



Did You Know Your Used Nintendo DS, iPhone, or iPod Touch Could Help a Child Communicate?

Children's Advancement Fund, Inc. (CAF) is collecting unwanted Nintendo DS handheld game systems, iPhones, and iPod Touch devices. These products can help a child communicate at home, school, and in the community using software developed for this purpose, such as TapToTalk™ for Nintendo and iPrompts® and Proloquo2Go™ for iPhone and iPod Touch. You can help make this technology available to families and schools who have children who can not speak or who have limited language skills.

There are approximately 2 million Americans who are unable to speak or who demonstrate severe communication impairments. Current research suggests that between 3 and 6% of children with special needs need assistive technology to communicate, including some with autism, apraxia, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, and developmental disabilities. In addition to directly assisting children to communicate, other benefits of these devices include portability, ease of programming, and the “coolness” factor of using the same electronics that all the other kids have.

This combination of donated technology and new communication software is much less expensive than traditional augmentative and alternative communication devices, which cost hundreds or thousands of dollars. You can bring communication within the reach of many children whose families could not otherwise afford this important technology to help their children. Your junk can be a child's treasure and keep more electronics out of landfills, as well!

CAF (www.cafinfo.org) is a 501 (c) (3) organization founded to help children in Connecticut with special needs realize their highest potential for a more independent life and be active participants in our society without placing a financial burden on families by funding occupational, physical and speech and language therapy services.

If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation of one of these devices, please contact Stephanie Bendiske at (860) 967-3713 or info@cafinfo.org. Donation receipts are available. Items can be sent to or dropped off at Pediaflex Therapy Center, 76 Eastern Boulevard, Glastonbury, 06033.