# PECS® IV+
## Getting Started

Designed for a *stress-free* transition from traditional PECS® to a tablet-based communication
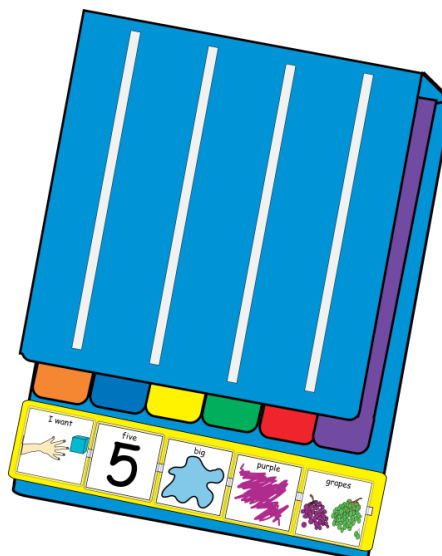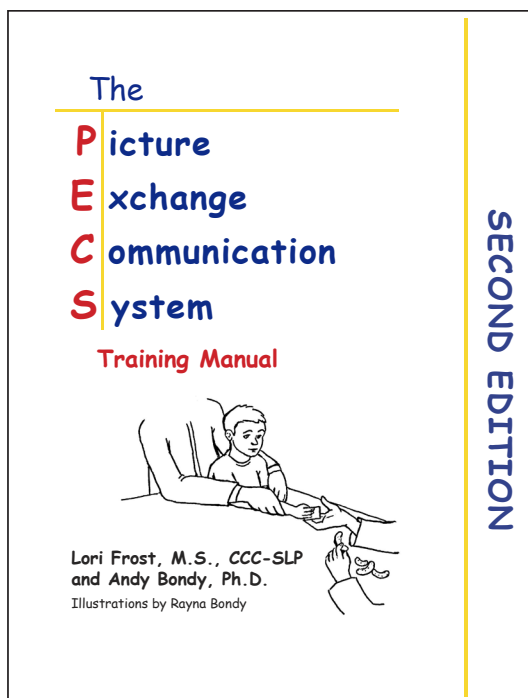
# PECS® IV+

PECS IV+ is the solution for transitioning from PECS to high-tech AAC. For learners who have mastered Phases I through IV of the Picture Exchange Communication System® using traditional PECS books, PECS IV+ is the high-tech next step! From Pyramid Educational Consultants, the developers of the evidence-based and world-renowned PECS®, PECS IV+ allows users to construct a multi-picture Sentence Strip™ via a dedicated Sentence Starter™ page and up to 20 digital PECS book pages for the in-app voice to speak.

## Some words of caution

Pyramid Educational Consultants does **not** recommend starting functional communication intervention with an app or a speech generating device because these high-tech options do NOT require the social interaction that is crucial to communication and is the cornerstone of the Picture Exchange Communication System. When starting functional communication training, start with a traditional low-tech PECS Communication Book using the evidence-based protocol from *The Picture Exchange Communication System Training Manual, 2nd Edition* by Frost and Bondy.
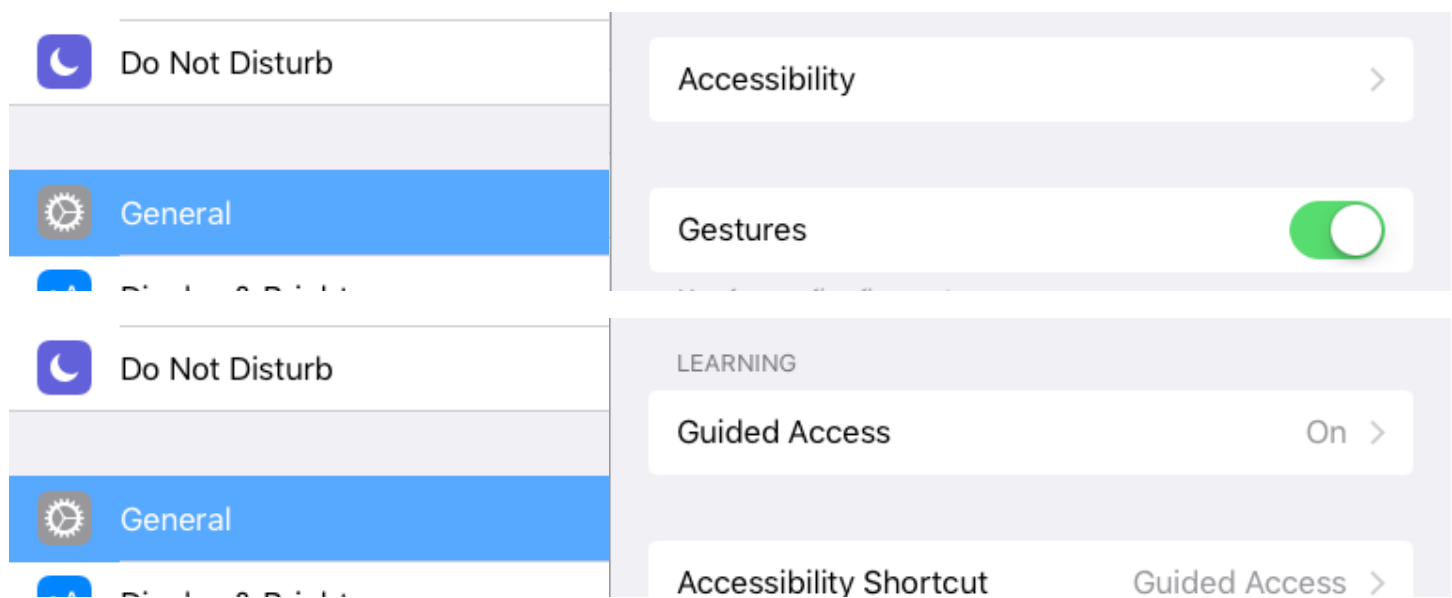
# Using an App for Communication
## *Guided Access*

PECS IV+ is available for iPad® and iPad mini™. When using an iPad with PECS IV+ for communication, we recommend putting your iPad in Guided Access. This restricts use of the iPad to a designated app (PECS IV+) and disables hardware buttons. Exiting Guided Access to access other apps can only be accomplished using a 4-digit code.

To enable Guided Access on the home screen of your iPad, select the *Settings* app, then tap *General > Accessibility > Guided Access*.



1. Toggle **Guided Access** on
2. Select a **Passcode**
3. Add **time limit** warning sounds or speech if you will be setting time limits.
4. Toggle **Accessibility Shortcut** to **On** so you can triple-click the Home button to enter Guided Access from within any app. This step is not mandatory.

