

THE STAR



Developmental
Disabilities Association

SUMMER
2019

IN THIS ISSUE

- 02 COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT
Read about our new Community Impact Report on textile recycling.
- 04 DDA APPLAUDS BC BUDGET
The new BC budget positively impacts the lives of people we support.
- 06 DAY PROGRAMS
Read stories from across our Day Programs.
- 10 RESIDENTIAL
Read stories from across our Residential Programs.
- 12 JOBS WEST
Read stories from Jobs West.
- 14 TECH REVIEWS
Our take on the Talkative app and Styluses.



WE'VE RELEASED OUR COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT ON CLOTHING DONATIONS AND TEXTILE RECYCLING

BY: KEVIN CHAN

Did you know that the average North American throws away 81 pounds of clothing every year?

This is one of the many statistics inside of our newly released Community Impact Report, an overview on our clothing donation business and the positive impact it has on textile recycling.

The Community Impact Report details all profits from their clothing collection business go to the programs and services of the people with developmental disabilities that they support including housing, employment programs, transportation, technology and more.

It also includes several informative statistics on textile recycling including that DDA diverts more than 6 million pounds of textiles and housewares from landfills every year, which amounts to saving local municipalities up to \$400,000 annually on disposal fees.

To view the entire Community Impact Report, visit:
<https://www.develop.bc.ca/news-and-publications/community-impact-report/>

OUR PROGRAMS COVER THE
LIFECYCLE
OF AN INDIVIDUAL WITH DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES



DID YOU **KNOW?**

THE AVERAGE
NORTH AMERICAN

**THROWS
AWAY**



81

POUNDS
OF **CLOTHING**
PER YEAR

TEXTILES

ARE ONE OF THE

FASTEST GROWING

WASTE
AREAS
IN



METRO VANCOUVER

ACCOUNTING FOR

5%

OF TOTAL
GARBAGE
PRODUCED

THROUGH OUR CLOTHING DONATION PROGRAM

DDA DIVERTS MORE THAN

2,722 TONNES [THAT IS 6 MILLION POUNDS]

OF
TEXTILES
AND
HOUSEWARES



FROM LANDFILLS
EVERY YEAR

WHICH **SAVES**

LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES UP TO

\$400,000

ANNUALLY

THERE ARE

250

ACTIVE

BIN

HOSTS IN THE

**LOWER
MAINLAND**



ALL BINS ARE HOSTED THROUGH AGREEMENTS WITH PROPERTY OWNERS. WE THANK OUR BIN HOSTS FOR BEING PART OF THE DDA FAMILY.

DDA APPLAUDS BC BUDGET 2019-2020

BY: ALANNA HENDREN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This year's budget announcement highlighted several areas that will positively impact the lives of the individuals and families who we support.

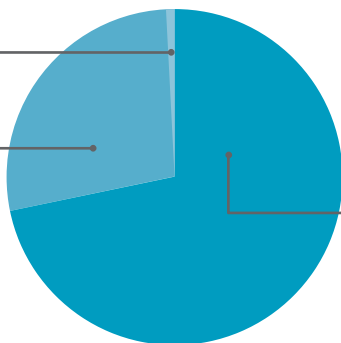
- Starting in October 2020, a new BC Child Opportunity Benefit will replace the Early Childhood Tax benefit, which ended when children turned six years old. An investment of \$380 million will provide a maximum benefit to low-income families of \$1,600 for one child, up to \$2,600 for two children, and up to \$3,400 per year for three children;
- The budget adds \$9 million per year for Childcare, in addition to the \$1 billion announced in the 2018 budget to develop a universal child care system, reduce parent fees and increase pay for child care workers in the province;
- An additional \$94 million over three years to support existing MCFD caseloads, including Children & Youth with special needs, children in care and a small increase in autism benefits;
- \$6 million in new funding so more families who provide care to children with disabilities can access respite services;
- \$74 million in new funding over three years to improve Child & Youth mental health and addictions services;
- Increases to provincial disabilities and income assistance rates of \$50 per month, effective April 1, 2019;
- An increase of \$26 million to income and disability assistance and lower barriers to the BC Employment Assistance Program to enhance employment;
- Rate increases for foster families, shared living providers and kinship caregiver parents, who have not had increases in over 10 years.

