

Stroke & Brain Injury Evaluation Activities

When you are introducing a new communication device to your client with Aphasia, it can be hard to know where to start. Sometimes, especially when the device is new to you, you may wonder what exactly you should show to your client. Other times, you might feel like you don't know what kind of response you should be looking for. If you have ever felt this way, Stroke & Brain Injury Evaluation Activities are for you!



This resource is designed to help you see your client's potential to add the Stroke & Brain Injury Persona of the Tobii Dynavox Compass software to his/her communication toolbox. Special features include:

- Step-by-step directions for setting up Compass.
- A script to use when introducing activities and communication tools.
- Activities focused around familiar and important topics.
- Suggestions for providing assistance as needed.
- Checkboxes to record your client's responses.

Please note that these evaluation activities do not walk you through all of the components of a Speech Generating Device (SGD) evaluation. They do provide you with ideas for trying the Stroke & Brain Injury Persona of the Compass software/app with your clients. Your clinical expertise will help you to complete the remainder of the evaluation!

This guide is not intended to take the place of your clinical expertise! You know your client's strengths and needs, interests, and family/caregiver support. As you work through the activities in this guide, you will:

1. Decide when your patient is ready to stop because of fatigue, frustration, or reaching his/her skill limit. Do not feel like you have to complete all of the activities!
2. Make adjustments to the evaluation scripts based on your client's comprehension and your clinical style.
3. Determine whether your client demonstrates potential for functional use of the Compass software. He/she does not need to demonstrate completely independent use or mastery of every communication tool at this time. With continued therapy and family/caregiver training, you can work towards these goals.

To use the activities in this guide, you will need access to:


- Tobii Dynavox T-Series device: The Tobii Dynavox sales team can help provide access to this tablet device featuring the Compass software. Find your sales rep at **mytobiidynavox.com**

– OR –

- Tobii Dynavox Compass App for your iOS or Windows device: Available as a free 30-day trial, a paid subscription, or a free Professional version from **mytobiidynavox.com**.

Use the Setup Wizard to make some quick customizations to your device. Just select Start Setup Wizard and choose New Pageset Wizard (for new users) or select On My Own (for more experienced users). You can also use your own Compass backup file by restoring it from either mytobiidynavox or your own computer.

1. Select Aphasia, Stroke, or TBI as your condition as appropriate. This will ensure you have access to the Stroke & Brain Injury Persona.
2. When you are prompted to identify topics, select doctor, caregiver, and lunch. Feel free to select 1 or 2 additional topics of interest to your client.
3. Watch the videos that are part of the Setup Wizard. They will help you learn more about Compass and the Stroke & Brain Injury Persona.

Note: If you turn on your T-Series or launch the Compass App and see something other than the Setup Wizard, look for this icon , which is called Settings and is generally in the upper left corner or upper right corner of the screen. Then,

- Select the Settings icon.
- Select Backup/Restore.
- Select New Pageset Wizard. This will reset the software so make sure no one has customized anything before you select this. If you think someone has, make a backup of the current pages first.
- Make the selections indicated above as you go through the Setup Wizard.

Activity 1: Doctor's Office

DO: Touch the Doctor picture to open the page.

SAY: *Let's talk about going to the doctor. Look at this picture. It shows us a typical doctor's office. Here's the doctor, some of the equipment you see in the doctor's office, and the exam table. I can point to the picture to communicate or select these buttons here to say...*

DO: Point to parts of the picture as you talk about them. Touch the buttons under the picture to hear what they say.

SAY: *Now it's your turn. Use the picture and buttons to tell me "I want to go to the doctor."*

DO: Wait* as your client

Points to:

- ☐ Doctor
- ☐ Exam table
- ☐ Blood pressure machine
- ☐ Something else _____

Selects:

- ☐ Message _____

Attempts to:

- ☐ Verbalize
- ☐ Vocalize
- ☐ Make a non-specific gesture
- ☐ Something else _____

SAY: OK. Now tell me *I don't feel well.*

DO: Wait* as your client

Points to:

- ☐ Doctor
- ☐ Exam table
- ☐ Blood pressure machine
- ☐ Something else _____

Selects:

- ☐ Message _____

Attempts to:

- ☐ Verbalize
- ☐ Vocalize
- ☐ Make a non-specific gesture
- ☐ Something else _____

SAY: *Good work. You are doing great. Now, let's look at something else.*

DO: Open the rating scale.



