

Program Remote Controlled Toys for AAC Activation



Overview

Learn how to program a high tech AAC device to activate a toy, using infrared radiation (IR) control. This is ideal for children who:

- ▶ Have poor motor skills and need larger target areas,
- ▶ Use alternative activation method(s) such as eye gaze, or
- ▶ Respond better to physical toys when learning AAC.

In this tutorial, Smartbox Grid 3 on EyeTech's EyeOn Elite device is being used. If using different software, such as Tobii Dynavox, programming for IR toys is still possible! Please visit the company's website and search for "environmental controls."

Tips & Tricks

- ▶ Not all toy companies are forthcoming regarding whether a remote is using radio frequency (RF) or infrared radiation (IR) controllers. One trick is that RF controllers *usually* have an antenna, while IR controllers *usually* have a light on the front. But we always recommend buying toys that are **returnable** just in case!
- ▶ During the programming process, it is highly recommended to **save frequently** (Ctrl+S).

Step by Step Instructions

Before starting, open to your preferred Grid Page within Grid 3, and have the IR remote on hand. When ready, follow the instructions below.

1. At the top left, click on the *Menu > Edit Grid*.
2. Click on an empty cell and then select "Create Cell" on the left.
3. In the pop-up window, double click on "Jump," then "Jump to."
4. Select a page that you want to copy > double click "Copy Grid" > name the new page > click "OK."

Materials

- High Tech AAC Device with IR Environmental Control Capabilities
- Toy with IR Remote

Keyboard Shortcuts

F2	Change Label
F3	Find Picture
Ctrl+F	Follow Jump
Ctrl+C	Copy
Ctrl+V	Paste
Ctrl+S	Save

Other Resources

Tobii Dynavox: Bordermaker

A powerful special education tool for creating custom teaching materials, with access to 40,000+ PCS®. Visit the link below for more information.
us.tobiidynavox.com/pages/boardmaker-7

Smartbox Grid 3 (Software)

www.thinksmartbox.com

EyeTech: EyeOn Elite (Device)

www.eyetechds.com

Copyright Notice

PCS is a trademark of Tobii Dynavox LLC. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

5. Back in the main editing window, make any desired adjustments to the cell, such as style, change label, find picture and/or resize the cell.
6. Under the *Commands* column (far left), click “Follow Jump.” Grid 3 will jump to the newly created Grid Page.
7. Decide which existing *Command Cell* has the properties you want to keep and then delete all redundant cells (i.e. cells that will not be used).
8. Click on the remaining Command Cell. Then, under *Commands*, click “Add Command.”
9. In the pop-up window, push the Back arrow to return to the main screen. Then scroll down and double click on “Environmental controls” > scroll down again and double click “Infrared.”
10. Within the *Learn infrared* window, follow the prompts while holding the IR remote two inches from the AAC device’s IR receiver. Be sure to have the toy turned off to reduce interference. Once the remote has been learned, Grid 3 will return to the main editing screen.
11. Edit the selected cell to reflect the nearly learned remote action. For example, if programming a “dance” command, change the cell’s label to “dance” and the picture accordingly.
12. Remember to save (Ctrl+S) frequently!
13. Copy the edited cell and paste into a blank cell.
14. With the newly pasted cell selected, click on “Learn” under *Commands* > Infrared. Then repeat steps 10 through 12 above.
15. When all desired IR commands have been completed, click “Finish Editing” at the top left. Select “Yes” to save.
16. Turn on the toy and test each of the commands to ensure they were programmed correctly. Occasionally, an IR command will not register. If that happens, just go back into editing and follow steps 10 through 12 again for that particular cell.

We hope this tutorial helps you and your loved one to live well and thrive!

Contact Info

If you have any questions or comments, please reach out to us.

Email: Carethriving@gmail.com

Web: www.carethriving.com or

www.youtube.com/@carethriving