



# KEYCOMM NEWS

The Keycomm Newsletter

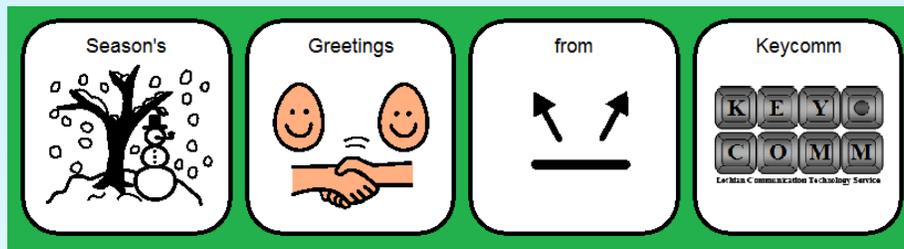
December 2014

## Welcome to the Keycomm Newsletter!

Welcome to the Winter edition of the Keycomm newsletter. We hope you'll enjoy this festive issue, which includes a cut-out-and-keep seasonal bookmark as our gift to you!

For those of you looking for our second installment of feedback from the Communication Matters conference, we have decided to push this back to our next issue, which will be out in the early Spring.

We hope all of our readers have a brilliant holiday season and that you all find some time to relax and spend time with family and friends.



## In This Issue

- Christmas ideas from SPLAT
- Launch of C.O.D.E.S. website
- The Magic Cloud
- Photo-story apps
- Book giveaway
- Details of our upcoming courses
- AAC study group
- And more!



## Courses at Keycomm

Don't miss out on the courses we're running at Keycomm! Give us a call on 0131 311 7130 or email Janet at Janet.1.ramsay@ea.edin.sch.uk to book your place.

<b>15/01/2015</b>	<b>10am-12 midday</b>	<b>Introduction to the CODES Framework</b>
<b>26/02/2015</b>	<b>3.30-5.30pm</b>	<b>Using iPads for Communication</b>
<b>19/03/2015</b>	<b>3.30-5.30pm</b>	<b>Introduction to Proloquo2Go</b>

## Top Christmas ideas from SPLAT

We have some great festive switch toys still available for loan –

Check out our snowman (who obviously sings “Let it snow”), Rockin’ Robin (who does what his name implies to “jingle bell rock”!), Monty the dog who sings “Jingle bells” Leonard Cohen style and Hip Hop Randy who really has to be heard to be fully appreciated!



If you’re looking for sensory toy gift ideas our top 2 slots still go to the little LED fans or animal massagers (from various suppliers online), but there are lots of battery operated singing and dancing toys around too. Many of these are easy to adapt for switch play. Here’s a video guide to basic battery adapting.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DaivAvvvKy0>

On a really tight budget? Spaceblankets (usually less than £1 online, in sports shops or from a marathon running friend!) are always great fun, and at this time of year can be a frozen lake, a big winter moon, or an icy path to crunch your feet and hands on.

Add in something cold like reusable pretend ice cubes ( can be found here: <http://www.maralisesmagicalstories.co.uk/product/reusable-ice-cubes/>) to avoid a puddle in sensory rooms) and something warm like a microwavable wheat bag...



**HAPPY SENSORY AND SWITCHING CHRISTMAS!**

## Launch of the New C.O.D.E.S. Website

Many of you will know about and be using the C.O.D.E.S. Framework developed by Keycomm. Recently, we have had a great deal of interest in this resource and so decided to create a dedicated website for it. This can be found at [www.codesframework.wordpress.com](http://www.codesframework.wordpress.com). We hope you'll pay it a visit!

## The Magic Cloud



The Magic Cloud is an exciting tool that can be used to facilitate communication or for early computing education.

You place an object, symbol, toy - anything you like - onto the "Magic Cloud" and, so long as it has one of the tags that come with it attached, something happens on your computer. For example, you could place a leaf onto the cloud, and the computer displays a photo of a tree or you could place a toy on the cloud and a video would play where the child explains why this is their favourite toy.

In case you were wondering, all this "magic" happens by utilising RFID technology. We can think of many great ways to use this equipment, and we're sure you can, too. We have bought a Magic Cloud so if you'd like to come and try it out, please do!

