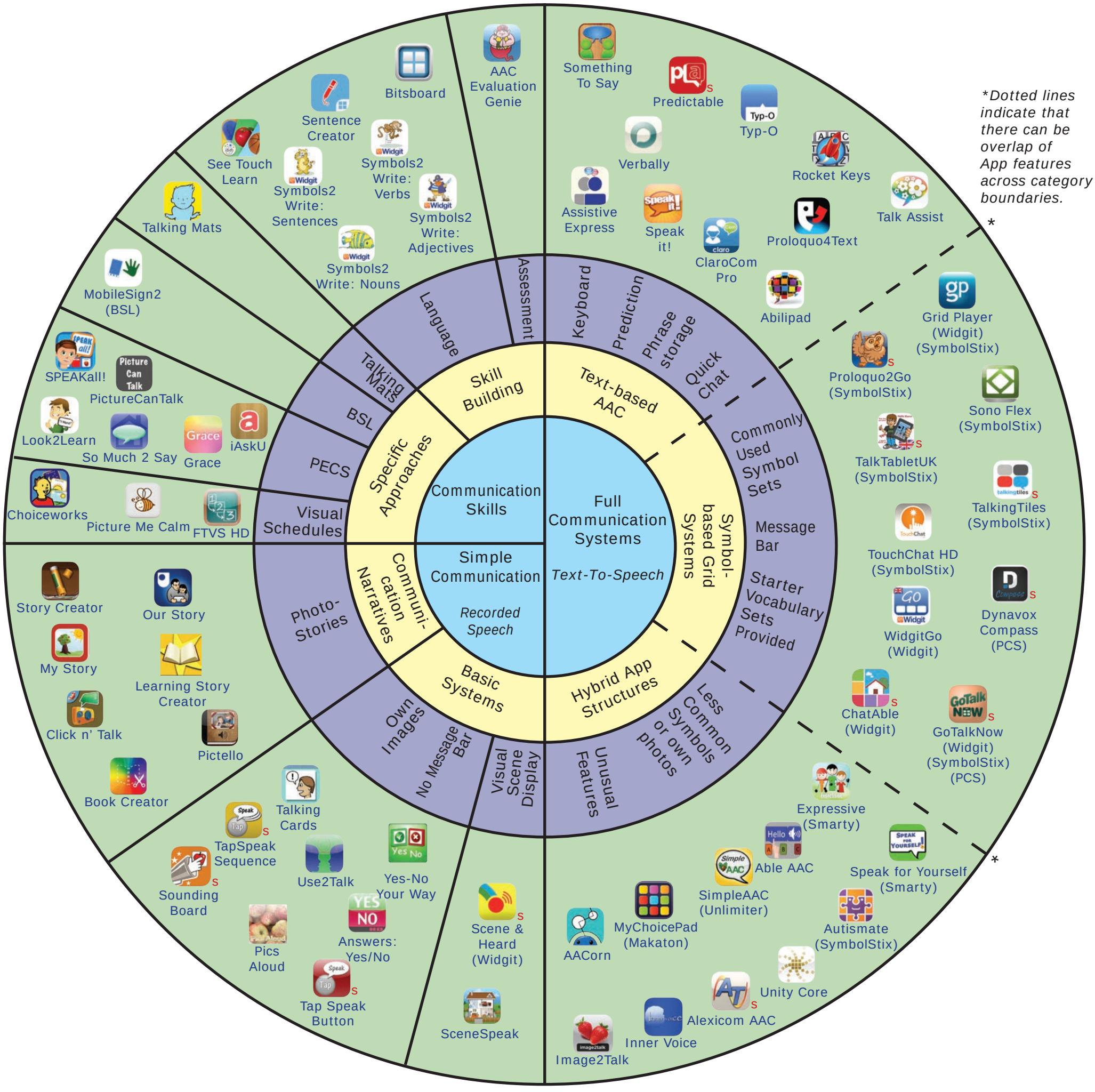
iPad Apps for Complex Communication Support Needs: Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC)



**Dotted lines indicate that there can be overlap of App features across category boundaries.*

Identifying Suitable Apps

This wheel does not include every App available in each category. There are hundreds of AAC Apps and many hundreds of combinations of features. This wheel includes Apps that CALL broadly finds reliable and useful and/or that stand out in their category.

For a useful, comprehensive and regularly updated listing of AAC Apps, see www.janefarrall.com

And also... AAC Ferret

This is a very valuable App developed by Spectronics that allows you to search for AAC App by keyword and/or by specific feature(s) e.g. App types; type of voice output; visual representation; vocabulary features; vocabulary display; access; customisation; message sharing; support features.

AAC Ferret

An electronic version of this chart can be downloaded from http://bit.ly/CALL-AAC-App-Wheel

App names are 'clickable' links, taking you to information about the individual App on the iTunes site for the UK.

Switch Access

Switch access may be necessary for some users, usually requiring a bluetooth switch interface and switch(es) tailored to the individual user. Previously, very few Apps were designed specifically for switch access. Although things have moved on since then, these Apps tend to be the ones that offer the widest range of useful scan options and functions, and may still be the 'safest' choice for switch users. These are marked in this wheel with small red 's' (beside App icon).

From iOS7 and above, new Accessibility settings built-in to the iPad itself mean that almost any/all Apps (and the iPad itself, desktop, and all functions) can be operated by one or two external switches (or by using the screen as a switch, or even head movements). iOS8 has further enhanced the range of accessibility settings. Many AAC Apps that were not specifically designed for switch access will run satisfactorily under 'switch control' in iOS7 and above accessibility settings. But be careful! A few do not work at all – or not well – with iOS switch control. So if you know you are going to need switch access, never buy an App without checking which type of switch it uses and which switch interface is needed, what settings are available and - if possible – perhaps via a specialist centre such as CALL Scotland – whether it actually works or not!

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CALL Scotland
Communication, Access, Literacy and Learning

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