

A STORY

Little Declan Discovers myGaze



(Image: Declan playing games with [myGaze EyeMouse Play](#))

GIVE THE CHILDREN A VOICE

Over the years I have worked with several children who have gone on to using high-tech communication. It has been very rewarding. myGaze has given children with limited movements the opportunity to access a computer that without this technology would not have been possible, especially children with poor head control.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Jennette Holden, teacher at Pendle View Primary School, therapist of Declan and Bailey.

Jeannette has 20+ years of experience in developing AAC systems to meet students' individual needs and help them communicate.

My role is AAC support - developing communication systems to meet the individual needs of the students. I have always been interested in assistive technology and believe it plays an important role in giving children a voice that they often lack.

MEET 8-YEAR-OLD DECLAN

One of the boys that I work with is Declan - a lovely 8-year-old boy. He enjoys football, computer games, watching TV and has a great sense of humour. Meanwhile he has the condition of global development delay, central hypotonia and emerging patterns of dystonia.

His condition affects his everyday life which means he needs help and support throughout his everyday activities. It is very difficult for him to access the outside world without support.

SO MUCH EASIER THAN A SWITCH

Before myGaze, Declan has accessed a computer using a switch with one switch scanning method. He is a little boy who wants to get a message across to people fast and with ease. Although he is able to use a switch well, this access method is too slow for him and limits his potential. I wanted to explore assistive technology to enable him to get his message across to others faster and easier.

myGaze has given him the opportunity to access his computer in a way which would not have been possible before. Its no-fail calibration and intuitive “glasses” positioning have taken away so much frustrations we had before and made it extremely easy for Declan to get started.



(Image: Declan using myGaze to do a painting activity in Attention & Looking)

PROGRESS AT HIS OWN PACE

Declan is a very determined little boy who works very hard to develop new skills and to be as independent as life allows him to be.

With the unique classroom features and full teacher

control, myGaze has made my interaction with Declan very natural and non-intrusive. The fact that myGaze works well with a wide range of classroom software gives Declan the opportunity to choose the same resources as his peers and to be able to progress at his own pace.

FROM SCHOOL TO HOME

Eye gaze has for long had a reputation of an expensive and complex technology but myGaze is different. School staff is not always confident with technology and some of my colleagues were first skeptical. When I however showed them how simple myGaze is to use they could immediately see the benefits it has for our children.



(Image: The intuitive positioning guide and no-fail calibration of EyeMouse Play provide easy access. [Click to watch the video](#))

The system is very easy to set up and the flexibility due to its size allows it to be attached to different computers. The affordability of myGaze in comparison to other products on the market makes it even more valuable for those parents who wish to have it for kids at home.

By Jennette Holden, December 2014



My favourite moment was watching this little boy play an activity alongside his dad. They both played the same game and for the first time in this little boy's life he was on equal footing as his dad. The opportunity provided by myGaze has made this possible.

[Click here to watch the video](#)