



Literacy for All - Junior/Senior High

Using the Step-by-Step Communicator to Support Literacy and Communication

In today's classrooms, a wide range of technologies are creating new options for differentiating instruction and supporting the inclusion of students with disabilities. The use of technology can help teachers provide support, choice and flexibility to students. It can also directly support the learning of individual students who may experience barriers related to their abilities to see, hear, speak, move, read, write, understand English, attend, organize, engage and remember.

This month, we will explore how AnyBook Reader, Clicker 6, and the Step-by-Step Communicator can be used to **support literacy and communication** for students with significant disabilities. We'll highlight and share a different resource each Friday during the month of March.



Step-by-Step Communicator

The Step-by-Step Communicator provides a sequence of recorded messages. It can be used to provide oral language for different purposes: to inform, to request, to entertain and to question.

Recording a Message

All messages must be recorded at one time. It is not possible to re-record or change just one message in the sequence of recorded messages without erasing all of the messages. Because all messages must be recorded at one time, it is beneficial to have the messages written down and to use them as a script during recording. This device can hold up to two full minutes of recording time. Keep your notes for future reference!

1. Turn the Step-by-Step Communicator "on" by moving the volume control to the right until you hear a click.
2. Press the Repeat/Rec button twice (within one second) and release.
3. Press and hold the top surface of your Step-by-Step and record your first message. (Record message while holding the Step-by-Step eight-to-ten inches away, with speaker facing you).
4. Release the top surface briefly.
5. Press and hold the top surface and record your second message.
6. Release the top surface briefly.
7. Repeat steps 5 and 6 until you have recorded all your messages.
8. Press the Repeat/Rec button twice to end recording.

*For a convenient reference, use the *Quick Instructions* on the bottom of the Step-by-Step.

12 Ways Your Students can use the Step-by-Step Communicator!

1. **After a field trip**, brainstorm a list of events that occurred during the trip with students. Record each event or memory as a single message on the Step-by-Step. The students will then be able to share what happened on their field trip with peers, other staff, and family.
2. **Record a character's lines** to support participation in a class or school play.
3. **Record interview questions** so that students can interview other staff or students. Be sure to include a message indicating that the staff or peer must write their answers on the sheet provided!
4. **Conduct a survey** in the school. Record questions related to the chosen topic. A second Step-by-Step can be used to allow the student to make comments while they're doing the survey - *"That is very interesting."* *"I really appreciate you taking this survey, really!"*
5. Record single statements to **summarize a previously read chapter** for the student to choose from prior to the reading of the next chapter.
6. **Record a generic list of character traits**. Have the student select traits they feel best describes a specific character and present that list of characteristics to peers.
7. **Record lines from a poem** so that the student can recite it individually or as part of a group.
8. Create a list of possible statements for **participation in a debate**. Have the student decide how they feel about the issue and then record their chosen statements.
9. Record the **timeline events** of a novel, in an individual's life, or a world event.
10. Present part of a **group report** or **class project** to others.
11. Choose a **daily or weekly joke or riddle** and record it for the student to share with peers.
12. Record **repeated lines** in a story or a poem.

***Your turn!** How are you the Step-by-Step Communicator with your students? Post your idea at Literacy for All! <http://literacyforall7-12.wikispaces.com>

Record lines from a poem so that the student can recite it individually or as part of a group.

Tips for using the Step-by-Step Communicator

- To increase ownership, involve the student in choosing the messages to be recorded.
- For students who repeatedly activate the Step-by-Step resulting in insufficient time for others to interact or comment, consider building in five to 15 seconds of quiet time between messages. This will create time for others to interact or comment on each message. To do this, when recording a message, hold down the button for several seconds after you have spoken the message.
- Avoid saying *"Hit the switch!"* as a prompt for students to use the Step-by-Step. You do not want to focus on the physical action of hitting the Step-by-Step, instead focus on what the student will be communicating e.g., *"Can you tell us about the character?"* *"What do you think about that idea?"* *"I can't wait to hear the joke for today!"*
- Leave the device with the student to use. As use goes up, so will misuse – then it will even out.