Quick Talker Feather Touch 23

(Stand Alone – EC COE)

Description:	Image:
The Quick Talker FT is multi-celled, multi-leveled message static display augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) speech device that can assist children who need speech support throughout their daily activities. It includes three core messages that are the same on every recording level and 20 messages that can be different on each of five recording levels, for a total of 103 unique messages. The Feather Touch membrane responds to the lightest touches and smallest fingers. Activation Surface: 3 core messages - 2.2 x 1.2-in; 20 unique messages 1.2 x 1.2-in. When the cell is activated, a spoken message is played. The Quick Talker Feather Touch 23 is highly portable with a built-in handle, durable, and easy to use. The weight of the device with 4 AA batteries is 26.4-oz.	 Purchasing Information QuickTalker FT 7, 12, 23 Quick Start Guide Video

Who Might Benefit?

Those who…

- Are difficult to understand or have unreliable speech.
- Have difficulty expressing ideas, feelings, needs, wants.
- Exhibit frustration or anger because others are unable to understand their communication attempts.
- Struggle socially with peers because of communication difficulties.
- Have difficulty understanding only oral directions given by others.
- Have difficulty understanding and completing multi-step activities (schedules, routines, directions).
- Have adequate fine motor skills to isolate a finger to poke the communication cell or press a switch to activate the device. This skill is specific to this device, however there are many different access methods that can be used with other communication devices if needed.

Why Use?

Provides an opportunity to…

- Make choices.
- Comment more effectively to others.
- Engage in multiple shared communication exchanges.
- Hear verbal directions paired with a visual cue as many times as needed.

Instructions for Use:	Adaptation Ideas:
Environmental Considerations • The QuickTalker FeatherTouch 23 can be easily used in almost any environment because of the small size, weight, and easy transportability. • While the QuickTalker FeatherTouch 23 has good quality digital recording and playback of messages, it may still be difficult for some communication partners to hear in unusually loud environments. • For the three core messages that are the same on every recording level, record common requests like "I need help", "I need to use the bathroom", and "I'm thirsty" • Record messages like "turn the page", "look", "I like this", and "I want to stop" for use when reading a book. • Use each recording level to record messages based on the environment like the classroom, lunchroom, playground, bus, and at home. • The user of the device will need to learn when it is appropriate to use the device in quiet environments in the same way that children who are speakers learn when they need to talk or not talk in quiet environments. • If the QuickTalker FeatherTouch 23 is used as a part of a child's total communication system it should be available in all the child's environments, always, and without restriction. Positioning	Optional Additional Materials/Supplies • Velcro • Foam Board • Laminating Pockets • Photo or Slide Pockets Build It Up • If the size of the cell is too small for the child to activate there are other single message devices available in the OCALI Lending Library that have larger activation surfaces. Stabilize It • The QuickTalker FeatherTouch 23 could be velcroed or placed of Dycem nonskid matting on most any surface to help stabilize it so it doesn't move away when the child tries to activate the button. Simplify It • For the user who might be overwhelmed by 23 communication options (including the three core messages) at each level, consider fewer cells, or introducing levels gradually. Add Sensory Cues • Sensory cues could be added to the activation button such as puffy stickers, puffy paints, different textures. The background color of the cell could also be changed if needed. Communication Support • Vocabulary words would depend on the activity supported by the AAC device.

- The QuickTalker FeatherTouch 23 is best used laying on a flat surface such as a table or on the floor. It would be possible to also mount the device on an articulating arm mount if needed. A child could interact with the device in a position such as sitting, standing, prone (lying on their belly), supine (laying on their back), kneeling, etc.

Alternate Positioning

- The QuickTalker FeatherTouch 23 could also be used on a slant board to improve physical and/or visual access of the device to the child.