More information can be found at [www.magiccloud.co.uk](http://www.magiccloud.co.uk)

Season's  
Greetings  
from  
Keycomm!



Christmas  
2014

Our present to you: cut  
out and keep this festive  
bookmark!





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[www.keycomm.weebly.com](http://www.keycomm.weebly.com)



L-R: Pictello, Our Story  
and Book Creator, all  
available in the iTunes  
store.

## Using Dropbox to Back Up iPad Apps

Did you know that many AAC iPad apps allow you to back up through Dropbox? This is very exciting for us at Keycomm as it means that popular apps such as Proloquo2Go, ChatAble and Predictable can be backed up remotely and therefore don't necessarily need to come back into Keycomm for this to be done. This means that it's less likely that people's profiles will be lost - hooray!

For more information, please contact Keycomm.

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## Photo-Story Apps

We are often asked about photo-story apps for the iPad, as these can be a great way to encourage communication. Here's our quick round-up of the ones we've found to be the best:

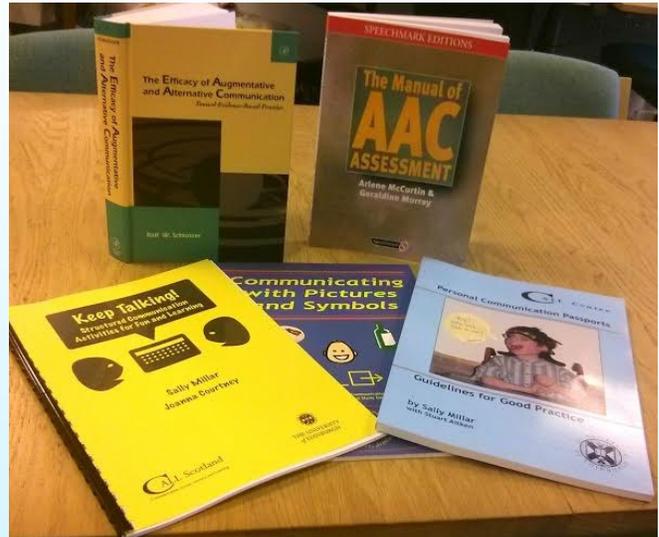
**Pictello** - Created by AssistiveWare, makers of Proloquo2Go, this is the most feature-rich of the apps we're covering. You can insert photos or videos and utilise either synthetic speech or record your own voice. It is designed to be switch-accessible and has "wizards" which makes creating content easy. Currently £13.99.

**Book Creator** - Popular with schools, this app allows you to create your own book and export it in a variety of formats. You can add photos, sound, text or drawings and can edit the style of the book easily. A lite version is available for free or the full version is currently £2.99.

**Our Story** - Created by the Open University, this app is backed by child psychologists and other specialists. The latest version allows you to use videos as well as photos, and you can divide your story into different headings. Our Story is free.

# Book Giveaway

Keycomm still have some books to give away that we received from NES through the *Right to Speak* project. If you would like any of them, please get in touch! The books are: *The Efficacy of Augmentative and Alternative Communication* and *The Manual of AAC Assessment*. First come, first served!



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## AAC Study Group

Phillipa and Nicky have started a study group for those interested in keeping abreast of academic and professional literature in the field of AAC, as well as sharing ideas and resources. The group meets every few months and is well attended by staff from a variety of backgrounds from across the Lothians. If you are interested in joining this friendly group, please contact Keycomm. Our next meeting is at Keycomm on 17th December from 3.30pm to 5.30pm.

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Have you enjoyed this issue of the Keycomm newsletter? Is there anything you'd like to see more of? We'd love to have your feedback - give us a call or email Susan on [susan.henderson@ea.edin.sch.uk](mailto:susan.henderson@ea.edin.sch.uk)

## Contacting the Keycomm team

Why not tear this page off and pin it to your noticeboard, or put it in your diary?

Office Hours: 9am-5pm, Monday-Friday

Address: Keycomm Resource Centre, 1c Pennywell Road, Edinburgh, EH4 4PH

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Website: [www.keycomm.weebly.com](http://www.keycomm.weebly.com)

## The Team

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