



# Stemma and Katie's Big guide to

## How to make it work

- ♣ Switch it on – turn the wheel to the right
- ♣ To record, press the tiny button by the volume wheel in and top at the same time.
- ♣ Speak clearly into the speaker
- ♣ Do not have the volume turned up TOO high when you record
- ♣ Take your hand off and press the coloured top to listen to what you have recorded
- ♣ Turn it off when you have finished

## If it doesn't work, check these

Is it turned on?

Is the volume turned up?

Is the battery connected

Do you need a new battery?

Check it before you start.



## People who can't talk

- ♣ if they can touch and they can't talk, you talk for them, and then they just press it.
- ♣ They are using someone else's voice to involve themselves and they are learning
- ♣ It helps them to listen to what we are talking about
- ♣ It gives them an opportunity to show what he's done. He can show me the symbol, but I can hear what he's done
- ♣ You can tell others what you have done even if you can't talk
- ♣ It gives people ideas
- ♣ Even if people can't hear it is good because it vibrates.



## For people who can talk

- ♣ It's important because staff then can hear
- ♣ They can talk for people who can't talk
- ♣ It's good fun
- ♣ People will feel left out if they don't have a go
- ♣ Staff need to use it too!  
It's very satisfying

# Ideas for using a big mack

You can put symbols or names on under the clear plastic cover

When you tell a story

Put scenic noises on – like wind chimes, waterfall, wind, music, birds, animal noises, whistling

Put messages on for people to tell their family (eg on the phone or when they come in to visit).

There was a person who couldn't talk and to get my attention she would use a rolling pin to hit me. Really if they used the big Mack she'd be able to get attention.

People can

Ask for things

Say what they have been doing

Tell people what to do

Say hallo and goodbye

Tell a joke

Sing a song

Pay a compliment

Say Happy Birthday

Say sorry

Ask a question

Answer a question

Say yes or no to join in a discussion

Give an opinion

Say thank you

You can also use the big mac as a switch to operate machines and equipment

There is a great site called *101 uses for a Big Mack*.

<http://www.cesa7.org/assistivetech/documents/101usesBigMack.pdf>

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