PROVINCIAL BUDGET BREAKDOWN

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT & POVERTY REDUCTION

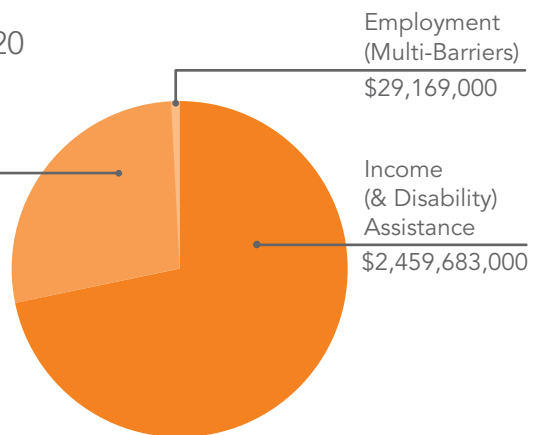
2018/2019

Employment
(Multi-Barriers)
\$29,029,000
Community
Living BC
\$1,001,261,000



2019/2020

Community
Living BC
\$1,068,015,000
Income
(& Disability)
Assistance
\$2,318,986,000

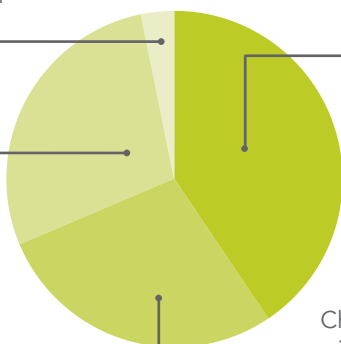


Employment
(Multi-Barriers)
\$29,169,000
Income
(& Disability)
Assistance
\$2,459,683,000

MINISTRY OF CHILD & FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

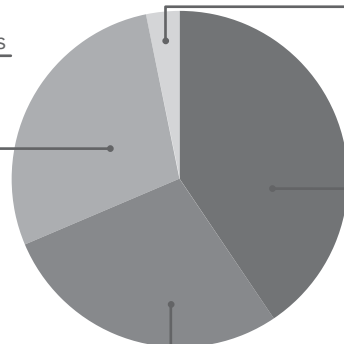
2018/2019

Children & Youth
Mental Health
\$98,925,000
Children in Care
\$640,925,000



2019/2020

Early Childhood
Development &
Childcare Services
\$443,724,000
Children in Care
\$682,677,000



Children & Youth
Mental Health
\$109,396,000
Early Childhood
Development
& Childcare
Services
\$624,807,000
Children &
Youth with
Special Needs
\$386,669,000



DDA PROVIDES WORKSHOP FOR VANCOUVER PARK BOARD STAFF

BY: HAILEY ARTHUR, MCKENZIE HANNEWYK & JESSIKA PILON

Our DDA staff Hailey Arthur, McKenzie Hannewyk and Jessika Pilon delivered a workshop for the Vancouver Park Board Fitness Services team on how to work with persons with hidden disabilities in a positive and respectful manner, as part of increasing inclusion for all people.

Staff representing 15 community centres attended. Kudos to the Parks Board for reaching out to improve services for people with a variety of disabilities.

SEE ART FROM DDA ARTISTS AT THESE EVENTS

WINGSPAN ART SHOW

Date: June 1– 6th, 2019
Location: Hatch Gallery at the University of British Columbia
UBC Nest 2nd floor
More Info: <https://wingspan.educ.ubc.ca/studio-live/>

ART SHOW AT GRAVILLE ISLAND

Date: Every Thursday from June 9th – September 26th, 2019
Time: 11:00am – 4:00pm
Location: Chain & Forge at Granville Island, 1404 Anderston St, Vancouver
More Info: www.develop.bc.ca/events or <https://granvilleisland.com/granville-island-farmer-s-market>

DDA ART AT UNITARIAN CHURCH

Date: August 2019
Location: Unitarian Church, 949 West 49th Ave, Vancouver
More Info: www.develop.bc.ca/events

DAY PROGRAMS



CORE DAY PROGRAM TAKES A “FLYOVER CANADA”

BY: FRANCESCA HEMINGTON

At the end of March, CORE Day Program took a special trip to FlyOver Canada. It was a beautiful, sunny day and we enjoyed exploring downtown and having lunch before going to enjoy our flight.

JR, Stanley, Mark, JR, Drew and Lori along with staff Larissa and Jon had a spectacular flight over America. They saw horseback riders in Montana, the bright lights and hustle and bustle of New York, soaring mountains in Alaska and the crystal clear waters of Hawaii! A great day had by all.