# To use Guided Access

1. Launch PECS IV+
2. Triple-click on the iPad Home button.
3. Circle areas of the screen to limit access to those functions (if any).
4. Tap on **Option** in the bottom left to choose whether or not to grant access to Sleep/Wake, Volume, touch screen and motion. Tap **Done**.
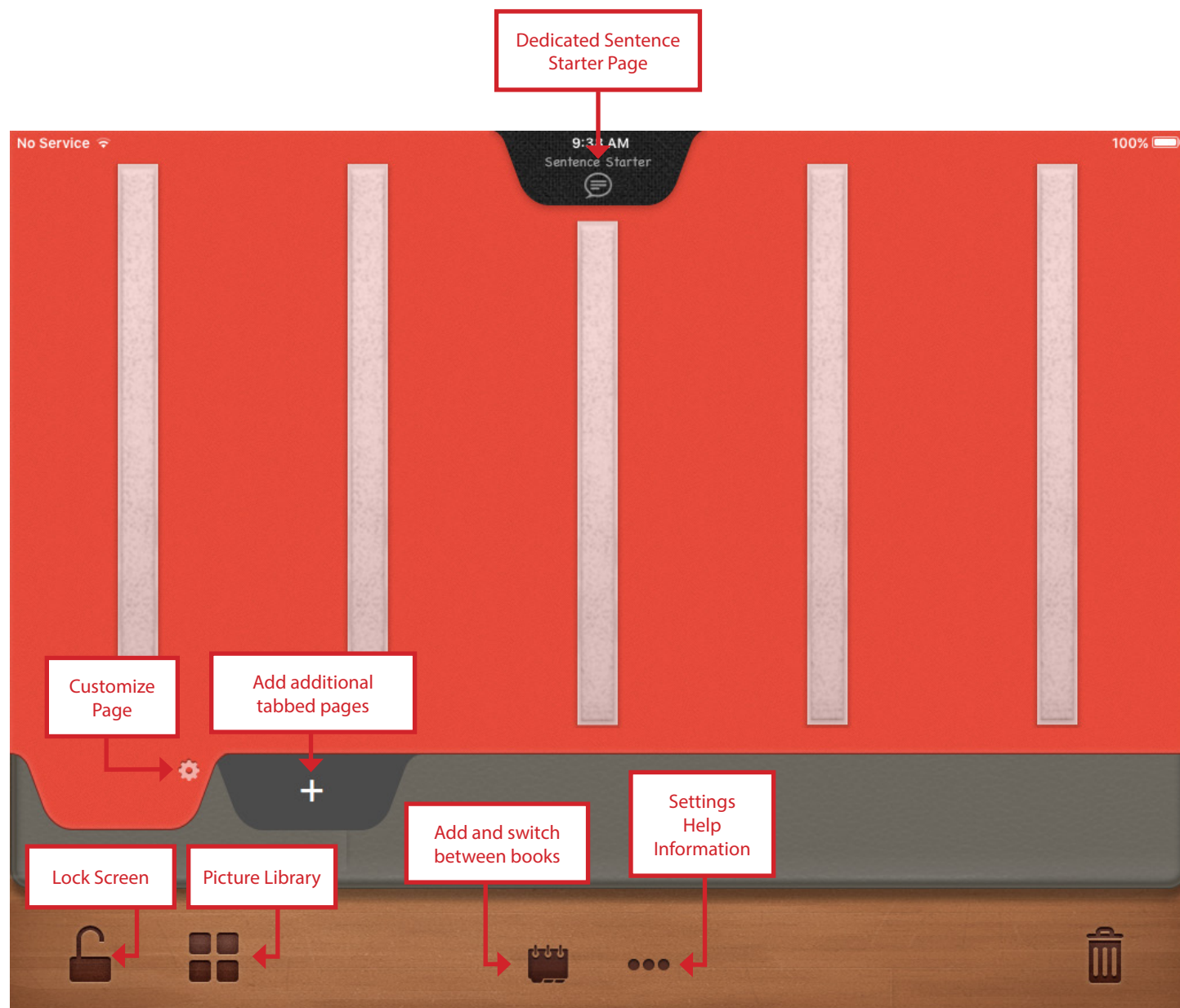
Once Guided Access is enabled, pushing the home button to leave the app will open a banner indicating that the app is in Guided Access. Leaving Guided Access requires triple tapping the home button and entering the 4-digit passcode.
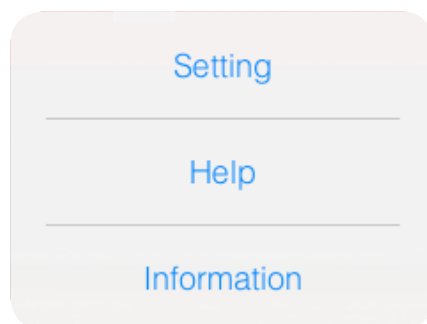
# The Opening Screen

When you open the app for the first time, the PECS book will be blank. This is so that you can build a book identical to your student's traditional PECS book. Tap on the **Book** icon to create your student's book.

Use the back-up feature of your iPad to back-up settings and vocabulary selected in this app.



Dedicated Sentence Starter Page

Customize Page

Add additional tabbed pages

Add and switch between books

Settings Help Information

Lock Screen

Picture Library

# Settings • Help • Information
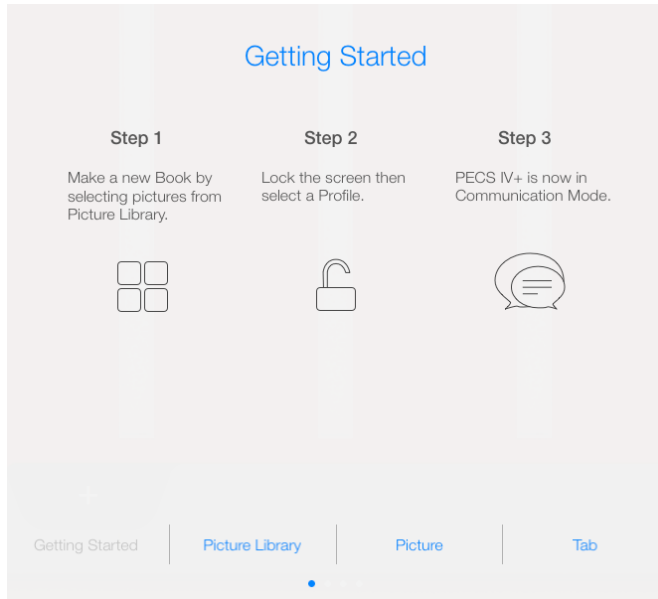
Setting

Help

Information

## Settings

General Setting

Pictures Snap to Strip

Automatically align the pictures with VELCRO® strips

Lock Screen Orientation

Lock Screen orientation to Landscape mode

Use Keypad to Unlock Editing

Make Keypad UNLOCK function available

Picture Library Language  English

Choose a language for pictures and speech

General Setting  Picture Library Language

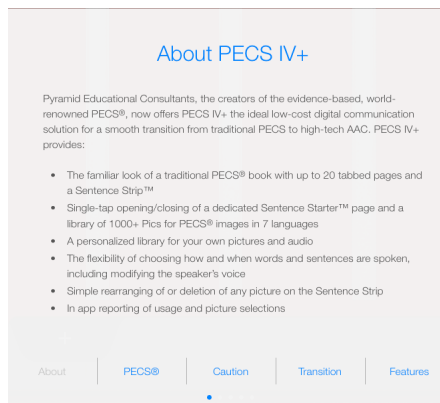English ✓

British English

Español

Français

Deutsch

Ελληνικά

日本語

# Help

### Getting Started

**Step 1**

Make a new Book by selecting pictures from Picture Library.

