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1. Introduction to ChatAble

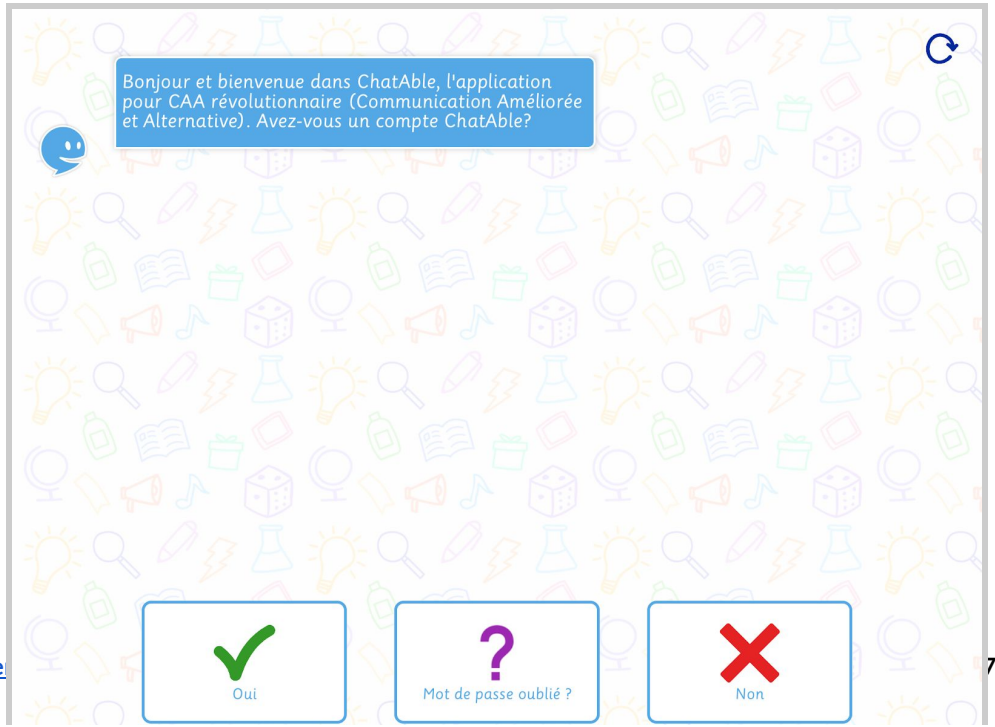
ChatAble 3 is the latest iteration of Therapy Box's grid & scene communication app: packed with a ton of features to make the app a more comprehensive AAC solution, and easier to edit as well.

ChatAble is designed for people with autism, cerebral palsy, aphasia and a range of users who require aided communication. We've tried to make ChatAble as simple to use as possible, whilst retaining maximum custom usability, and having the capacity for any size of vocabulary.

