

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 Complete the screening activities (no communication device required).

Choose the screening activities 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 potential access methods on a communication device.

If you don't have a communication device to try, learn where to find one in the FAQ on page 2.

3 Select the access method or methods that provide the individual the most accurate and efficient access to their 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 such as occupational therapists and specialists 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.

Access Screening Tool FAQ

1 How long should I spend on each activity?

Spend 1 to 5 minutes on each activity. The purpose of this screening tool is to identify potential access methods for now and plan for learning over time.

2 Do I need to try all the access methods?

You do not have to do try all the access methods. If the individual is accurate and efficient with an access method, feel free to stop there. However, some individuals may benefit from trying more access methods to give them the chance to find the one that works best for them. Remember that this is a screening tool that points you toward potential access methods. Consult other team members and try the potential access methods with devices prior to making the final decisions.

3 Do people use more than one access method?

Yes! Some people use different access methods based on the time of day, environment, positioning, or changes in tone and energy levels. For example, someone may use touch access in their wheelchair but scanning access when in bed.

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. If you are in EUROW, find your local Tobii Dynavox partner at www.tobiidynavox.com/blogs/partner.

6 Should I use this screening tool instead of going to an Occupational Therapist?

The Access Screening Tool is designed to be used in preparation for or collaboration with a professional. 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, speech-language pathologist, or physical 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. If you need help assessing the best access method for an individual with vision concerns, contact a teacher of the visual impaired or vision specialist, along with an occupational therapist.

1. Touch

Goal: Determine if this individual has potential to use their finger, or other part of their hand, to access their communication device.



Activities:

Direct	Play
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Ask the individual how small of a target they can point to then have them demonstrate.▪ Ask the individual to touch items or images of increasingly small size (e.g. items in photographs, buttons on a screen)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ With a favorite toy/item (e.g. 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 (e.g. Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes, or Itsy Bitsy Spider, etc.)▪ Play a memory or matching game with pictures of favorite characters or 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:

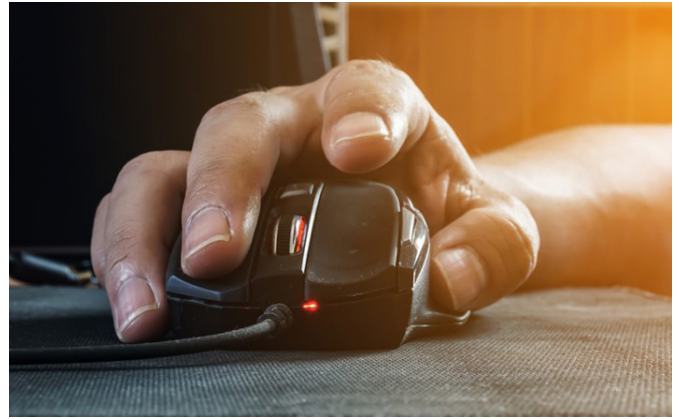
Do you feel that your client demonstrated sufficient potential to explore Touch as a way to access their communication device?

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

No: Move on to other access method.

2. Mouse Dwell (Hand)

Goal: Determine if this individual has potential to use a mouse to access their communication device.



Activities:

Direct	Play
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ask the individual to show you how he/she can use a mouse on a computer to click on progressively smaller objects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">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?
- Were they 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 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 or joystick.

Decide:

- Do you feel that your client demonstrated sufficient potential to explore Mouse Dwell (Hand) as a way to access their communication device?
- Might they be able to use Mouse Dwell as a way to access their communication device if they did not have to click or if they were using a joystick or trackball?

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 other access method.

3. Head-Controlled Mouse

Goal: Determine if this individual has potential to use a head-controlled mouse to access their communication device.



Activities:

Direct	Play
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Ask the person to show you how they move their head up/down and left/right.▪ Put a sticker between the person's eyebrows and ask them to point the sticker to various items in the room or on a screen.▪ 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Observe the individual's head movement as they track a preferred person or item around the room.▪ If a headmouse is available on a computer or device, see if the individual can move the cursor to all areas of the screen.

Observe:

- Was the individual able to move their head in the direction of all targets?
- Were they able to maintain head position toward the target?
- Were they able to maintain head position throughout the activity without fatigue or discomfort?

Decide:

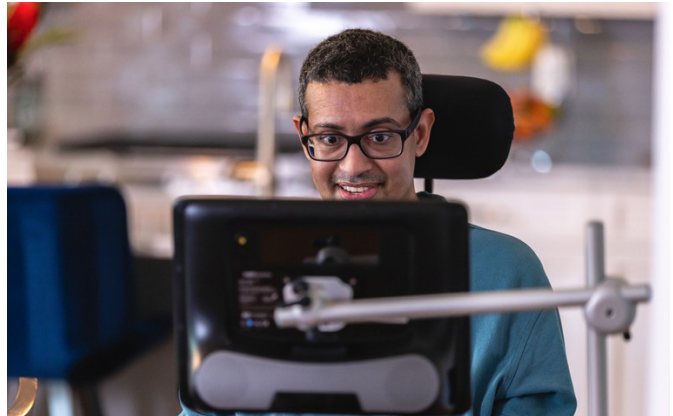
Do you feel that your client demonstrated sufficient potential to explore a head-controlled mouse as a way to access their communication device?

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

No: Move on to other access method.

4. Eye Tracking

Goal: Determine if this individual has potential to use their eyes to access their communication device.



Activities:

Direct	Play
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Stand so that you can see where the individual is looking and ask the individual to gaze to various items in the room, on a screen or on a piece of paper with their eyes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Play “tag” using eye gaze looking at objects around the room, on a computer screen or piece of paper.Turn on a preferred video and watch if they attend to a favorite character on the screen.Observe the individual's eye movement as they track a preferred person or item.

Observe:

- Do they have a relatively steady or mostly 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 other access method.

5. Scanning

Goal: Determine if this individual has potential to use Scanning to access their communication device. Scanning can be done with many different types of switches, scan patterns, auditory or visual cues, and with various switch locations.



Activities:

Direct	Play
<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Ask the person to show you which body part(s) they can move most consistently.<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Ask them to repeat the movement(s) five times.▶ Ask them to perform the movement(s) when you say, "now".▶ Ask them if any of these body parts might be more accurate and consistent: hand, finger, head, shoulder, elbow, knee, foot.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Play Simon Says directing the individual to move various body parts.<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ 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.<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ 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.



Note

Improperly positioned switches can cause discomfort. It is imperative to work with an Occupational Therapist or Physical Therapist when exploring the scanning access method.

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. Identifying more than one access method could be appropriate.