**Step 2**

Lock the screen then select a Profile.

**Step 3**

PECS IV+ is now in Communication Mode.

Getting Started | Picture Library | Picture | Tab

Toggle between different pages for helpful hints for using the app.

# Information

### About PECS IV+

Pyramid Educational Consultants, the creators of the evidence-based, world-renowned PECS®, now offers PECS IV+ the ideal low-cost digital communication solution for a smooth transition from traditional PECS to high-tech AAC. PECS IV+ provides:

- The familiar look of a traditional PECS® book with up to 20 tabbed pages and a Sentence Strip™
- Single-tap opening/closing of a dedicated Sentence Starter™ page and a library of 1000+ Pics for PECS® images in 7 languages
- A personalized library for your own pictures and audio
- The flexibility of choosing how and when words and sentences are spoken, including modifying the speaker's voice
- Simple rearranging of or deletion of any picture on the Sentence Strip
- In app reporting of usage and picture selections

About | PECS® | Caution | Transition | Features

Toggle between pages to read about PECS IV+ or PECS

### Caution

Pyramid Educational Consultants does not recommend starting functional communication intervention with an app or a speech generating device because these high-tech options do NOT require the social interaction that is crucial to communication and is the cornerstone of the Picture Exchange Communication System®. When starting functional communication training, start with a traditional PECS® Communication Book.

About | PECS® | Caution | Transition | Features

A caution on using PECS IV+ only after students have mastered Phases I-IV of traditional PECS

### Special Features

The PECS IV+ default settings provide an easy, streamlined experience with multiple options to customize every aspect of the digital PECS® book, including:

- The look and layout of each book, with up to 20 tabbed pages per book (and up to 24 pictures per page)
- The use of text above or below pictures, or pictures alone
- The picture selection method: tap, drag, or both
- The visibility of Sentence Starter™ page
- How to clear pictures from the Sentence Strip™
- When the audio plays, such as when a picture is touched, after a brief delay, when it's on the Sentence Strip™, or after the sentence is constructed and ready to be read
- The direction of the Sentence Strip™ audio (from left to right or right to left)

About | PECS® | Caution | Transition | Features

A description of several unique features of PECS IV+

# Add and switch between books

To begin creating your student's PECS IV+ book, tap **New Book** and give the book a name.
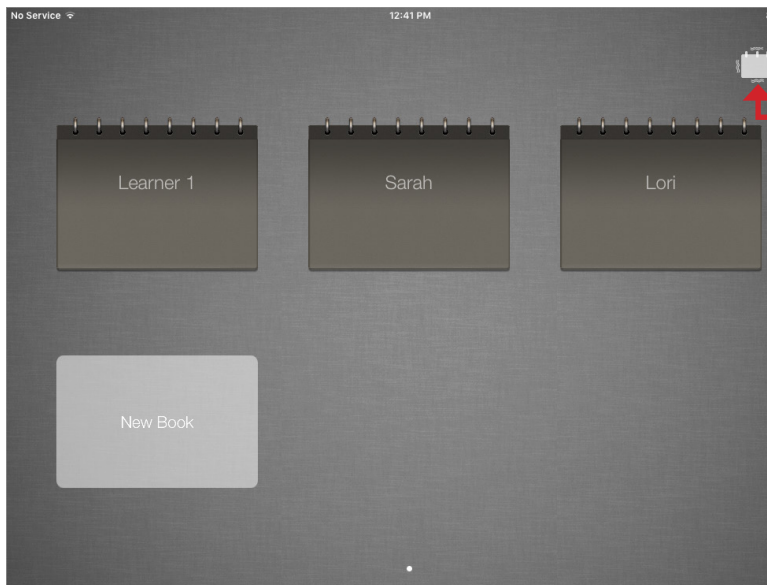


Each book holds 20 pages with up to 24 pictures per page. If your student requires additional pages, create additional books.

To delete a book, hold button and follow on-screen prompts.

# Picture Library

To begin adding pictures to your student's book, open the library and choose images from the Sentence Starter folder, the Pics for PECS library or add pictures from your own library to the customizable User Library.
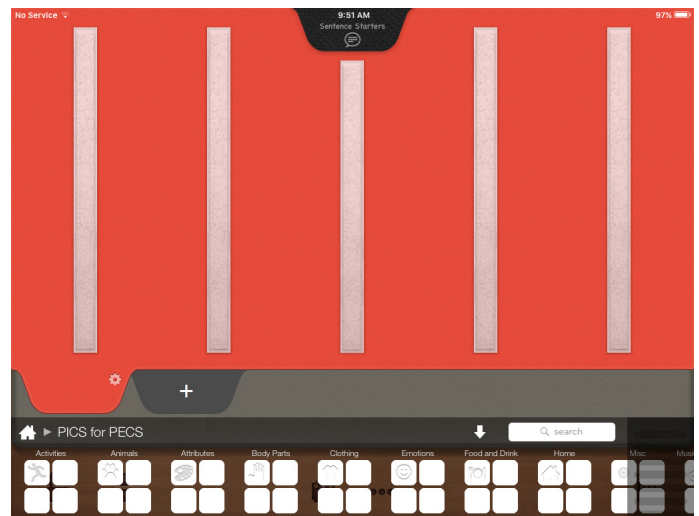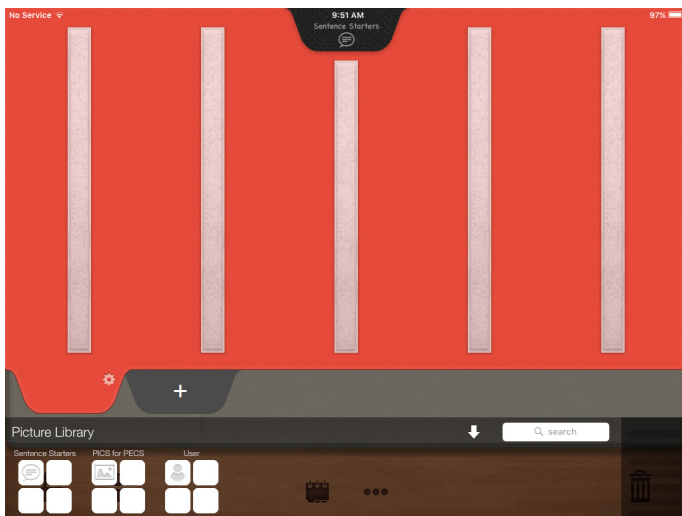
First create your student's Sentence Starter page. Tap or drag and drop a picture onto the dedicated Sentence Starter page.

# Add Additional tabbed pages



Add pages to the book and continue adding pictures by dragging pictures from the library onto the desired page.

