

September 12, 2020

Fall 2020 Newsletter — Print Version

Happy September, friends and families! We hope you all are staying healthy and using this opportunity to create special memories and stronger bonds with those you love. As we near the end of summer and the start of the new school year, we have a few exciting developments to share with you. Welcome to the first edition of our Adler's Voice newsletter!

Restarting Our AAC Grant Program

After a several month break due to the ongoing pandemic, we are excited to announce that we are again accepting applications for our AAC grant program. Our application form can be downloaded from our dedicated webpage linked below. Alternatively, you can reach out to us directly and request a paper copy of the application to be mailed to you. Either way, we're happy to hear from you!

— *Visit Our Grant Application Page*

Free Computers for Children in Need

Thanks to a generous donation from G5 Search Marketing, Adler's Voice has more laptop computers to give away for children in need. With the new school year starting soon and most school districts adopting a comprehensive distance learning model, access to technology is more important than ever. If you are aware of a child in need, don't hesitate to reach out to us. There are a limited number of computers available, which will be distributed on a first come, first served basis.

Covid-19-related PCS Sets

Boardmaker recently released a series of COVID-19-related Picture Communication Symbols (PCS) to address social distancing and mask wearing. As long as this pandemic persists, creating accessible health education materials is extremely important to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all learners. The symbols offered by Boardmaker are free to anyone who has a Boardmaker account. If you don't have such an account or need assistance in creating visual aids specific to your purposes, we would be happy to help you by creating social stories, visual schedules or any other communication tools you need for your classroom or home, with either English or Spanish labels. Please contact us for additional information.

— *Visit the Boardmaker Website*

Free AAC Resources for Families

Need help programming your child's communication app, creating picture schedules, social stories, or daily routines for the new school year? We can help with all of those things! From low tech solutions like laminated symbols and schedules, to high tech communication systems, we can create whatever tools your child needs, customized to their learning environment. In addition, our online courses provide lots of ideas for facilitating communication at home. From engaging apps, to teaching core vocabulary, to aided language stimulation, we provide high-quality, research-based, and relevant trainings to all individuals that use or support a person who uses AAC.

All of our resources are available for free to families across Oregon, and we are always happy to chat with you to create customized tools to meet your child's particular needs. Please reach out to us or click the button below to access our online trainings directly!

— *See Our Courses*

Keyguards, anyone?

One of the new developments we are most excited about this fall is our purchase of two high-quality, large-format 3D printers! Many of our grant applicants request keyguards for their communication devices. These simple tools, designed to fit over speech-generating devices to help improve manual input accuracy, are surprisingly expensive. Depending on app layout and attachment method, they will typically range between \$50 and \$150. With our new 3D printers, we are able to create our own keyguards, customized to the user's app layout, tablet, and case model, at a fraction of the cost.

All grant recipients of Adler's Voice who have requested a keyguard as part of their application will receive a customized keyguard for free. In the coming months, we hope to extend our program and offer our custom keyguards also to families, school districts, speech-language pathologists, and other support professionals throughout the state of Oregon for a nominal cost to cover time and materials. Soon we will be posting instructions for ordering a keyguard, complete with templates and guides for taking proper measurements, on our website.

More News

Interested in more news from Adler's Voice? Visit the News page of our website, where you will find all the information not already covered in this newsletter! We'll be happy to see you there.

— *Visit Our News Page*