

March Madness

Whether it is basketball or the CSUN Conference in Los Angeles, March gets exciting. There is a lot going on and so much to see but you have to make decisions about what you are going to do.

It is with this in mind that we offer some thoughts on the decisions that go into selecting the right system for your clients.

Feel free to contact ZYGO Customer Service, your local area representative, or our authorized dealers if we can help you with your selection process.

Decision Support

What **can** my client do?
What can he/she **not** do?
What does he/she **need** to do?

Assessment Aim and Evaluation Criteria

1. Consider numerous factors
2. Determine client needs and desires
3. Contact a ZYGO representative to match client to his environment with a system (or systems)

Visual Skills: Representation

- Type of symbols or text
- Symbol size
- Number of symbols/page
- Colors or black & white

Other Skills

- Motivation and energy
- Visual attention
- Error correction
- Understanding
 - cause and effect

Motor Skills: Access Method

- Pointing ability
- Range of motion
- Switch access
- Changing pages

Device Factors: constraints?

- Size and weight
- Convenience
- Durability and reliability
- Battery life

Cognitive Skills: Language

- Literate or developing language
- Learning ability
- Can locate on different pages
- Recognition and recall
- Low vs. high vocabulary needs

Device Factors: costs

- Evaluation and purchase
- Plan, set up, and training
- Maintenance of device
- Hidden
- Funding sources

Static Display

[e.g. Talara and Macaw]

Pros

- Durable
- Long battery life
- Easy to learn to use
- Easy to record new vocabulary
- Symbols, pictures & text – often more concrete representations
- Static overlays can be used as backup or in wet environments
- Many accessing methods
- Long product life cycle

Cons

- Does not come pre-loaded
- Requires user to have motor control to change overlays and vocabulary sets
- Limits novel expression



Dynamic Display

[e.g. Optimist 3HD series]

Pros

- Sample pages – preloaded vocabulary
- Program to customize
- Symbols, pictures & text
- Computer screen generates images
- Many accessing methods
- Synthesized or recorded voices

Cons

- Limited battery life
- Hard to program
- Time consuming to learn how to use
- Can't see screen outside
- Fragile, expensive to fix
- Short product life cycle



Text to Speech

For your literate users who can spell out their messages, you have many system choices. Match the features of these six products offered by ZYGO with the needs of your client.

TalkingAid Wireless



Spok21



Polyana 4



PolyTABLET



Optimist 3HD-A



Allora