# Customize a page

To customize a page, click on the **Gear** icon on the tab. Choose the number of VELCRO® strips, color of page, and/or icon for tab.
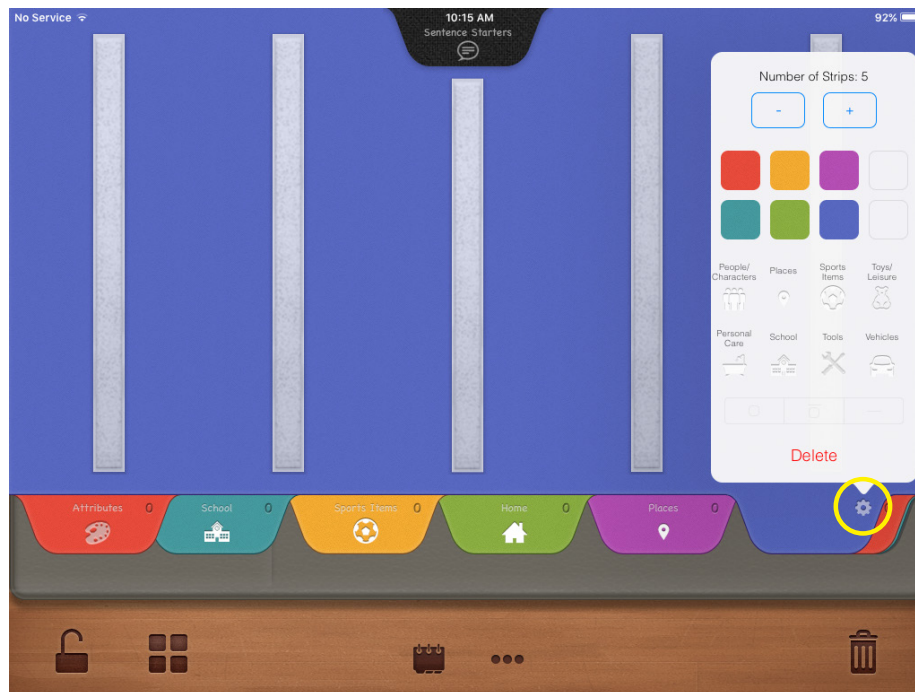


Create and customize up to 20 pages per book with up to 24 pictures per page. The number on each tab represents the number of pictures on that page. To rearrange pages, hold a tab and drag to the new location.
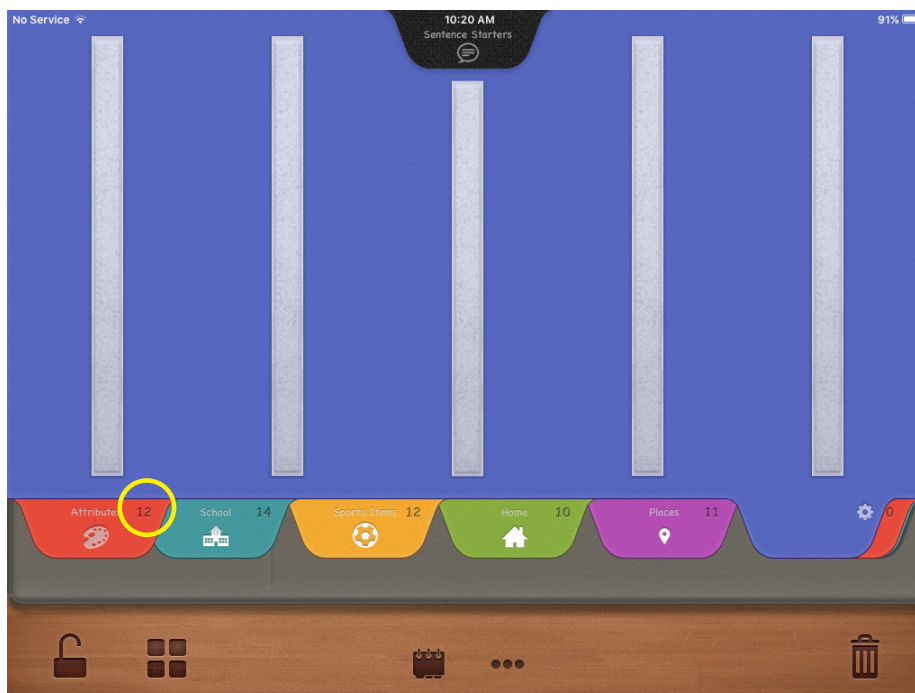
# Begin Communication Mode

Once you have created your PECS book, you are ready to start teaching your student to use PECS IV+ to communicate! Please visit **www.pecs.com** for more information on transitioning from PECS to PECS IV+.

To begin Communication Mode, click on the **Lock** icon and choose a profile. This profile will determine how your student moves pictures from a PECS book page to the Sentence Strip. Additional features are available when you create a Custom Profile.
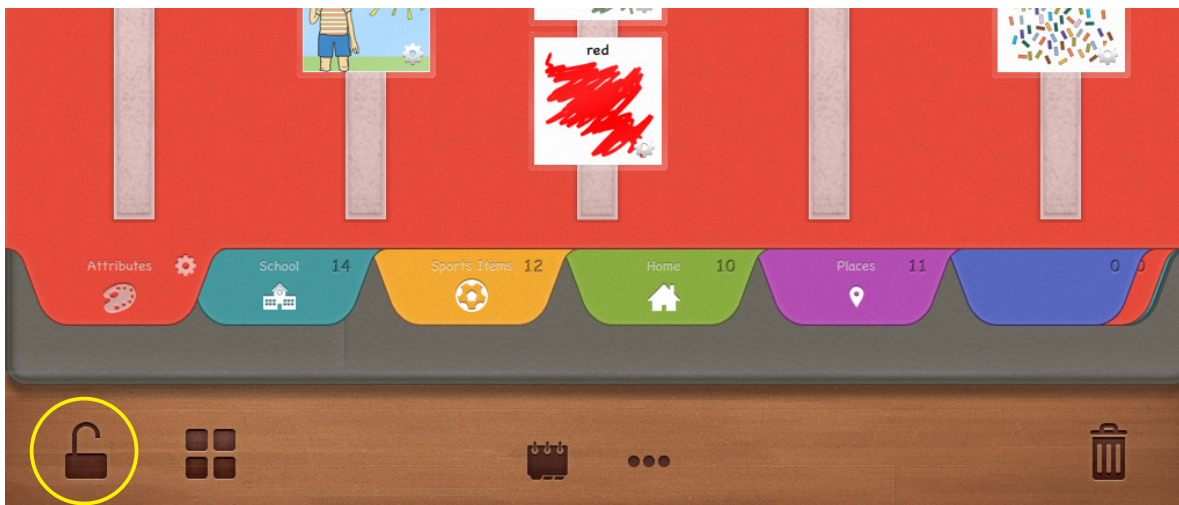