SAY: *We call this a rating scale. It's an easy way to tell us how you feel, or how you feel about something. For example, today I am feeling good. I got a good night sleep. I had a good breakfast. So I am going to point to the number 1. See, the guy is smiling and is giving us a thumbs-up. Over here, you see the number 3. The guy is frowning and is giving us a thumbs-down. I might point to the number 3 if I'm feeling bad or if I'm bothered by aches and pains."*

**If your client doesn't respond, provide some prompts. Start with something like gesturing to the screen and move towards more directive prompting such as pointing to a specific picture or message or guiding your client's hand to make a selection. Independent communication isn't necessary at this point but you should record the prompts you used.*

SAY:

Tell me, how you are feeling today?

DO:

Wait* as your client

Points to:

- ☐ Any point on the rating scale

Selects:

- ☐ One of the numbered buttons on the rating scale

Attempts to:

- ☐ Verbalize
☐ Vocalize
☐ Make a non-specific gesture
☐ Something else _____

SAY:

(If your patient's response is 'Good' or 'OK') Do you ever have a bad day? Maybe you did not get a good night's sleep or you don't feel well. How can you tell me, "I don't feel well"?

OR

(If your patient's response is 'Bad') Do you ever have a good day? Maybe you got a great night's sleep or you are feeling good. How can you tell me, "I feel great"?

DO:

Wait* as your client

Points to:

- ☐ The appropriate place on the scale for bad (to the right) or good (to the left)

Selects:

- ☐ Appropriate buttons under the scale (not sure if this is right)

Attempts to:

- ☐ Verbalize
☐ Vocalize
☐ Make a non-specific gesture
☐ Something else _____

SAY:

I'm going to show you one more thing. It's called a Whiteboard. Let me show you. I touch this button to open the Whiteboard."

DO:

Open the Whiteboard



SAY:

It looks like a piece of paper. Instead of using a pencil to write on it, I can use my finger.

DO:

Mark on the Whiteboard with your finger.

SAY:

I'm going to write my name.

DO:

Write your name with your finger. Take your time as you write.

SAY:

Now you do it. Try to write your name, or even the first initial, your address, or your phone number..

DO:

Wait* as your client

Writes:

- ☐ Name
- ☐ First letter
- ☐ Address
- ☐ Phone number
- ☐ Something else _____

Attempts to:

- ☐ Verbalize
- ☐ Vocalize
- ☐ Make a non-specific gesture
- ☐ Something else _____

DO:

Clear the Whiteboard by selecting File > new

DO:

Write “yes” on one side of the screen and “no” on the other.

SAY:

Do you think this could be helpful? Yes or no.

DO:

Wait* as your client

Points to:

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Something else _____

Attempts to:

- ☐ Verbalize
- ☐ Vocalize
- ☐ Make a non-specific gesture
- ☐ Something else _____

NOTES:

If your client seemed pretty comfortable with Activity 1, even if he/she made a few mistakes or you had to prompt a little, you may want to continue on to Activity 2. If he/she needed a lot of help or was unsure what to do, you might want to try a few similar activities in the context of a different topic.

Activity 2: Caregivers

In this activity, your client will have the opportunity to use a few more communication tools. Remember, you can stop if your client needs a lot of prompts or if you have all of the information you need.

DO: Swipe to the bottom of your Navigation Bar (NavBar), Select Levels > Level 3 > Done. You will see more communication tools on the Toolbar on the left side of the screen and yellow boxes on the visual scene called HotSpots. If you swipe the messages you will see more appear.

SAY: *Now let's look at another page.*

DO: Touch the Caregiver picture to open the page.

SAY: *This topic will help you talk with your family members or caregivers. It has words and phrases that will help you speak with the person that is helping you. These yellow boxes are called HotSpots. When I touch one, different messages appear under the picture. When I swipe my finger here, I see even more messages. I can really say a lot!*

Now, let's explore this page together.

