

**Funding for iPad or tablet**

***Practice* Based Scenario**

**About this document**

This document is designed to take you through a practice-based scenario to help you reflect on what you might do if faced with a similar situation. It can be used to guide your thoughts and prompt discussion with your colleagues. Working through this document counts towards your continuing professional development (CPD). Your reflections on this document are not assessed and you do not have to send your responses to the RCSLT.

You can work through it on your own, with a colleague or supervisor, or in groups, eg as part of an RCSLT Hub or Clinical Excellence Network.

This document is broken into six parts:

1. **The scenario:** for you to read
2. **The issues to consider:** for you to gather your thoughts on practice issues relating to this scenario
3. **Next steps:** for you to plan out what you would need to do next
4. **Prompts for consideration:** RCSLT prompts for further consideration
5. **Sources of further information:** links to professional guidance
6. **Update your CPD diary:** for you to do
7. **The scenario**

**You have recommended an AAC app for the iPad for a child. An iPad with the AAC app has been loaned to the child on a trial basis. The trial has been successful.**

**However, the app is only available for the iPad. The child’s parents have said they cannot afford a new iPad, but may be able to purchase a cheaper tablet.**



**What do you do in this scenario?**

1. **The issues to consider**

**What do you need to consider?**

Think about the above scenario and its implications and jot down your notes about issues you may need to consider. Please feel free to use extra sheets of paper if you need. Or, if you are in a group, you may like to record on a whiteboard or flipchart.

1. **Next steps**

**What steps do you think you need to take next?**

1. **Prompts for consideration**

When considering an AAC app, it is important to check if the family or individual will be able to fund it or if alternative funding may be available.

It is recommended that you think about the following prompt questions and formulate a considered strategy to deal with the problem.

Remember that if you are faced with a similar situation you will need to think about it in relation to the frameworks within which you work, such as the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) Standards, RCSLT professional guidance and resources, local and national policies and also policies of your employer (or your own policies if practising independently).

Please note that this list is not exhaustive and does not constitute legal advice.

**Prompt questions to consider**

1. Had you considered the parent or family’s financial situation prior to loaning the device?
2. Are there any similar apps available on other platforms that you could recommend?
3. Would the app run on an older generation iPad which may cost less? NB: the most updated version of iOS may run slower on an older device.
4. Are there any alternative funding opportunities available, eg local charities, education funding, local CCG?

**Possible next steps**

1. Find out if there are any other similar apps on Android by conducting a search in the Google PlayStore. Explore other ways of finding apps in the Finding Apps section of The Role of Apps in Speech and Language Therapy.
2. Try to obtain alternative funding/advise family on how they can do so.
3. **Sources of further information**

**The following information in the professional accountability and autonomy, and professional guidance sections of the RCSLT website is also particularly relevant:**

1 – [Promote and safeguard the interests of service users and carers](https://www.rcslt.org/professional-autonomy-and-accountability-guidance#section-5)

2 - [Communicate appropriately and effectively](https://www.rcslt.org/professional-autonomy-and-accountability-guidance#section-6)

[Apps: common issues and concerns (for links to sources of funding)](https://www.rcslt.org/technology-apps-guidance" \l "section-8)

[Communications Technology](https://www.rcslt.org/communications-technology)

1. **Update your CPD diary**

Working through this scenario counts towards your continuing professional development (CPD). Once you have completed this scenario, please record this learning and your reflections in your CPD diary.