Choose an included profile or create your own profile.
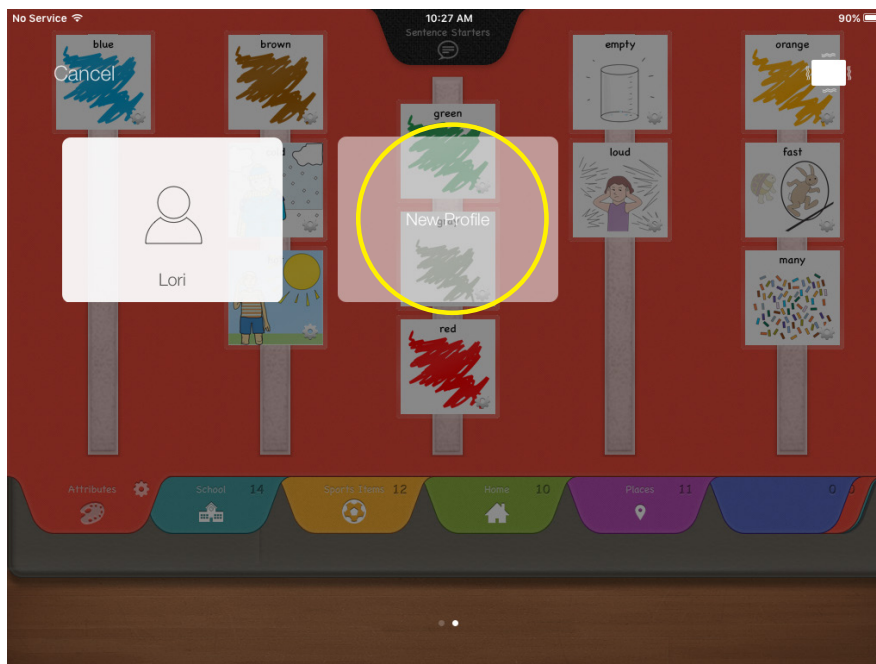
# Create a Custom Profile



**Selection Method**
- Student drags picture to Sentence Strip.
- Student taps picture to move it to Sentence Strip.
- Either option.

**Number of taps to reset pictures**
Choose how many taps on **Clear** button to clear the Sentence Strip.

**Shake to reset**
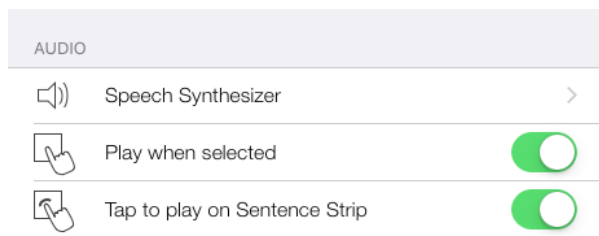Toggle on or off. Student can either clear Sentence Strip by tapping **Clear** button or by shaking the device.

**Hide Sentence Strip Page after selection**
Toggle on or off.
In the **On** position, once the student moves a picture from the Sentence Starter page to the Sentence Strip, the Sentence Starter Page automatically closes.
In the **Off** position, the student must manually close the Sentence Starter Page by tapping the tab.

## Speech Synthesizer

Choose language

## Play when selected

Toggle on or off.
In the **On** position, each picture is spoken as the student moves it to the Sentence Strip.
In the **Off** position, pictures are not spoken until the student selects the **Speak** button.

## Tap to play on Sentence Strip

Toggle on or off.
In the **On** position, student can tap each picture on the Sentence Strip to speak that picture.
In the **Off** position, the student's picture will not be spoken as the student taps.

## Position

Toggle on or off.
In the **On** position, pictures can be rearranged on tabbed pages.
In the **Off** position, pictures cannot be rearranged on tabbed pages.

## Size

Toggle on or off.
In the **On** position, pictures can be resizes on tabbed pages.
In the **Off** position, pictures cannot be resized on tabbed pages.

## Read text at bottom if exists

Toggle on or off to read text added to bottom of each picture.
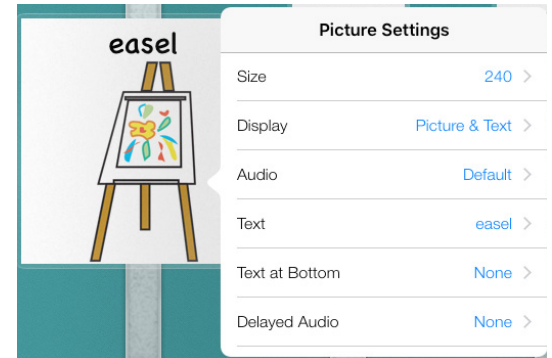
## Read from right

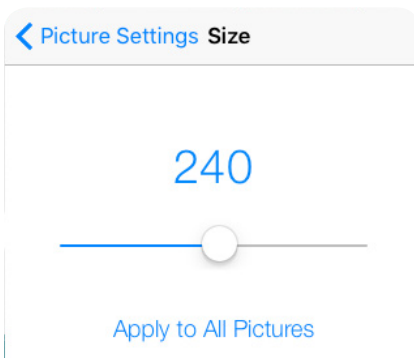Toggle on to read Sentence Strip from right to left.
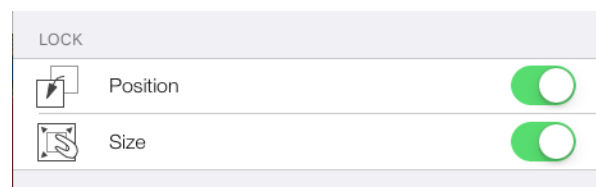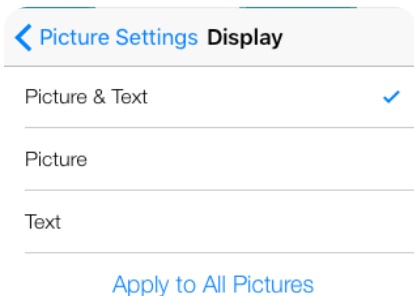
# Customize Pictures



Tap the **Gear** icon in the corner of the picture to customize.
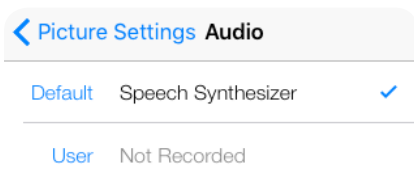


## Customization Options



Slide to increase or decrease the **size** of a picture. Choose to apply to a single picture or all pictures in the PECS book.
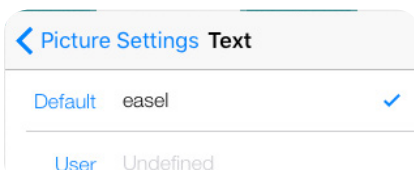


Choose to **display**:
- Picture & Text
- Picture only
- Text only



**Audio**

**Default:** Speech Synthesizer will speak the text

**User:** Record your own text to speak



**Text** for top line of picture

Choose default text or create your own for the app to read.

Default    None    ✓

User    Undefined

British English    easel

Español    caballete

Français    chevalet

Deutsch    Staffelei

Add a line of **text to the bottom** of the picture by creating your own label or by choosing from additional languages.

Picture Settings **Delayed Audio**

0.0

A delayed audio works as a delayed prompt during communication. When a student taps the picture, the audio starts after the time delay specified here.

