

AAC User Profile

Name: Archie
Age: 12 years old
Location: Plymouth



Meet Archie. Archie's first love is surfing. He would surf everyday if he didn't have to go to school.

Archie also has Autism and is non-verbal. He has ways of communicating and getting his point across, signing, vocalising and using his surroundings, but it was always thought that there was a lot more to Archie than he could express. He uses symbols at school and had tried PECS, which although this was fine at the beginning, Archie eventually outgrew the system.

This summer, Archie's SLT heard about LAMP and organised a session for him to give it a try. Archie used the Vantage Lite with Unity 60 sequenced. Within 12 minutes, he was making choices of what and which colour food he wanted to eat!

Archie then took the Vantage Lite on trial.

In week 1, Mum reported, "All is going well. He is happy to use it, even spontaneously sometimes!"

In week 2, his SLT reported, "Last I knew, Archie was doing really well. He totally gets the concept and uses it now as if he has had it for ages. I saw his grandma the other day and she thought it was great. The whole family are on board with it."

In week 3, Mum reported, "He's using colours without a problem and eat and go. He seems happy to use it spontaneously and when we were going out and I forgot to pick it up the other day, I found he'd been and fetched it to take in the car with him. I'm now working on 'my turn' rather than physically pushing his brothers off the computer, which is his favourite way of getting on the computer at the moment!"

Archie got his device funded by an anonymous donor so he now has his own Vantage Lite.

Archie uses his Vantage Lite throughout the school day; at home; in the car; on the beach and would try to take it on the surfboard if he could!

Every day and in new situations, Archie continues to learn more words. LAMP has given Archie a voice and the ability to be creative with his communication. Mum says, "He came up to me with it, pressed 'saw' and showed me where he had bitten his lip! An example, I think of how the symbols don't matter at all! He then found the hospital on Google maps and suggested I took him. I told him I didn't think a bitten lip quite warranted a trip to the hospital so he told me he had sore (saw) arms as well!"



Mum also has this to say. "LAMP gave Archie a voice he wanted to use. He took to it very quickly during the trial, and in contrast to other communication methods and aids has been keen to use the Vantage Lite. I suspect this is because it's fast - he can express himself quickly and without frustration using it."

On the 29th November 2011, Archie had a session with his SLT and Mum blogged, "Archie said more in that hour than he's said in the last 12 years."

Archie now uses his Vantage Lite with 84 sequenced Unity and has a language system that will grow with him and give him communication for life.

Link to blog: <http://alifeunlimited.wordpress.com>.