DONATION & SUPPORT BY MYBADGES.COM

BY: MARITA SEATTER

The Victoria Day Program would like to thank MyBadges.com.

MyBadges.com, a local supplier of name tags, badges and ID supplies, has been working with the Developmental Disabilities Association and Jobs West for over five years. They have offered work experiences to job seekers and hired three individuals from Jobs West. In 2018, they were awarded the Employer of the Year by Jobs West.

Thank you MyBadges.com for your continued support!



MOVIE DAY AT FRASER DAY PROGRAM

BY: SAM BURDEN

On Wednesday, March 27, clients and staff from Fraser Day Program attended a screening of Wonder Park hosted by Landmark Cinemas in New Westminster, and organized by Francesca Hemington from CORE Day Program.

This was the first of what we and Landmark Cinemas hope could turn into a series of monthly movie screenings intended for our clients and staff, and it was a smash success!

The theatre was packed with individuals from multiple programs, and the laughter was loud and constant throughout the movie.

The popcorn was a hit with everyone there, the theatre itself was

spacious, in particular the “high comfy chairs,” says Uday, and the choice of movie was popular.

Here are what a few attendees had to say:

“I liked all the crazy stuff.” – Lisa

“50% good, 50% really really good.” – Michelle

“I liked it, I want to go in May.” - Nancy

This was an activity that the whole Fraser Day Program group would like to do again in the future. To keep this going as a monthly event, Landmark needs at least 50 attendees at each screening. This means we have to show our support! Come join the fun!

LEISURE FAIR RECAP

BY SHIXIN GAO

After several months of preparation, this year's Leisure Fair was successfully held at the Sunset Community Center on April 3.

More than 140 people came through the doors to meet and talk with representatives from 32 recreation and leisure organizations. Families learned that there are so many amazing adapted activities to do throughout the Lower Mainland.

Leisure Fair is about recreation activities for children and youth with disabilities. Each participating organization provides various programs of adaptive physical activity for children and youth. These programs help to empower children, build self-confidence,

mentor respect for others, increase life skills, and enrich their lives.

This was my second time attending the event and, compared to last year, there was a higher rate of participation; more participant organizations and a much bigger space. I really liked the demonstrations: The Choral Group from Theatre Terrific did an outstanding performance expressing their talents in singing and dancing. Everyone enjoyed that moment.

I look forward to attend the next Leisure Fair in 2020. It will be fantastic with more organizations, exciting with athlete's demos, and, more FUN. I hope to see you there.



GIVING BACK TO COMMUNITY

BY: KIRSTI INGLIS

As a non-profit organization, we can attest to the importance of committed and reliable volunteers. Volunteers are an integral part of many non-profit organizations and many could not operate without them.

In 2018, participants of our five community day programs contributed just shy of 4,000 volunteer hours to over 19 community agencies including Maple Wood Farm, Quest Food Exchange, Belkin House, seniors' centres and environmental initiatives.

For agencies like the Salvation Army's Belkin House, the help of volunteers from our West 8th and Victoria Day programs means that they can successfully serve their residents. Eddie from Belkin House reports: "We wouldn't be able to feed so many people here if it wasn't for the clients at DDA helping out."

Not only do the volunteers contribute labour but many of our volunteer sites report our volunteers help change their workplace dynamics for the better. Nadine from Maple Wood Farms reports that: "DDA clients have excellent teamwork and the volunteers make for such a great workplace."

Through volunteerism, participants are giving back to the community, developing new skills, and building new contacts and relationships. One volunteer from the Victoria Day program hopes that through their volunteer work at Belkin House, they will learn the skills they need to get a paid job. Volunteering is good citizenship and gives many a sense of purpose and social contribution. It can also be a lot of fun! Emma from West 8th Day program has been volunteering at Maple Wood Farm for several years and reports: "I enjoy Maple Wood Farms because all day I get to see all the animals."

Through volunteering in the community, individuals are demonstrating their abilities, learning new skills and challenging perceptions – and perhaps getting a little cuddle time in with a few bunnies along the way.

PINK SHIRT DAY



CEREMONIAL TEA CHAT

BY: DAVID WONG

One of my goals during my time at the Main Street Drop-In is to expose the participants and staff to various cultural and traditional practices that were taught to me throughout my life. Since Vancouver is a very multicultural and diverse population we must educate each other about our differences to further foster our relationships in the community and breakdown any cultural or societal barriers that might exist. It is through communication that we get to know each other and develop meaningful friendships that last a lifetime. What better to do this than sharing a cup of tea with each other?