Choose to use the **Delayed Audio** feature by setting delay length. The Delayed Audio feature incorporates the Constant Time delay strategy used within the PECS protocol to encourage the student to speak.

easel

Picture Settings **Delayed Audio**

4.0

A delayed audio works as a delayed prompt during communication. When a student taps the picture, the audio starts after the time delay specified here.
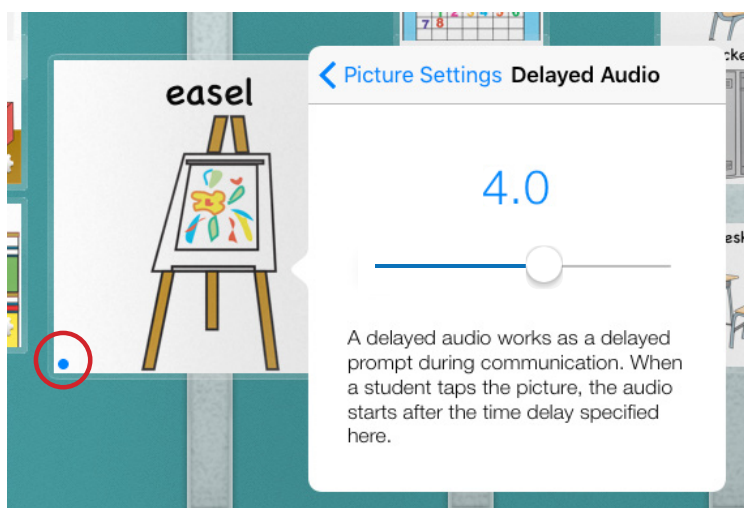
When selected for a specific picture, a blue dot will appear in the lower left corner of that symbol. Select this feature for each picture the student has learned to speak.
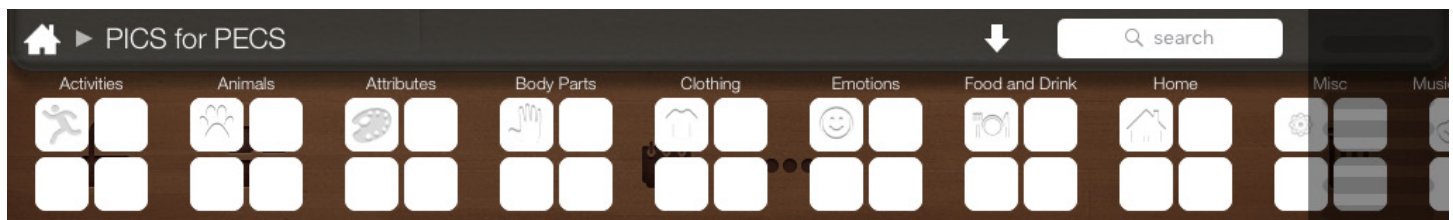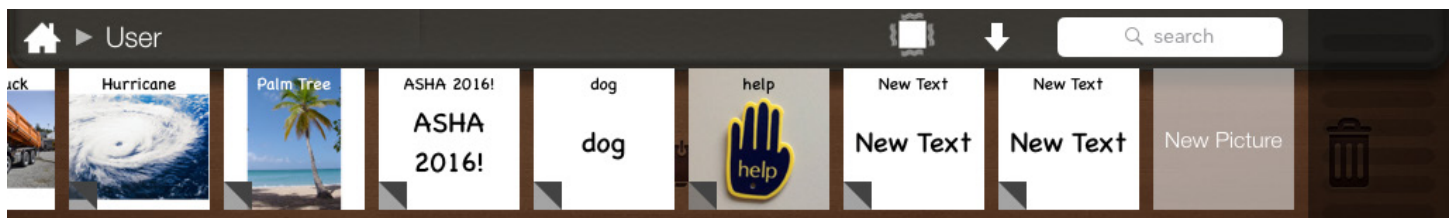
# Picture Libraries
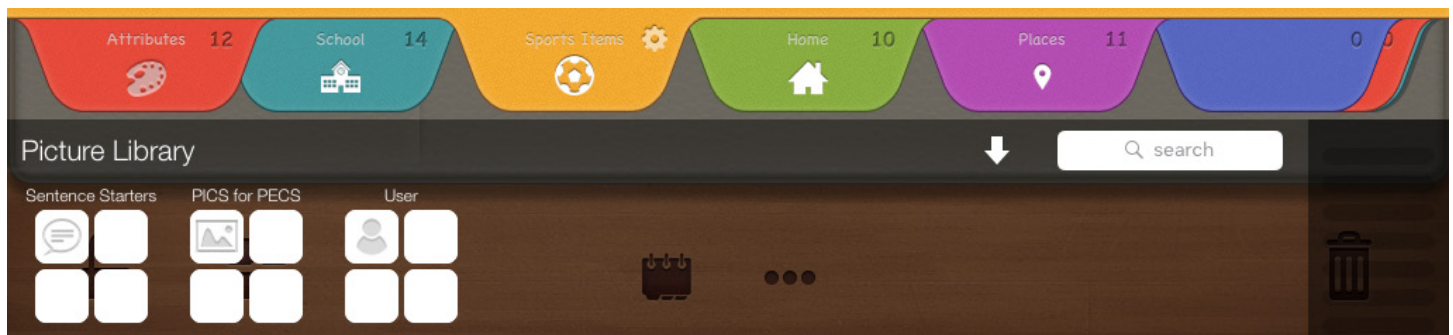


Choose from 3 libraries: **Sentence Starters**, **Pics for PECS**, **User**



Choose from any of the 31 Pics for PECS images from the **Sentence Starters Library** to add to the dedicated Sentence Starter Page.
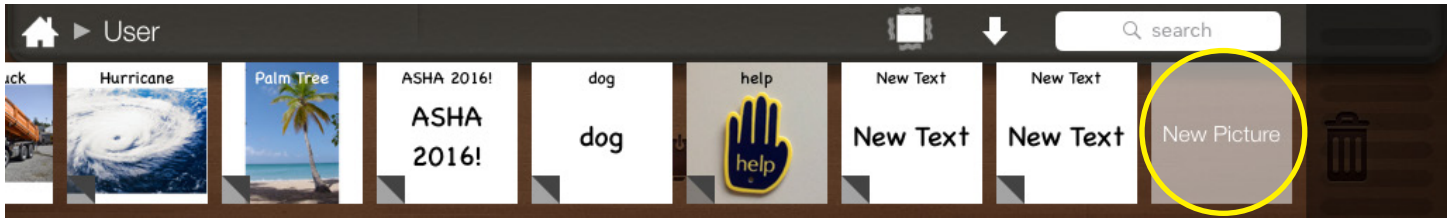


Open a folder within the **Pics for PECS Library** and choose pictures to replicate those in your student's **PECS Book**.
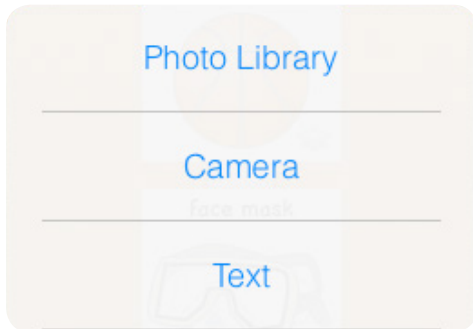


