

Video App Breaks Down Complex Activities of Daily Living

REVIEWED BY ANGELIA WOOD, OTR/L

ONE OF THE best new research-based teaching aids is video modeling. It has been proven to be effective with adults as well as children, whether they are learning a new skill, such as a child with autism learning how to tie shoes, or the adult who has to re-learn skills that have been lost due to brain injury or stroke.

The InPromptu app allows the person to watch a series of video clips, each of which shows a part of a skill. This allows a breakdown of complex and difficult skills into smaller steps. As the user learns the skill, they can choose how many clips to watch or they can choose to watch the task in its entirety from beginning to end.

This app was developed by Ohio State University. According to its website, "Drs. Helen Malone and Joe Wheaton were awarded a grant from the U.S. Department of Education to develop a technology together with parents, school personnel, and community members that was designed to assist individuals with significant intellectual disabilities with acquiring and maintaining daily living skills using video presented via an iPod touch."

A very common skill that I see used in preschools is handwashing steps. These videos cue the person by showing an actor performing the task and a moderator verbally describing each part of the task in detail.

The task can be saved as a still-frame shot, and the pictures and the steps can be used for

cue cards to print, laminate and hang by the area where the task is to be performed.

This app also allows for the creation of custom tasks with skill components. The user can create a video within the app or choose from the camera roll a previous video. Reminders can be set to remind the user when the task should be performed.

The InPromptu app is located in the education store and was first released on Oct. 26, 2011. New skills are being added all the time. The app was updated on June 24, 2014 with the ability to create and manage custom playlists and group tasks together.

ImPromptu is compatible with iPod, iPhone



and iPad, which makes it suitable for promoting accessibility, as the user can put on their phone or iPod and take it with them to school or work for easy reference.

More information can be found at <http://inpromptu.ehe.osu.edu/>. For minor support issues with this app contact inpromptu@ehe.osu.edu or call 614-247-8710. Oh, and by the way, this incredible app is free. ■

Angelia Wood, OTR/L, is a therapist with Davie County Schools in Mocksville, NC

InPromptu by Ohio State University

| RATING OF FUNCTION FOR OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS | NUMBER OF STARS OUT OF 5 |
|--|--------------------------|
| Ease of use | ★★★★★ |
| Relevance to OT | ★★★★★ |
| Frequency of projected use | ★★★★ |
| Potential for upgrade with improvements | ★★★★★ |
| Usefulness for therapeutic intervention with fine motor skills | ★★★★★ |
| Usefulness for therapeutic intervention with visual motor skills | ★★★★★ |
| Usefulness for therapeutic intervention with handwriting | ★★★★ |
| Usefulness as OT evaluation tool | ★★★ |
| Relevance for use with progress monitoring | ★★★ |

NOTES:

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