DO: Select a HotSpot by touching it. Then touch a few of the messages below the caregiver picture.

SAY: *Now you try it. See what you can say.*

DO: Wait* as your client

Selects:

- ☐ HotSpots and messages independently
- ☐ With cues (type: _____)
- ☐ Something else _____

Attempts to:

- ☐ Verbalize
- ☐ Vocalize
- ☐ Make a non-specific gesture
- ☐ Something else _____

SAY: *Let's look at My Care.*

DO: Open My Care HotSpot

SAY: *Point to something that would tell me you are ready to get dressed.*

DO:

Wait* as your client

Selects:

- ☐ "Get Dressed?" independently
- ☐ With cues (type: _____)
- ☐ Something else _____

Attempts to:

- ☐ Verbalize
- ☐ Vocalize
- ☐ Make a non-specific gesture
- ☐ Something else _____

SAY:

Now, point to something that would tell me you think we might be late.

DO:

Wait* as your client

Selects:

- ☐ "Late" independently
- ☐ With cues (type: _____)
- ☐ Something else _____

Attempts to:

- ☐ Verbalize
- ☐ Vocalize
- ☐ Make a non-specific gesture
- ☐ Something else _____

SAY:

Let's find some things we might say to our caregiver to be polite. I'm going to touch this yellow HotSpot on the picture of the caregiver. Look here – the messages changed. I can even swipe my finger to see more messages.

DO:

Select the HotSpot that says "Caregiver" by touching it. Point to the buttons at the bottom of the screen to show how the messages change. Swipe up to reveal more messages.

SAY:

Tell me something you could say to your caregiver to be polite.

DO:

Wait* as your client

Selects:

- ☐ HotSpots and messages independently
- ☐ With cues (type: _____)
- ☐ Something else _____

Swipes:

- ☐ Independently
- ☐ With cues (type: _____)
- ☐ Something else _____

Attempts to:

- ☐ Verbalize
- ☐ Vocalize
- ☐ Make a non-specific gesture
- ☐ Something else _____

NOTES:

If your client seemed pretty comfortable with Activity 2, even if he/she made a few mistakes or you had to prompt a little, you may want to continue on to Activity 3. If he/she needed a lot of help or was unsure what to do, you might want to try a few similar activities in the context of a different topic.

Activity 3: Having Lunch

In this activity, your client will have the opportunity to use a few more communication tools.

Remember, you can stop if your client needs a lot of prompts or if you have all of the information you need. You do not need to show that your client has mastered the use of all parts of the Compass software. It is better to stop before the activities get too hard that they frustrate you or your client!

DO: Swipe to the bottom of your Navigation Bar (NavBar), Select Levels > Level 5 > Done. You will see more communication tools on the Toolbar on the left side of the screen and above the photograph.

SAY: *Now let's look at another page.*

DO: Touch the Lunch picture to open the page.

SAY: *You might use this page when you are having lunch. It has messages about the food and drink and messages just to chat.*

DO: Touch a few messages, select a HotSpot and select a few messages. End up on the Food and Drink HotSpot.

SAY: *Can you use this to ask me what I want to drink?*

DO: Wait* as your client

Selects:

- ☐ "Want to drink?" independently
- ☐ With cues (type: _____)
- ☐ Something else _____

Attempts to:

- ☐ Verbalize
- ☐ Vocalize
- ☐ Make a non-specific gesture
- ☐ Something else _____

SAY: *I think I would like <any drink>. What would you like to drink?*

DO:

Wait* as your client

- ☐ Searches for a button with a specific drink
- ☐ Selects keyboard on the left of the screen and tries to type
- ☐ Selects "Topic Words" or "Word Lists" to look for drinks
- ☐ Points to something in the picture

Attempts to:

- ☐ Verbalize
- ☐ Vocalize
- ☐ Make a non-specific gesture
- ☐ Something else _____

DO:

If your client chooses "Topic Words" or "Word Lists" explore a few more of the categories and talk about when you might need the words. If he/she didn't choose "Topic Words" or "Word Lists," select "Topic Words" at the top of the screen.



