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Slide 2

A Comparison of
Core- and Pragmatic-based
Language Options with
Super Core and **Voco Chat**

Slide 3

Melanie Gylling
M.A. CCC-SLP

Financial disclosure: salary from Smartbox

Non-financial disclosure:
Member of ASHA, ASHA SIG 12,
ISAAC, USAAC, and MNSHA

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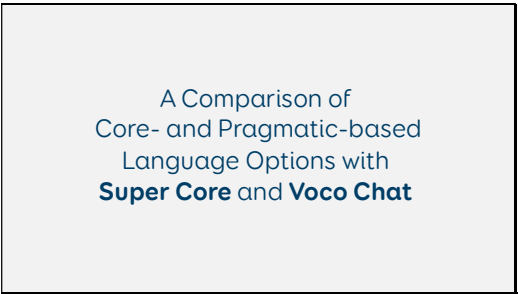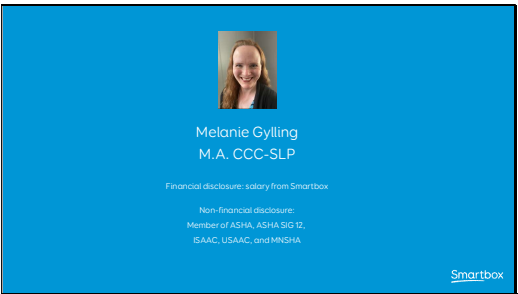**Slide 4**

Session disclosure:
Smartbox Assistive Technology has developed, and patented licensed technology trademarked as Grid 3 and Grid for iPad. This presentation will focus exclusively on page-sets within Grid 3 and Grid for iPad and will not include information on other similar or related AAC software.

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Agenda

- Core-Based Approach to AAC
- Pragmatic-Based Approach to AAC
- Clinical Implications of Core vs. Pragmatic
- What is Grid?
- Super Core and tour
- Voco Chat and tour

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Learning Outcomes

First Learning Objective
- Describe one difference between a core-based approach and pragmatic-based approach

Second Learning Objective
- Compare one key difference between Super Core and Voco Chat

Third Learning Objective
- Identify a client population that would benefit from Voco Chat and Super Core, respectively.

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Core Versus Pragmatic
Organization in AAC

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What is Core-Based Approach to AAC?

Use of a small number of words to make unique utterances

Focus is on building sentences with individual words instead of phrases

Emphasis on teaching grammar and morphology

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What is Core?

Common words that make up most of what we say
- 100 words account for 60% of what we say in one day
- 200-400 words account for 80% of what we say in one day

Goal to combine words to make longer and more complex utterances

Typically verbs, adjectives, and pronouns

Let's practice…

help

more

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Slide 11

What is Core? (cont.)

Communicate for a multitude of reasons

Communicate in a variety of situations

Core words can be flexible
- Turn (positioning)
- Turn (turn-taking activity)
- Turn (turn page in a book)

turn

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Expand on Core with Fringe Words

Fringe words are more specific to a topic, environment, or individual

Typically nouns

Build request with Core + Fringe
- I want car
- Car go
- See that car
- Do you have a car

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What is a Pragmatic-Based Approach to AAC?

Focus on the how we use language in interactions, not specific words

Language organized according to why one wants to communicate

Communication development versus language development

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The Pragmatics Profile for People Who Use AAC (Martin, Small & Stevens, 2017)

Reasons to communicate
- Gaining attention
- Directing attention
- Requesting
- Rejecting
- Naming
- Commenting
- Giving Information
- Asking Questions

Participation in conversation
- Managing conversational breakdown
- Requesting clarification
- Maintaining a conversation
- Giving Partner feedback
- Changing the topic
- Starting, joining, & ending conversations
- Using social greetings and partings
- Telling and responding to jokes
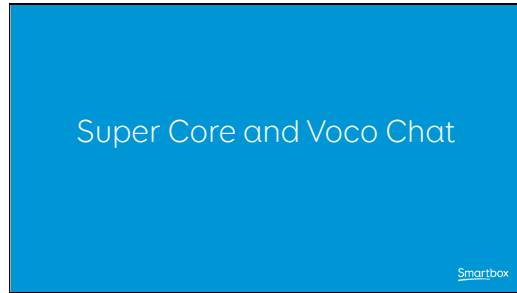
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Why choose one over the other?
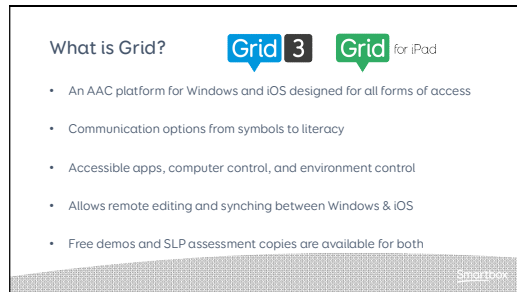
- Access needs
- Fatigue/efficiency
- How much scaffolding is needed?
- Training/learning barriers
- Goals of AAC user