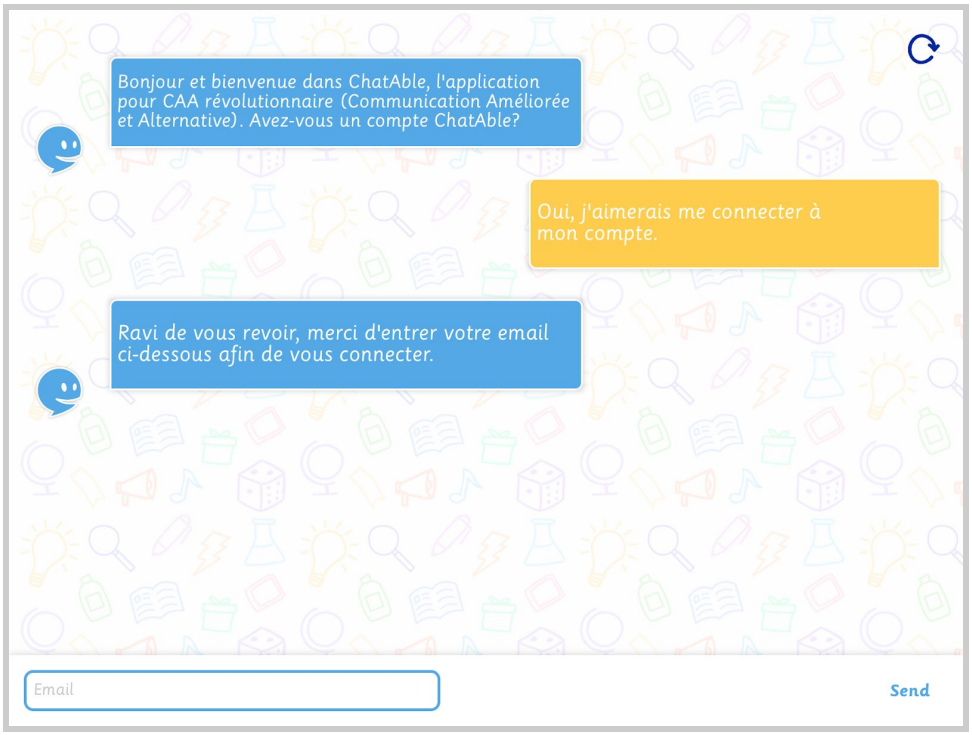
2. ChatAble 3 quick setup

Get started in ChatAble with our chatbot. We will guide you through the process of logging in to an existing account, or signing up for a new account. An online account has a number of benefits: it's easy to transfer content between multiple devices and it makes your content much safer if you lose your iPad or if you need to uninstall for any reason (as it will be saved on your cloud account, even when it isn't on a physical device. If you don't want to create an account, you can choose to use guest mode. Guest mode doesn't require an internet connection to get set up.

You have three options upon setup in ChatAble. You are able to log in to a current account, create a new account or use the guest mode. The ChatBot helps you get set up quickly!

