

Borrowing a Communication Device

Your child's speech-language pathologist, or SLP, has asked that you borrow a communication device from a vendor, to try at home. In this form you will learn how to borrow this equipment and how it can help your child's communication.

What communication device should I order?

Your SLP has asked that you borrow the following equipment to try out at home:

How do I get a communication device?

You will need to call or email the vendor, or seller, to ask to borrow the device. Your vendor's local representative contact information is:

Please have the following ready to share, if asked for, by the vendor:

- **Client information form.** Your SLP will give this to you, or they will give you the website of the vendor where you can find this form.
- **Assignment of benefits.**
- **Loan agreement form.** Your SLP will give this for you to fill out, or they will give you the website of the vendor where you can find this form.
- **Health Insurance cards.**

Please make sure that you can receive emails from the vendor. Many vendors send information about your application by email. **If you do not reply to their emails, your application may be cancelled.**

As soon as you are told when the device will arrive, please call the Stanford Medicine Children's Health Rehabilitation Department at **(650) 736-2000** to schedule an appointment with your child's SLP. When scheduling, please tell us the date your child will have the communication device. This will help us know when to schedule the appointment.

Will using this communication device make it harder for my child to learn to speak?

No. Using a communication device will not make it harder for your child to learn to speak. It will help encourage and increase their communication skills.

How long will it take for my child's device to arrive?

Wait times for a communication device are different. If you have questions about your application, please speak to the vendor to ask for an update.

What should I do when my child's device arrives?

When the device arrives, open the box, and charge the device overnight. **Save all packaging materials and any prepaid shipping labels.** The packaging and labels will be used when you return the device at the end of the borrowing period.

Bring the device and any smaller equipment, to your child's scheduled appointment. The SLP will then set up the device, show you how to use it, and answer any questions you or your child may have.

How can a communication device help my child?

Each child is different, and so every child's response to using a communication device will also be different. Some children have had the following positive changes:

- Increased use of new words.
- An improved ability to express themselves.
- Less frustration when trying to communicate.

How to use your child's device?

Your child's SLP will teach you how to use your child's device. It helps to practice using the device during an activity that your child enjoys doing every day.

If possible, write down the things that your child says with the communication device.

You and your speech-language pathologist will see if the device meets your child's long-term communication needs. If you have problems with the device, talk with your child's SLP. If the device is helpful to your child, their SLP can help you find resources to get the device for your child.

How do I return my child's device?

Usually, vendors of communication devices will allow families to borrow equipment for **free for 2-4 weeks**. Sometimes insurances will require a longer loan period. **Please be sure to return it on time to avoid late fees.** Use the **original packaging and prepaid shipping**. If you are unsure of the due date or want to ask for more time with the device, please contact the vendor.