The Chinese Gong Fu Tea Ceremony is a way to sample good quality tea and to foster communication with your family, friends and even strangers. The tea ceremony is often held in a traditional tea house but nowadays it can be done anywhere. The tea host washes and prepares the tea with precision and care for his guests. The host explains each step of the process and facilitates the conversation with everyone attending. With each small drink of tea, the process is repeated until the tea leaves lose their flavour.

It was one rainy Vancouver day that I decided to bring my ceremonial Chinese Gongfu tea set to the Drop-In Centre. I was able to spark the interest of staff and participants and invited them to have a seat and drink quality tea. I then explained the tea ceremony and its historical significance. The explanation sparked questions that acted as a catalyst for more conversations on other topics such as news, events, family and friends and more. What was amazing was this experience created a shared experience between a diverse group of people.



YOU'RE INVITED



Developmental
Disabilities Association

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY JUNE 19TH, 2019

LOCATION

DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES ASSOCIATION
HEAD OFFICE
100-3851 SHELL ROAD,
RICHMOND BC

TIME

REGISTRATION FROM
6:00 – 7:00PM.
MEETING STARTS AT 7:00PM

RSVP

KINDLY RSVP BEFORE
JUNE 5TH, 2019.
T: 604 273 9778
E: RSVP@DEVELOP.BC.CA

NOTE

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE
SERVED

RESIDENTIAL



WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY

BY: RATNAM MATHUR

On April 11, 2019, the Richmond School District organized an event in conjunction with World Down Syndrome Awareness Day.

The celebration gave students with Down syndrome an opportunity to interact and participate in a variety of educational and social activities. Alyssa had previously attended this celebration as a student, but she has graduated three years ago so, this year she volunteered at the event as an ambassador!

Alyssa volunteered in a variety of roles including morning registration for the participants, running activity stations such as the craft table and karaoke, and introducing the event's speakers. For two years, she has been giving brief speeches and a 'vote of thanks' to a group of about 50 parents, community representatives and school district staff members.

In preparation, Alyssa practices her speech in the days leading up to World Down Syndrome Day.

"Alyssa is energetic, welcoming and a wonderful ambassador for our inclusive community," says Ms. Kate Campbell, Alyssa's former secondary school teacher!



VANCOUVER SUN RUN 2019

BY: JULIE HUBER

On April 14, 2019, I participated in the Vancouver Sun Run with Alan Brown. There was lots of excitement throughout the day, lots of participants, and many different bands playing.

During the race, there were a number of weather changes, starting off with hail and ending with sunshine in the afternoon. It was a very exciting event. At the end of the race, my parents were at the finish line to cheer me on!

Another exciting moment was that Alan Brown, who retired after almost 29 years with DDA, found that he missed supporting the individuals at Worthington. So he came out of retirement within nine months and also took part in the Sun Run.

We are very grateful to have him back making a positive difference in the lives of those at Worthington.

THE COMMUNICATION KEY

BY: KEEGAN NEWBERRY

Communication is the key to connection, both to others and to the community. Typical individuals are able to choose from a range of communication forms, often and sometimes subconsciously using multiple means of communication simultaneously, such as speech and body language. If one mode of communication is hindered, that individual has multiple other methods of communication to rely on.

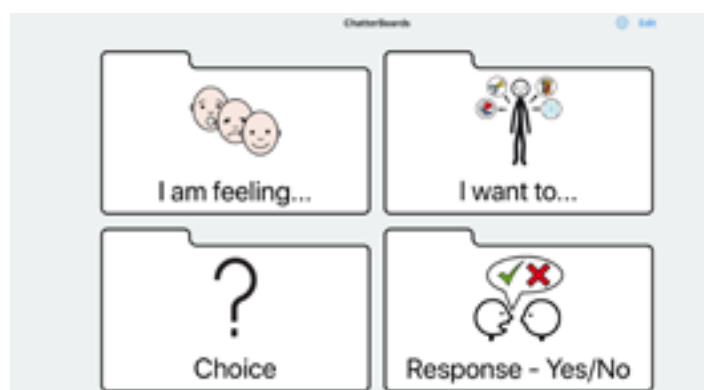
In contrast, individuals with communication impairments may rely heavily, or even completely, on a single method of communication. Though this may be effective and generally reliable, in times of crisis, such as significant illness or injury, loss of communication is possible and can be extremely restrictive and distressing to those impacted.