Basic Play/Use

- AbleNet provides a webpage with multiple QuickTalker FeatherTouch 23 Users Manuals and other resources that provide clear and concise directions for setting up the device along with troubleshooting common problems encountered by new users. Pictures are also included to support the written directions if needed.
- Symbol overlays used on the device to represent the recorded vocabulary are not included with the QuickTalker FeatherTouch 23, but a blank template and several sample overlays are provided (See Additional Resources). AbleNet does provide a free AbleNet Symbol Overlay app for the iPad to create symbol overlays for this device. Additionally, Boardmaker software or LessonPix can also create overlays for use with this device.
- Messages will need to be recorded for each cell. It is recommended that a child similar in age and gender of the child who will be using the device provide the recordings.
- Recorded messages (words, phrases, and sentences) need to be relevant to the child's immediate activities.

Alternative Uses

- One of the five levels of the device can be dedicated to classroom weekly theme, responses to calendar queries, counting, or a storybook and be changed out and re-recorded as needed.
- Consider using as a non-individual student device available to classroom peers, to support center activities (i.e. provide step-by-step directions, vocabulary enhancement/building) or for adult modeling of AAC use.

DIY Alternatives

- Paper communication systems can be used when speech generating devices are not available or are not appropriate for the activity (e.g. water play where exposure to moisture may damage the device, loud environments where the speech generated by the device cannot be heard, etc.). Paper communication systems can be made by using one of the overlay maker products such as Boardmaker or LessonPix. They can also be hand drawn and created.
- HINT: If using the QuickTalker FeatherTouch 23, consider duplicating the overlays and using those paper-based overlays as back-ups.
- Paper boards are often laminated or put into plastic page sleeves to protect the board. There are also commercially available communication books that can be purchased that can display personalized overlays.

- In the most simplistic way, the device can provide a child with an opportunity to communicate a clear spoken message to a communication partner. However, communication is complex and has many purposes.
- It is important to note that young children need intentional and consistent opportunities to be exposed to, provided specific instruction in, and learn how to use a communication system. In particular children need to develop the ability to understand that a particular symbol (e.g. real object, photo, line drawing, etc.) represents an action or object and that their use of that symbol is respected by their communication partner so that successful and effective communication can develop.
- NOTE: Research has shown that early use of a communication device does not impact a child's ability to develop oral speech later and will often help to enhance development of oral speech.

Extended Play/Use

Because the SuperTalker FT is a single message as well as multi-message communication device, it can be used for a huge variety of purposes. A few examples of extended activities are:

- Instruction: Provide directions, such as what to wear or what's next on the schedule.
- Requests/Choices: Make requests, such as choosing snack food, asking a question, requesting a song, selecting a toy, requesting more, choosing a musical instrument to play at circle time, indicating a need for a sensory break (I need headphones, I need to jump/run, I need to swing), etc.
- Participation: indicating the weather (rainy, sunny, snowy, etc.) during circle time, speaking the repeating lines of a book for

choral reading with other children, one to one counting of objects out loud. • Information sharing: Share information, such as upcoming events or activities, sharing the day and month during calendar activities. • Communication: Add communication to toys or appliances. These are just a few examples of activities that can be done with a multiple message static display AAC device. Additional ideas for the use of this type of device can be found in the Additional Resources section below.	

Additional Considerations:

- 4 AA Batteries are required.

Additional Resources:

- Making the Most of Multiple Message (3,4, and More) Voice Output Devices - Enabling Devices provides ideas on ways multiple message static display communication devices can be used at home, school, and the community.
- Plan for AAC Throughout the Day - Suggestions from AssistiveWare on how to incorporate AAC devices in everyday activities.
- Symbol overlays are not included with the QuickTalker FeatherTouch 23. Download the free AbleNet Symbol Overlay app for iPad to create symbol overlays for your AbleNet speech device.
    - QuickTalker FT 23 Sample Overlays
    - QuickTalker FT 23 Blank Overlay Template
    - QuickTalker FT 23 Core Board Overlay
    - QuickTalker FT 23 "at" Word Family Overlay

Ohio Early Learning Standards

- Depending on the activities supported by the AAC device a wide range of Early Learning Standards could be impacted.

Words to Encourage Play/Use

Dependent on the activity supported by the device.

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