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Super Core and Voco Chat

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What is Grid?   Grid 3   Grid for iPad

• An AAC platform for Windows and iOS designed for all forms of access

• Communication options from symbols to literacy

• Accessible apps, computer control, and environment control

• Allows remote editing and synching between Windows & iOS

• Free demos and SLP assessment copies are available for both

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Super Core and Voco Chat

- Developed for symbol communication
- Designed for AAC users AND their communication partners
- Available in Symbol Stix, Widgit and PCS (US English) as well as other languages
- Can be used with a range of access methods
- For use on Windows and iOS devices

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Overview

	Super Core	Voco Chat
Sizes available	Super Core 50 and 30 Super Core Learning 12 and 20	12 cells
Suitable age range	All (Child, Teen & Adult options)	All (Child, Teen & Adult options)
Single word vocabulary	Approx. 2,250	Over 1,500
Pre stored phrases	Approx. 250	Over 375
Language organization	Core vocabulary	Pragmatic
Schematic (activity based)	Yes	Yes
Grammar support	Smart grammar (automatic) Magic Wand (manual)	Supported message building Focus on meaning, not grammar

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Introducing

Super Core

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Super Core Key Features

- Core vocabulary selected based on research
- Dynamic columns give access to core alongside activity-specific words
- Support for language and literacy development
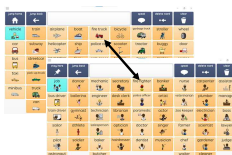- Available in both child and teen/adult versions

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Super Core Key Features (cont.)

Motor planning

- Buttons with specific or related words will always appear in the same spots
- Consistency of locations helps with efficiency

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Super Core Key Features (cont.)

Fitzgerald Key

Child-friendly label	Grammatical term	Colour	Examples
People words	Pronouns and Nouns	Yellow	he, them, man, girl, doctor
Action words	Verbs	Green	go, run, could, cut
Naming words	Nouns	Orange	basket, cat, plate
Describing words	Adjectives	Blue	big, cold, special, yellow
Little words	Prepositions, Determiners, Conjunctions and Adverbs	Grey	and, of, because, up, in
Question words	Interrogative Pronouns	Purple	who, what, why

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Super Core Key Features (cont.)

Grammar supports
- Smart Grammar helps user easily build grammatically correct utterances
- Easy to access morphology

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Voco Chat Key Features

- Supported message building
- Vocabulary to support independence
- Easy to use and personalize
- Intuitive

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Voco Chat Key Features (cont.)

- Focus on participation (e.g. activity grids)

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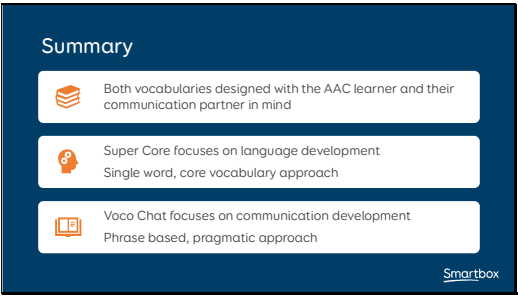
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Voco Chat Key Features (cont.)

- Tools to support communication, mental health, and wellbeing
- Programming built-in. Less steps to personalize

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Slide 34

Dedicated hardware

Grid Pad 10s   Grid Pad 12   Grid Pad 15

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Lightweight hardware

Talk Pad   Touch Pad
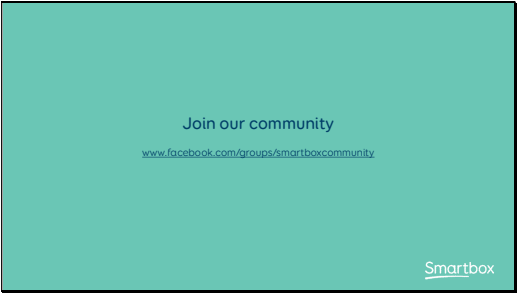
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Stay in touch

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Join our community
www.facebook.com/groups/smartboxcommunity

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Thanks for listening!

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