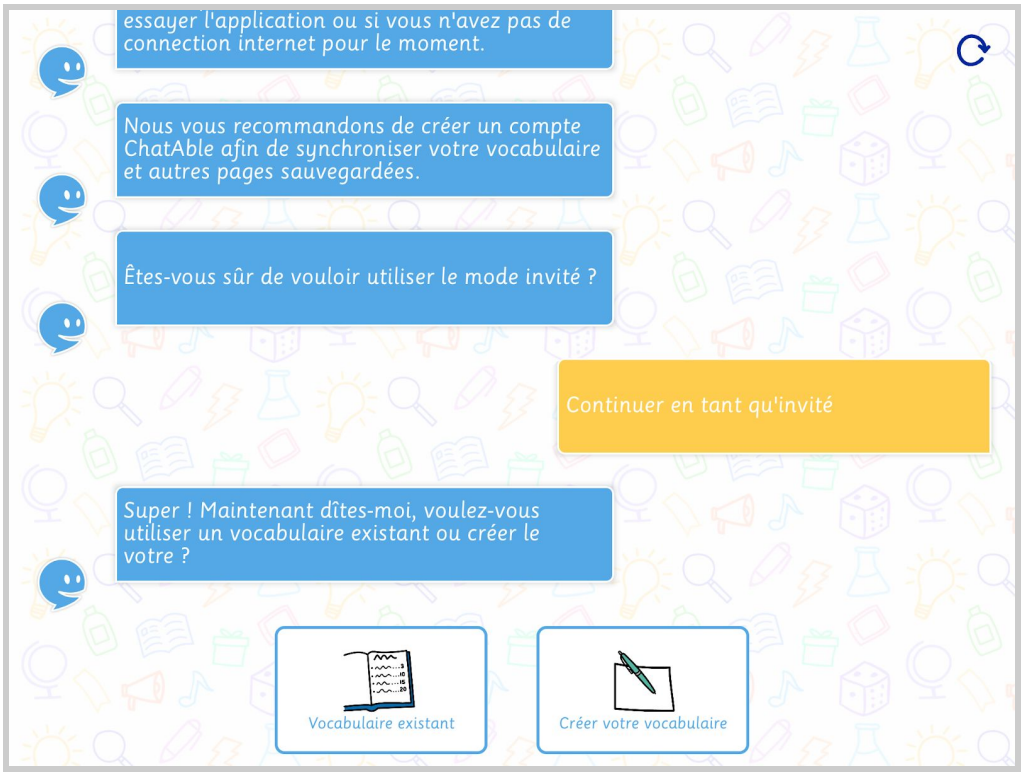


If you already have a ChatAble account you can log in



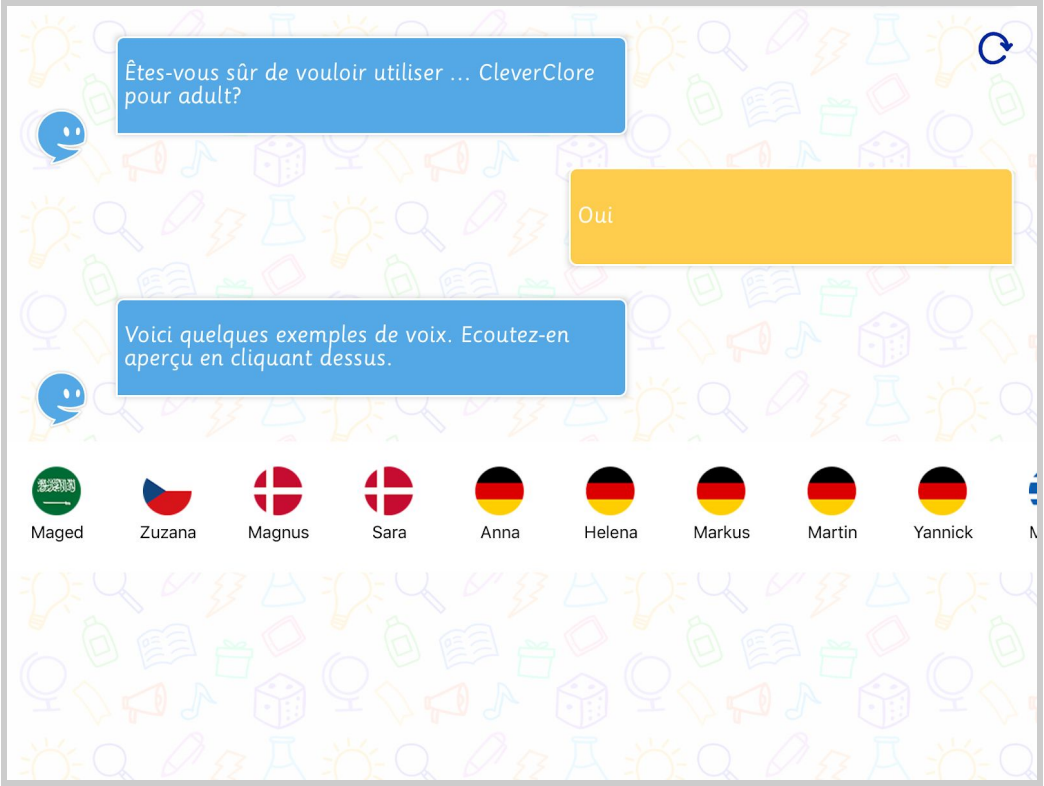
If you do not have a ChatAble account you can register or use Guest Mode. For both of the options simply follow what the ChatBot says.

After you login you can choose which vocabulary set you'd like (choose from: Clever Core for Kids, Clever Core for Teens, Clever Core for Adults) or start with a blank app and build your own vocabulary from the foundation up.



The Clever Core vocabulary has 3 versions to best fit your communication level. Tap the level you want to use, then tap the forward arrow to move on.

The next step is to choose your voice.



You can change your voice whenever you want by going into the “Voice” section within Settings.

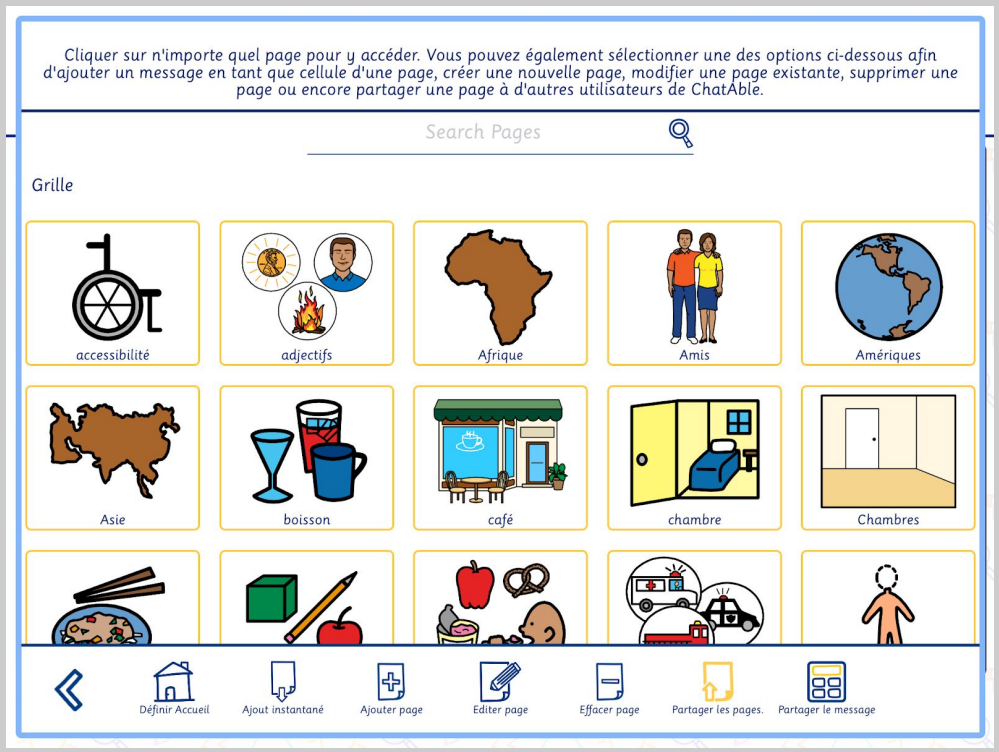
You are now ready to start! You can choose to watch a demo video before you start playing around with the app.