Recently a DDA resident found themselves in this unfortunate situation, leaving support workers seeking a short-term assistive communication solution for an individual who would

typically not require one. From a healthcare perspective, loss of communication prevents patients from expressing their needs, limits their ability to communicate pain or other feelings, and restricts their participation and choice in their care.

To bridge this sudden gap in communication, and limit the impact on the resident in need, a back-up method was chosen using iPad technology. Chatterboards AAC is an iOS compatible app which allowed support workers to program personalized visual boards that, by using a 'touch to talk' method, this resident was able to use to communicate feelings, make choices, answer questions, and interact with others, which would otherwise have been impossible.

Communication is a key. Losing any key is distressing and it is always a good plan to have a back-up available so you are not locked out.



JOIN US



DDA NIGHT AT THE NAT BAILEY STADIUM

TUES. JULY 9TH 2019

For more information visit:
www.develop.bc.ca/events

JOBS WEST

JOBS WEST PRESENTATION AT CAPILANO UNIVERSITY

BY: AMANDA MYERS

Jobs West had the pleasure to present to the students and faculty in the Education and Employment Access Program at Capilano University.

This program helps students overcome barriers to reach their employment and post-secondary goals. We discussed Customized Employment and how Jobs West provides services through completing a thorough getting-to-know-you process, job preparation, job search, placement, and maintaining employment.



SPECTRUM WORKS AUTISM FAIR

BY: ROCHELLE REZANSOFF

Pacific Autism Family Network hosted the Spectrum Works Autism Fair on April 8, 2019. The fair hosted several of Canada's top employers and multiple community partners. Jobs West provided individuals with resources and interview support upon entrance to the event. Thanks Pacific Autism Family Network for the invitation to participate in this inclusive event!





VICTORIA AT FRESH PREP

BY: MCKENZIE HANNEWYK

Jobs West would like to congratulate Victoria on her paid employment as a Prep/Packaging Assistant at Fresh Prep!

Since joining Jobs West in 2015, Victoria has participated in multiple work experiences and volunteer placements to build on her existing skills and learn new skills that she could apply to a paid position in the future. Month after month, Victoria arrived at every placement (often attending three placements per week) with a smile and an eagerness to learn. Over time, Victoria learned that working with children was an exciting environment that she enjoyed working in, but also found that food services was an upbeat (and delicious) setting to be in too.

It was through all of Victoria's experiences at local daycares, kitchens, and bakeries that she was able to build on her existing vocational skills, gain new skills and make professional contacts that could provide her with excellent references for future work.

In October 2018, Victoria's hard work paid off and she secured a paid position as a Prep/Packaging Assistant at Fresh Prep. Victoria demonstrates a confident and positive attitude in her new work environment preparing, portioning and packaging various meals for delivery and also continues to volunteer at two of her volunteer placements. Way to go Victoria!

CERYS AT SAVE ON FOODS

BY: MCKENZIE HANNEWYK

Congratulations to Cerys on her new job as a Facer at Save On Foods!

For the past year and a half, Cerys has been working towards paid employment and volunteered for approximately seven months at a local preschool to improve her skills and build her resume. In addition to this, Cerys has also been busy learning new skills through Vancouver Community College and completed her program this June.

By keeping busy and embracing every opportunity available to her, Cerys grew her confidence in a workplace setting and established a professional contact at the preschool that she could use as a reference for future paid work.

In September, Cerys secured a part-time job at Save On Foods, a store where she frequently shops that is within walking distance from her house. Every shift, Cerys ensures that her department of the store is both visually appealing and well organized by facing the products and removing any that do not belong in that section. Well done Cerys!

TECH REVIEWS

PRODUCT

Talkative: Assistive Speech

PRODUCER:

Pedro Figueiredo

COST

\$3.99

COMPATABILITY

iOS

CATEGORY

App

SUB CATEGORY

AAC

TALKATIVE: ASSISTIVE SPEECH

BY: KEEGAN O'TOOLE

Talkative is an assistive communication app for iOS designed by Pedro Figueiredo. This app has been marketed towards the medical community to support individuals with communication impairments, such as aphasia, who may also have paralysis or limited mobility. Talkative allows the user to either select single words or phrases in 'simple board' mode or build full sentences on the 'advanced board' using either tap-to-talk input or facial gesture control through the device's front-facing camera. Word choices are presented as picture symbols, though a full keyboard is also available. When using facial gesture input, the app scrolls through each symbol on a timer which can be sped up manually or by performing an assigned gesture in the camera field (choice of left eye closed, right eye closed, or smile). When the desired symbol is highlighted the user can perform a second assigned gesture to select and play the associated audio.