Add and customize pictures to your **User Library.**

# The User Library



To add pictures to your User Library, tap **New Picture**.
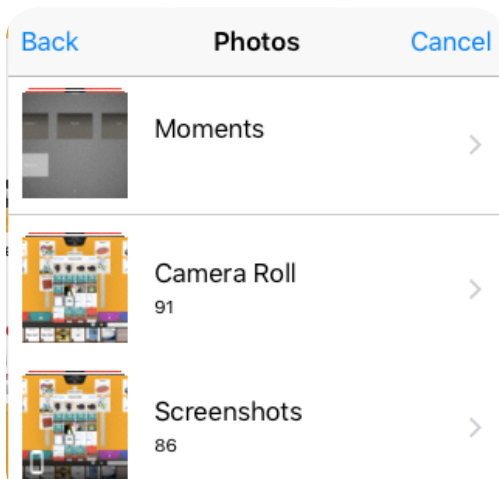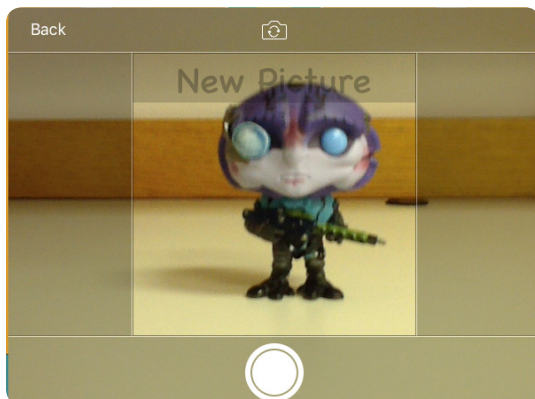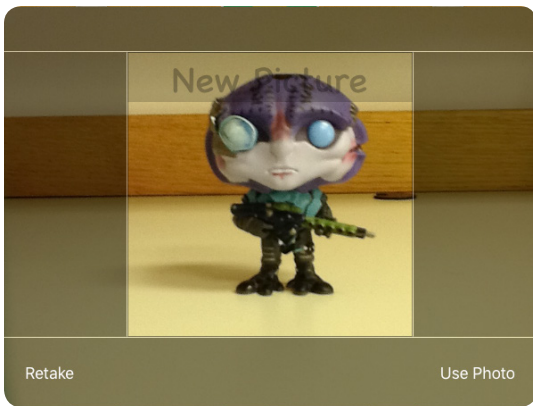


Choose any option.



**Photo Library option**
Choose **Photo Library** to open the photo library within your device.
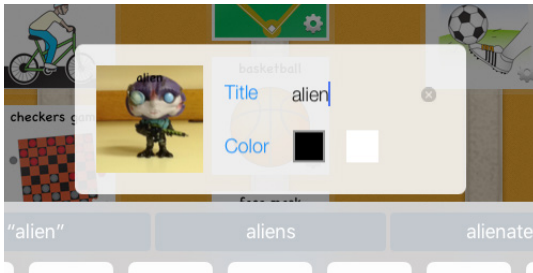


**Camera option**
To take a new picture, choose **Camera**. If prompted to allow PECS IV+ to access your iPad's camera, select **OK**. Take a picture of the new item and choose **Retake** or **Use Photo**.

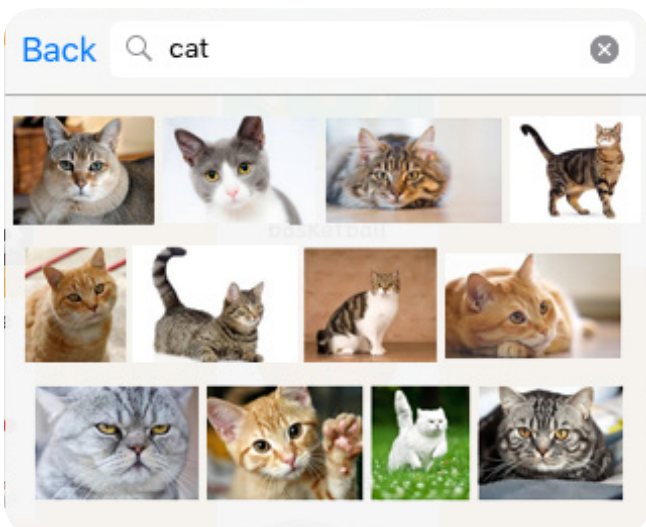Use 2 fingers to scale or rotate the picture. Drag the picture into the square frame and select **DONE**.



Give your picture a title and choose the color for the text. This will be the word spoken by the synthesized speech.
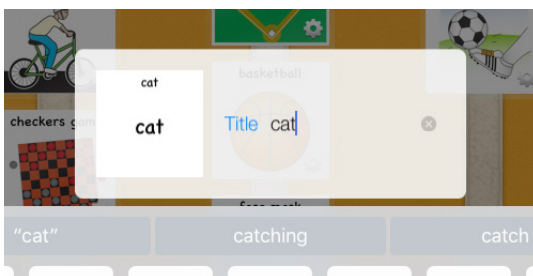


**Text Option**
To create a text-only symbol, Tap **TEXT** and enter the text.



**Additional Option for Web Images**
1.      Close the app and open Safari.
2.      Search for the necessary image via Safari.
3.      Once you locate the desired image, take a screen shot of the image using your device. The screen shot should now be accessible via your camera roll.
4.      Open the app and import the image via the import from photo library feature.
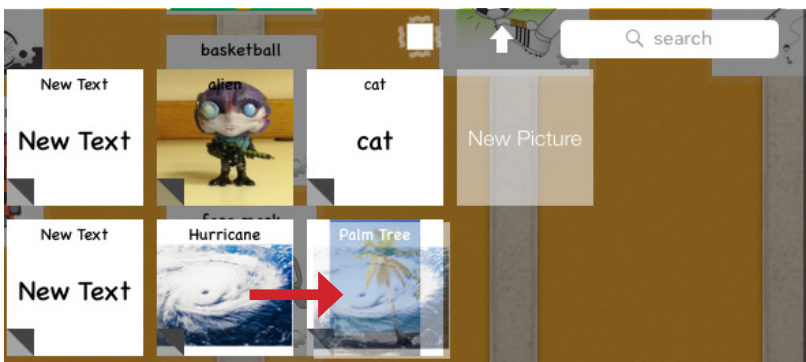
# Customize User Pictures and Library
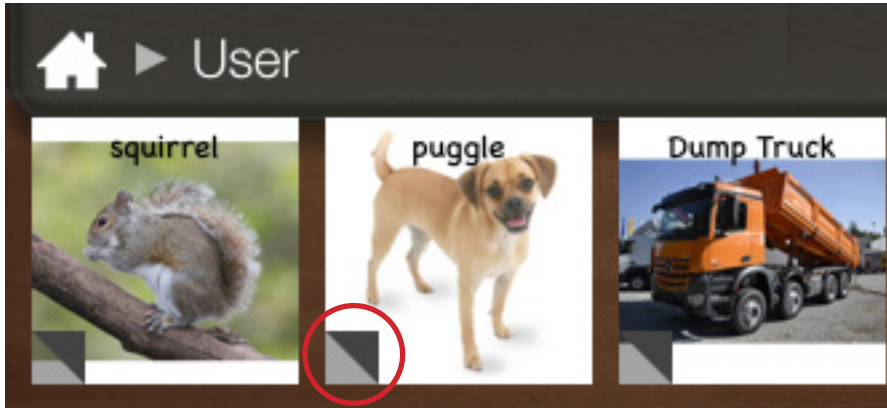


