23 MINSPEAK ADVANTAGES

1. Minspeak is a custom language software refined over several decades on a linguistic basis.
2. Minspeak is a system that encourages natural language acquisition.
3. Language generation via sequencing of icons negates the need for complex navigation.
4. A static home page of symbols allows motor planning to develop.
5. The inherent multiple meanings of all symbols, even concrete picture producers, cause confusion in page-based systems that attempt to justify one meaning per symbol.
6. This very multiplicity is conversely a strength of Minspeak as it permits effective re-use of icons to cope with different parts of speech.
7. Minspeak is supremely efficient in that it is able to generate words by using fewer keystrokes than any other AAC system. This in turn lowers fatigue in users often already physically compromised.
8. Minspeak guides users towards achieving excellent grammar & structure.
9. Minspeak concentrates on core language to maximise real discourse.
10. Minspeak core words are genuine, researched, high-frequency words.
11. Minspeak allows for independent, spontaneous communication.
12. Minspeak users can choose topics & interject confidently.
13. Minspeak users can participate in conversations as topics alter dynamically since there is no need to populate particular pages in advance of an encounter.
14. Minspeak delivers specific comment more rapidly than any other AAC system for those with access impairments.
15. Minspeak has led many users to higher education & open employment.
16. Minspeak is used effectively by both literate graduates & illiterate persons with cognitive challenges.
17. Minspeak symbol systems are not for babies; they are in fact sophisticated linguistic systems that have massive relevance for highly intelligent adults, including highly literate ones.
18. The sequencing of symbols mimics natural language in that each word is generated through a unique motor plan in just the same way as natural speech.
19. Minspeak is rule-driven, consistent & thus is thoroughly teachable.
20. Activity Rows allow fringe vocabulary, often nouns, to be categorised yet dynamically linked to core icons. This keeps fringe words distinct from the home page which functions as a core generator, allowing the user easy, immediate access to vital high-frequency vocabulary.
21. The Vocabulary Builder feature in PRC devices can provide complete control of vocabulary, permitting graded, structured teaching practices that do not swamp the student. Thus different complexities of Minspeak can be gradually & sensitively introduced to the user.
22. A data logger (Language Activity Monitor) built into every Minspeak device provides clinical evidence of progress & exactly how various words & phrases are selected by the user.
23. Icon Tutor provides teachers & parents with instant knowledge of all necessary sequences.

Useful links for training & teaching

First of all at the Semantic Compactions Systems www.minspeak.com site you'll find a nice little introductory video to Minspeak: http://www.minspeak.com/demo.php along with some other excellent simple explanations about the foundations of Minspeak.

At www.prentrom.com is a comprehensive listing of educational resources: http://www.prentrom.com/educational-resources

The extensive teaching resource Language Lab http://www.aaclanguagelab.com/ is also at the PRC site.

In addition there is the very helpful Language Materials teaching section: http://www.aaclanguagelab.com/library/ (partially fee based, but with a free section)

Another fantastic new learning section on Autism Spectrum Disorder & the LAMP program http://www.aacandautism.com

At the AAC Institute site there is information for those new to AAC & also clear analysis about fundamental goals & evidence based practice or measuring performance/progress. http://www.aacinstitute.org/

We also have the Chris Klein video up on our website: http://liberator.net.au/success-stories/communication-in-action-promo-videos which shows just how powerful spatial patterns & motor planning are in terms of rapid, accurate navigation. The significance of the symbols set is completely diminished for Chris. He knows where he's going. Other great user clips include http://www.prentrom.com/educational-resources with Dennis showing the importance of motor-plan versus symbols & this one demonstrating Minspeak as a medium to halt abuse http://www.youtube.com/user/gvantatenhove