If you decided to use either the Clever Core or ChatAble 2 vocabulary, then you will open your home page. If you decided to start with a fresh vocabulary, then you will be directed to the editing section to set up your first page (see more about this on page 8, section 4).

3. Page Library

The Page Library allows you to do a number of things within ChatAble; access pages, set a homepage, instantly add, edit, delete and share pages.

From communication mode, tap on the book icon to open the page library. All of your pages are stored here, split into Grid, Scene, and Hybrid sections.



To go to a page, tap the page directly from this list.

There are several other options that can be accessed from this page too:

Back arrow

Descriptor: Go back. This will dismiss the page library and return you to your previously viewed page.

Set home

To choose a new home page, select this button. Then locate and tap on the page you want to use. Tap on the forward arrow that appears in the bottom right to confirm your selection.

Instant Add

Use Instant Add to add a phrase from the message window into a cell on a page. You will need to first type your message into the message window, then open the page library. Select Instant Add then choose a page you wish to add this phrase to. Tap on the forward arrow that

appears in the bottom right to confirm your selection. You will be taken to the cell edit page where you can customise the new cell.

Add Page

Selecting this button will allow you to add a New Page

Edit Page

To modify an existing page, select this button then choose the page you wish to edit. Tap on the forward arrow that appears in the bottom right to confirm your selection. You can now modify all aspects of the page. Press the Save icon in the bottom right to confirm your changes.

Delete Page

You may delete one or more pages using this option. Tap on Delete page, then select the page(s) you wish to delete. Tap on the forward arrow that appears in the bottom right to confirm your selection.

Share pages

You can share pages to other ChatAble users. Tap on Share Pages then select the page(s) you wish to share. Tap on the forward arrow that appears in the bottom right to confirm your selection. You will be presented with a new window to describe your pages. Assign an image, title and brief description. Once you are happy, tap on the tick icon in the top right. You will be presented with iOS Sharing options, such as email or Airdrop. Choose your preferred share method and the other user can open the link to add the pages to their Chatable vocabulary.

