As promised, NEAT has continued to add exciting new communication supports to the Smart Home this summer. The incorporation of new tools along the assistive technology continuum, from low tech to high tech, serve to bring awareness to the fact that communication truly occurs everywhere within a home. Bringing AAC technology into a home is one way to make it “Smart,” as an individual’s independence and quality of life can be enhanced given easy access to communication. Please note that it is important to involve an SLP knowledgeable about AAC in the assessment process in order to match an appropriate, customized communication solution to an individual’s needs. However, the ideas below can be a great starting point for naturally embedding AAC into your client or loved one’s daily home routines today!

- A BIGmack bedside to ask for help
- A paper-based board near the closet to make wardrobe selections
- A ProxPad, donated to NEAT by LoganTech, in the kitchen to meet basic needs
- A GoTalk4+ and a paper-based board to facilitate mealtime
- A GoTalk One by the doorway to support greetings
AAC has the power to turn voice activation technology into a reality for individuals with limited or no verbal communication. Many popular AAC apps can be programmed to activate the Amazon Echo (Alexa) for facilitating access to independent living. NEAT has customized a pageset in the Proloquo2Go app to interact with Alexa for home automation (i.e. “turn on lamp,” “raise the temperature”), entertainment (i.e. “play Pandora,” “read a kindle book”), daily tasks (i.e. “set a timer,” “create a to-do list”), etc. Please see NEAT’s June Newsletter for a review of utilizing the CoughDrop AAC app to activate the Amazon Echo in a similar manner.

![Proloquo2Go pageset for interacting with Alexa](image1)

![Proloquo2Go displayed on the television via AirPlay mirroring with the AppleTV for easier viewing during Smart Home demonstrations](image2)