STAR RATINGS

Ease of Use:

Simple Instructions Helpful



Adaptability:

Wide Variety of Settings Available



Accessibility:

Limited Field of Users



Cost vs. Value:

You Get What You Paid For



Overall Rating:



HIGHLIGHTS

- Unique input system provides an alternative to traditional AAC apps which may not be suitable for users with impaired mobility;
- Low cost solution for users looking to trial an eye-gaze style system without the high cost commitment of other video input systems on the market;
- Ability to customize boards, add custom words, and manipulate quantity of symbols on each screen;
- Video tutorials embedded in app to assist with set-up and use;
- 10 base categories with multiple symbols screens within each category provide a solid foundation to build a personalized vocabulary.

LOWLIGHTS

- No voice selection options to personalize, uses a synthesized female voice;
- Image scrolling using eye blinks is challenging to control and often takes several passes to land on the correct choice, though this could be improved with practice;
- Front-facing camera displays a mirror image making correct positioning for the user somewhat counter-intuitive, and reverses the left/right eye inputs (Tip: assign the opposite eye in settings than that which you wish to use for facial gesture input);
- Advanced boards do not return to home after input, as most dynamic display AAC systems currently available do, requiring the user to scroll back through screens to select additional words when building sentences.



FINAL WORD

Talkative is best suited for individuals who have basic written language comprehension and typically communicate in 3-5 word phrases. Though personalized images can be added, some of the default symbols are unclear and may be difficult to comprehend without label support. Controls are easy to understand with a quick learning curve, and on-going use would build fluency and accuracy. Talkative requires no set-up for facial recognition and had no problems recognizing eye input gestures when the user is wearing glasses.

In summary, this app would provide a good introductory experience for those wishing to explore gesture recognition-based AAC, though may not be appropriate for long term use. The field of suitable users for this app is quite limited, however; Talkative may be an ideal solution for specific demographics, such as stroke survivors or other related conditions, as its quick set-up and reliable gesture recognition could support communication for users following a medical crisis.

APPLE PEN VS. STYLUS VS. MANUAL ENTRY

BY: KEEGAN O'TOOLE

iPad technology has had a significant impact on the disability community in a variety of ways including, communication, access to information, and recreation. The range of use has expanded significantly since the introduction of built-in accessibility features starting with VoiceOver in 2009 and Switch Control in 2013, with more updates and features continuing to be released to improve access for users and increase compatibility with various external accessibility devices. One of the primary challenges for use for individuals with motor impairments is accurate on-screen selection and control. Apple's iPad has built-in touch accommodation features which allow support workers to modify which touch is recognized and which is ignored, however; alternative external touch accommodations are also available, such as using a stylus or Apple Pencil. Each of these input methods: Apple Pencil; stylus (generic); and manual entry (with or without touch accommodation); have costs and benefits and the appropriate support may be different for each individual.

All three methods were tested using two apps for input accuracy and reaction time: *Animal Puzzle* using the 'drag and drop' gesture; and *Dexteria Jr.* assessing reliability and consistency over varied iPad positioning (on flat surface, on flat surface with hand resting on iPad, and on a stand).

PRODUCT

Apple Pencil

PRODUCER:

Apple Inc.

COST

\$129.00 – \$169.00

COMPATABILITY

iOS



APPLE PENCIL



EASE OF USE

- Some instructions required for initial set-up that are not directly obvious and not included in box;
- Must be paired with iPad for use.



ADAPTABILITY

- Direct modification only available when used with iPad Pro, otherwise no modification options;
- Can manipulate some general settings on iPad to individualize, though these will impact all input on iPad not only through Apple Pencil.



ACCESSIBILITY

- Length of device provides good grip and is well weighted;
- Grip strength and fine motor control would need to be assessed before determining if this would be a suitable option;
- Additional assistive pencil grips would allow for greater personalization;
- Seamless interaction with iPad for both specific activities and navigational gestures during testing without lag or unintentional inputs (Bluetooth connection overrides manual entry when active);
- Consistent reactions when tested on flat surface, on flat surface with hand resting on iPad, and on a stand, using Dexteria Jr. app;
- Best performance in terms of accuracy and reliability of all three methods.