SAY:

Here are several words that are related to our topic of lunch, like foods, drinks, and restaurants. What would you touch to see the lists of drinks?

DO:

Wait* as your client

Selects:

- ☐ Drinks tab independently
- ☐ With cues (type: _____)
- ☐ Something else _____

Attempts to:

- ☐ Verbalize
- ☐ Vocalize
- ☐ Make a non-specific gesture
- ☐ Something else _____

SAY:

Good, now tell me what drink you would like.

DO:

Wait* as your client

Selects:

- ☐ One or two drinks independently
- ☐ With cues (type: _____)
- ☐ Something else _____

Attempts to:

- ☐ Verbalize
- ☐ Vocalize
- ☐ Make a non-specific gesture
- ☐ Something else _____

SAY:

Let's try one more thing. Let's go back to our lunch topic.

DO:

Wait* as your client

Selects:

- ☐ Lunch picture in the NavBar
- ☐ Lunch picture on the top of the Topic Words page
- ☐ With cues (type: _____)
- ☐ Something else _____

Attempts to:

- ☐ Verbalize
- ☐ Vocalize
- ☐ Make a non-specific gesture
- ☐ Something else _____

SAY:

Let's try using a script to have a conversation about lunch. This script sounds like a typical conversation. You say the white messages. I'll say the blue ones. You start.

DO:

Select the Scripts button.



DO:

Point to the white messages and then the blue messages. Then point to the first message you want your client to touch. Wait until he/she touches it independently or with your help. Continue to go back and forth in the conversation. When you select the blue messages, use your voice to say them as well as have the software speak them. Record your client's behaviors.

DO:

Wait* as your client

Selects:

- ☐ Next message and waits independently
- ☐ Next message but needs cues to pause for your response (type: _____)
- ☐ Random message and waits independently
- ☐ Random message one after another
- ☐ Something else _____

Attempts to:

- ☐ Verbalize
- ☐ Vocalize
- ☐ Make a non-specific gesture
- ☐ Something else _____

SAY:

There is so much more we could do with this to help you communicate! We are going to stop here because I have the information I need.

DO:

Complete remaining parts of the evaluation.

NOTES:

Next Steps

Have you, your client, and his/her family or caregivers decided to use the Compass software on the a T-Series device or an iPad, iPad mini, or Windows device? Congratulations! You are embarking on the path to Communication without Compromise!

Whether your client is going to download the app today or you will be completing paperwork to seek funding to purchase a T-Series device, you can continue to work to prepare your client and build communication skills. Some activities might be good candidates to complete in speech-language therapy sessions. Other activities could be done at home with family members/caregivers.



1. Visit mytobiidynavox.com to create an account. There are lots of resources you can access on **mytobiidynavox**, including:
 - A free 30-day trial of the Compass app or free editing software. Use these to familiarize yourself with more of the communication tools and features of the Compass software. With the software or app, you can continue to explore vocabulary and help your client become more comfortable with using the Compass with no delay!
 - Many, many resources, including videos, a Quick Start Guide, and Stroke & Brain Injury Therapy Plans. After using this evaluation guide, the Therapy Plans will seem familiar!
 - A community of supporters. Now, more than ever, Tobii Dynavox offers a wide range of on-line, 24/7 support. Tobii Dynavox SLPs and other team members contribute to discussions and populate the Knowledgebase entries. In addition, your peers contribute with their real-life experiences.
2. Use the Out of the Box video, training videos, and other resources to begin family education. By providing as much as you can now, your client will get off to a faster start once his/her T-Series device (or app) arrives.
3. Begin to think of 5 topics you would like to add to the Compass Software. Planning ahead will allow you to rank order topics and determine which ones will be most appropriate to start with. Note: you can see all of the available topics in Levels > Topics > Select Topics from Library in the Compass App or editing software.
4. Gather any photographs you might want to use as visual scenes (the large photographs identifying each topic) or in place of the symbols on the buttons. Of course, you can always take photographs with the built in cameras on the T-Series device once it is received.
5. Create a backup of any work you do on the 30-day free app trial or the editing software.
Why? So your client can start communicating as soon as possible!