Tap the gray/black box in the lower left corner of pictures in your User Library to **edit the text** on the picture.
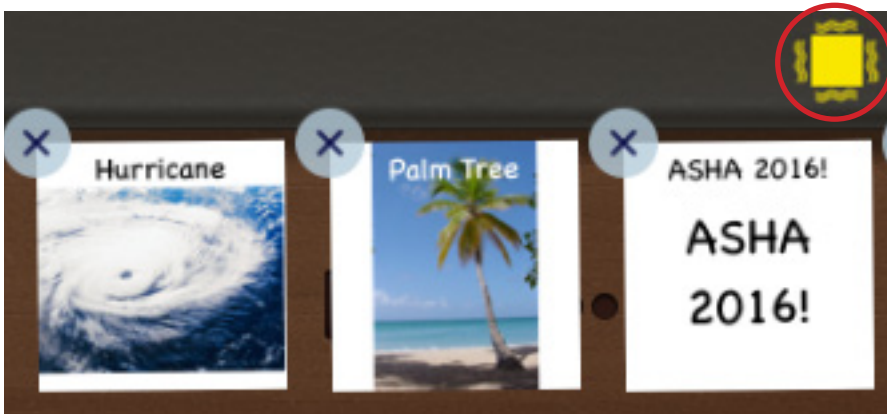


Tap the **EDIT** button and tap **X** to delete a picture. The trash can will explode when the picture is deleted.



To **create a folder** in the User Library, while in edit mode drag a picture onto another picture. Hold the picture on top of the other picture until the timer-circle has completed its cycle.
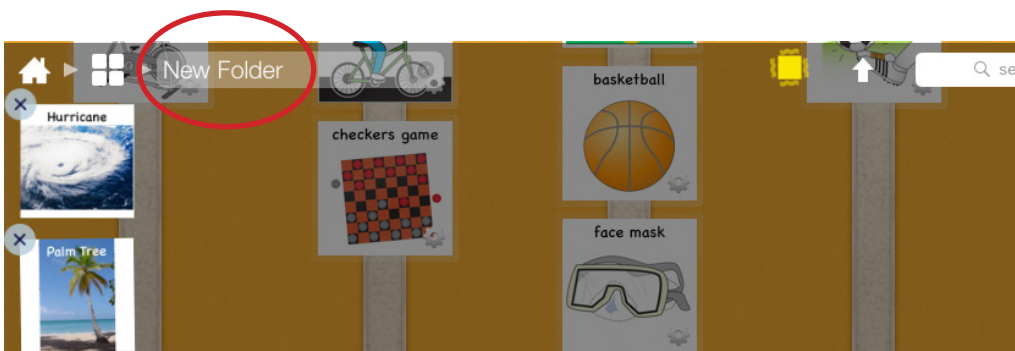


Give the folder a new name.

# Communication Mode



Teach your student to use the app for communication! Because the digital PECS book you have created looks just like your student's traditional PECS book, the only skills to teach your student are:

**1.** To open the Sentence Starter page by tapping the black tab.

**2.** To drag or drop a picture onto the Sentence Strip.

**3.** Open a tabbed page containing the pictures to add the Sentence Strip and drag or drop a picture onto the Sentence Strip.

**4.** Read the Sentence Strip, either by tapping each picture to speak or by tapping the **Speak** button (depending on what is selected in your profile).

**5.** Clear the Sentence Strip by

   **1.** Swiping individual pictures back towards the book. They will be moved back to their correct tabbed page.

   **2.** Shaking the iPad if this option is selected in your profile.

   **3.** Tapping the **Clear** button.

PECS IV+ provides visual cues for these skills.



As each picture is touched, it is highlighted with a yellow frame.

The yellow frame remains while the picture is being dragged.
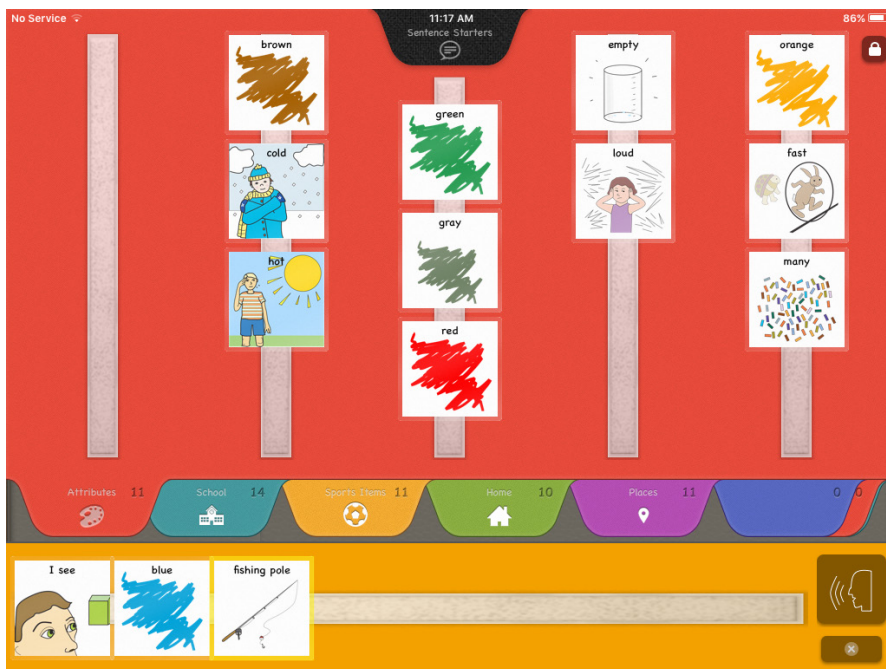


As each picture is touched or spoken on the Sentence Strip, the yellow frame highlights the picture.

# Social Interaction

Within the PECS protocol, placing a picture in the hand of the Communicative Partner assures an interaction. When using an app on a tablet, tapping a picture or the **Speak** button does not assure an interaction between the user and the Communicate Partner has taken place. Therefore, if there is no evidence of an interaction, identify a behavior which guarantees that the Communicative Partner is attending to the user. These would include:

1. Tapping the Communicative Partner.
2. Bringing the tablet to the Communicative Partner before activating the **Speak** function.
3. Waiting for the Communicative Partner to approach.
4. Calling the Communicative Partner. You can create a call feature within PECS IV+ by adding Communicative Partner names, etc.
5. Repeating the message if the Communicative Partner does not respond.

# Error Correction

Within the PECS protocol, we use two types of error correction procedures. These procedures are described in *The Picture Exchange Communication System Training Manual, 2nd Edition*.

1. For sequential lessons such as arranging pictures in the correct order on the Sentence Strip, we use a Backstep Error Correction Procedure.
2. For discrete lessons such as choosing the correct picture to add to the Sentence Strip, we use a 4-Step Error Correction Procedure. To assess correct picture selection conduct periodic Correspondence Checks.

If your student arranges pictures in the wrong order on the Sentence Strip, PECS IV+ allows an easy method for correcting this. Simply touch and drag a picture to its correct location on the Sentence Strip!

**PYRAMID** EDUCATIONAL CONSULTANTS

Pyramid Educational Consultants

**www.pecs.com**