COST VS. VALUE

- Based on use as an assistive touch tool only, the return does not justify the expense;
- Though this method overall had the best performance, the lack of modification options and high cost of replacement if damaged do not make this a realistic option for most users.

OVERALL RATING: ★★★★★

STYLUS



EASE OF USE

- Ready out of box;
- Many stylus available are stylus-pen combinations, highly recommend using tape to restrain any moving/twisting parts as they may impact user's ability to grip.



ADAPTABILITY

- As it does not require pairing with iPad, there are no direct modification options available; though as with the Apple Pencil, some general iPad settings can be modified.



ACCESSIBILITY

- Length of stylus tested was short and difficult to handle, though a variety of different styles are available on the market. A longer stylus without any additional features (pocket clip, lid for pen, etc.) would have been easier to maintain a secure grip;

PRODUCT

Stylus (Generic)

PRODUCER:

Multiple

COST

\$1.99

COMPATABILITY

iOS/Android



- Tip of stylus was sticky when moved across screen making it difficult to accurately draw and select items. There was significant enough friction to cause the iPad to move when tested with stylus while secured on a stand;
- Noticeable reaction time lag impacted accuracy when testing 'drag and drop' gestures on Animal Puzzle app, requiring user to make multiple attempts to complete task;
- During positional testing with Dexteria Jr., there were two input errors (unable to read input, unintentional input read) when tested on flat surface with hand resting on iPad;
- Length of stylus caused hand to obscure screen during use, causing significant decrease in accuracy.

COST VS. VALUE

- A stylus is cheaper alternative for those looking to test out Apple Pencil-style input without the expense;
- The wide variety of stylus available gives greater choice, with higher quality stylus coming at a higher cost;
- Based on use as an assistive touch tool only, this may be a suitable option but stylus design and purposes of use would need to be considered before making a selection.

OVERALL RATING: ★★★★★

PRODUCT

Stylus (Generic)

PRODUCER:

Multiple

COST

\$1.99

COMPATABILITY

iOS/Android

MANUAL ENTRY



EASE OF USE

- Accessing Touch Accommodation control requires user to navigate through a series of nested menus: settings > general > accessibility > touch accommodations;
- Limited on screen instruction of what each setting controls, and relies on 'trial and error' method to determine correct settings for user.



ADAPTABILITY

- Manual entry input allows for the widest range of personalization using touch accommodation features, however; many of the setting modifications under accessibility features are intertwined and changing one may modify or override settings in another;
- Placement of iPad and activity may require these settings to be changed or disengaged to ensure they continue to support accessibility and do not cause additional barriers for use.



ACCESSIBILITY

- Overall manual entry is suitable for most users, and touch accommodations can improve accuracy when correctly configured, however; test results were extremely varied between users, with gross motor control and visual acuity having a significant impact;
- Without touch accommodation enabled, manual entry was least reliable and least accurate when tested flat on surface with hand resting on iPad (read errors causing input to 'jump' across screen) and forced awkward hand positioning when tested on a stand;
- With touch accommodations 'use initial touch location' enable, accuracy and reactivity improved but settings required assessment and modification between activities and iPad placement, and a similar result could be achieved by covering the palm of the hand with the sleeve of a shirt to prevent unintentional input.



COST VS. VALUE

- These features are well worth exploring, though time should be taken to test one at a time to gain an accurate understanding of each modification;
- Using one or two modified settings at a time provides more reliable results and makes the system more set-up friendly when moving between activities;
- Support workers should be aware that manipulation of these settings impact iPad user input overall, and any sudden significant changes without proper preparation for the user may inhibit access and cause additional barriers.

FINAL WORD

Results from testing did not establish one assistive touch method as being significantly superior to any other, but rather demonstrated that accommodations and supports for individuals with motor impairments need to be as unique and individual as the user requiring them. Each method has costs and benefits, and these need to be weighed against individual needs and what this assistive tool is being used for.



MONTECITO TOWERS PROVIDE RESIDENTS WITH A WAY TO RECYCLE AND DONATE

BY: KEVIN CHAN

Montecito Towers in North Burnaby has been a donation bin host and supporter of the Developmental Disabilities Association (DDA) for over eight years. As one of approximately 40 residential bin hosts, they know all about the benefits that having a residential donation bin provides – both for their own residents and for the community that DDA supports through its programs and services.

