

To all families who may be considering purchasing augmentative communication devices including iPods and iPads the following message has been released from the Augmentative Communication Clinic at the John McGivney Children's Centre.

The Augmentative Communication Clinic at the John McGivney Children's Centre provides assessments, consultations, recommendations and education regarding augmentative and alternative communication strategies and systems. We currently have a 20 month waiting list for face to face (conversation) assessments. We accept referrals from families as well as professionals working with children for clients whose speech is not functional to meet their conversational needs. A referral is appropriate to the clinic if the child has communicative intent (e.g. they are trying to communicate) and if there is a gap between what they understand and what they can say. (We can provide consultation to therapists or families if they are not sure whether to make a referral or if they are looking for strategies to improve communication – a consultation visit would take place at our centre without the client and no recommendations for equipment will result from the consultation.) Following an assessment we **may** recommend the purchase or lease of a communication aid. Funding **may** also be available. Please note that if you have already purchased a system the Augmentative Communication Clinic **will not** program the system or provide ongoing support or education regarding that system and funding is **not** available retroactively. Also note that attendance at a parent information session will be mandatory before your child is seen for an assessment.

Thanks

Toni
Toni Southern, M.Cl.Sc., Reg. CASLPO
Speech Language Pathologist
Augmentative Communication Clinic
John McGivney Children's Centre