Residential donation bins differ from those that are outside of local businesses due to the fact that they are often located in secured locations. At Montecito Towers, the residential donation bin is located in a secured parking garage accessible by both of their residential buildings.

"Having a donation bin on-site makes it easy. Our residents don't need to go anywhere. A lot of the time you have to get your stuff together, then you have to take it somewhere. Now it's not about that. If you have a bag then you can donate it. It's super convenient," says Wayne Wengrowich, Property Manager at Montecito Towers.

"The donation bin also assists on two other things: less textiles in the landfill and donations that are going to a good cause. I think that's important."

For rental properties and large buildings, there is also the added benefit that it can assist those residents that are moving in and moving out every month. People prefer to donate instead of throwing out unwanted items and having a residential donation

bin nearby ensures that these items can be properly recycled or reused.

"The donation bin saves on our garbage costs, it creates less work for our staff, and both our residents and DDA are able to gain from it."

However, options for textile recycling in multi-family buildings and complexes is still fairly uncommon. Part of the reason is that it can be perceived as a large time investment for property managers and strata councils to set-up and maintain. Tamala Arm, Assistant Manager at Montecito Towers, doesn't think this is the case.

"We hardly notice the bin. DDA has a good system where they know what to do, they use the parkade entrance to empty the bin. And if they haven't been here before, it doesn't take long to show them how to get into the parkade. It is minimal effort on our part."

Support your local community as a clothing bin host. 100% proceeds received from our clothing, housewares and bottle donations benefit individuals with developmental disabilities. Once you decide to be a bin host, we take care of the rest! All equipment will be dropped off and set up with regular pick-up scheduled around your business needs. We fully service and maintain our bins with dedicated maintenance staff ensuring our bins are clean and functional.

For more information, contact us at 604-273-4332 or clothingbins4DDA@develop.bc.ca

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FAMILY SUPPORT GROUPS

VANCOUVER CHINESE SUPPORT GROUP

General support for children's and adult's issues in Cantonese and Mandarin.

Date: 3rd Saturday of the month

Time: 6:30PM – 8:30PM

Location: 4948 Fraser Street, Vancouver, BC

Childcare: Available on site when requested at least 1 week in advance of meeting.

Contact: Katherine Lee, katsalon@hotmail.com or
Fanny Huang, fanniehuan525@hotmail.com

YOUTH IN TRANSITION

Support information for transition to adulthood

Date: Saturday June 1st

Topic: Social Relationships and Potluck Party

Time: 10:30AM

Location: 2006 West 10th Ave, Vancouver

Contact: Liz Cochrane (604) 733-6252 or
transitionparents@gmail.com

VIETNAMESE FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP

Support to families in Vietnamese.

Date: Second Thursday of the month

Time: 6:30PM – 8:00PM

Location: 3455 Kaslo Street, Vancouver, BC

Childcare: Available on site when requested at least 1 week in advance of meeting.

Contact: Nikki Tran (778) 895-2535 from 6:00PM – 9:00PM

TWINKLE STARS LOWER MAINLAND JAPANESE FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP

Support to families in Japanese.

Date: May 25th 2019

Topic: Youth Transition Planning with Panel

Time: 10:00AM – 12:00PM

Location: 3455 Kaslo Street, Vancouver, BC

Contact: Chigusa Barnes, twinklestars2017@hotmail.com

FIRST STEP JAPANESE FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP

General support to families in Japanese

Date: TBD

Location: 3455 Kaslo Street, Vancouver, BC

Contact: firststepcanada@outlook.com

UPSIDE DOWN FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP

Support to families with children with Down Syndrome.

Vancouver Location

Dates: May 25th

Time: 10:00AM – 12:00PM

Location: 3455 Kaslo Street

Contact: Aileen Mellors, amluyt@gmail.com

North Vancouver Location

Dates: June 22nd

Time: 1:15PM – 3:15PM

Location: Maplewood House, 399 Seymour River Place

Contact: Aileen Mellors, amluyt@gmail.com

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 DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIESASSOCIATION

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Google and Bing. Drop us a
review if DDA has helped you
or your family.

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We welcome your comments and feedback. Kindly direct all comments and submissions to communications@develop.bc.ca.