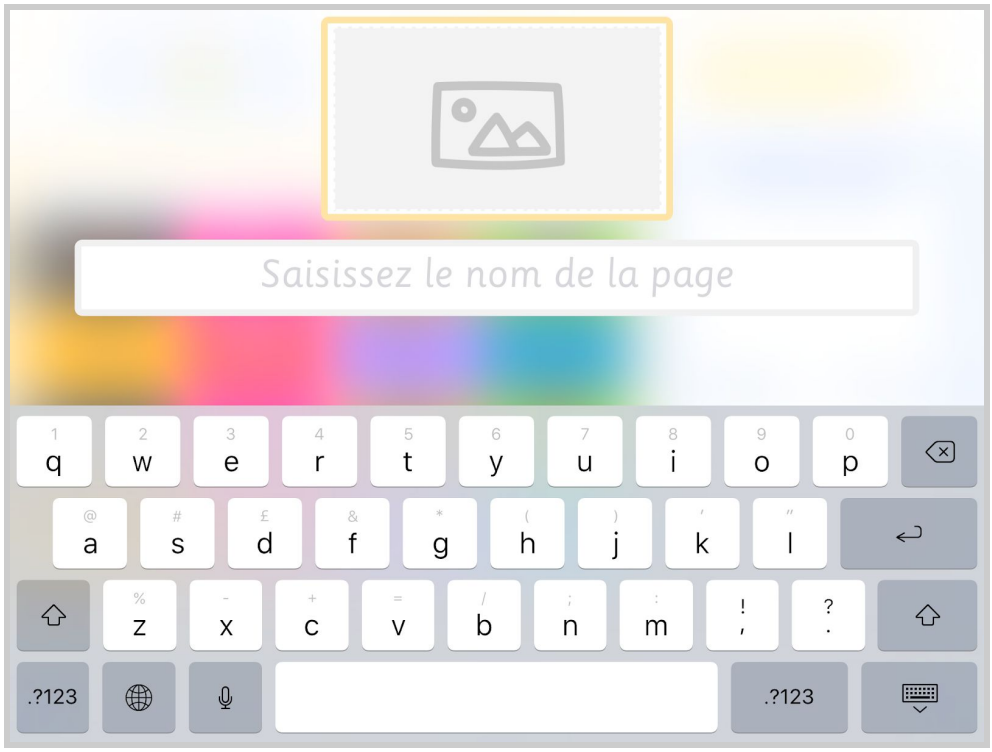
Share message

Select Share Message to share your current message window content as text. You will be presented with iOS Sharing options, such as email or Airdrop.

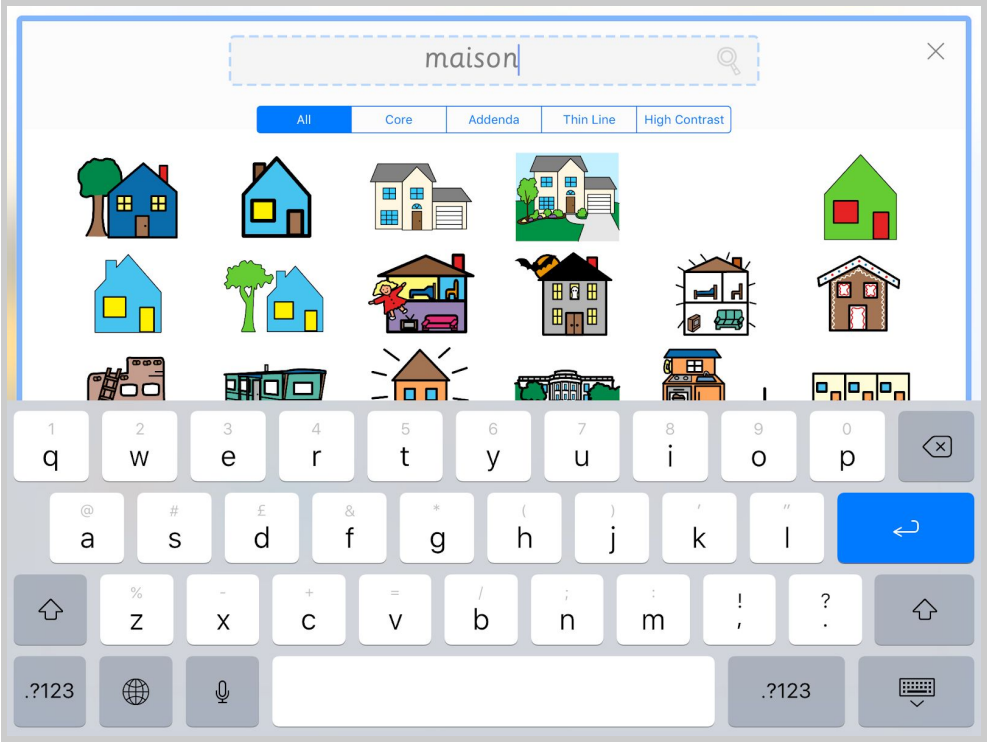
4. Create a new page

Creating new pages in ChatAble allows you to create your own personalised grids of vocabulary. To do this, go to Library > Add Page.

The first step is to give a name to your new page and choose the picture that will be the page preview in the app.



Tap the ‘hide keyboard’ key in the bottom right corner. You will then be given multiple options to insert or change the picture associated with that page. Once you are happy with your image you can press the arrow on the bottom right of the screen.

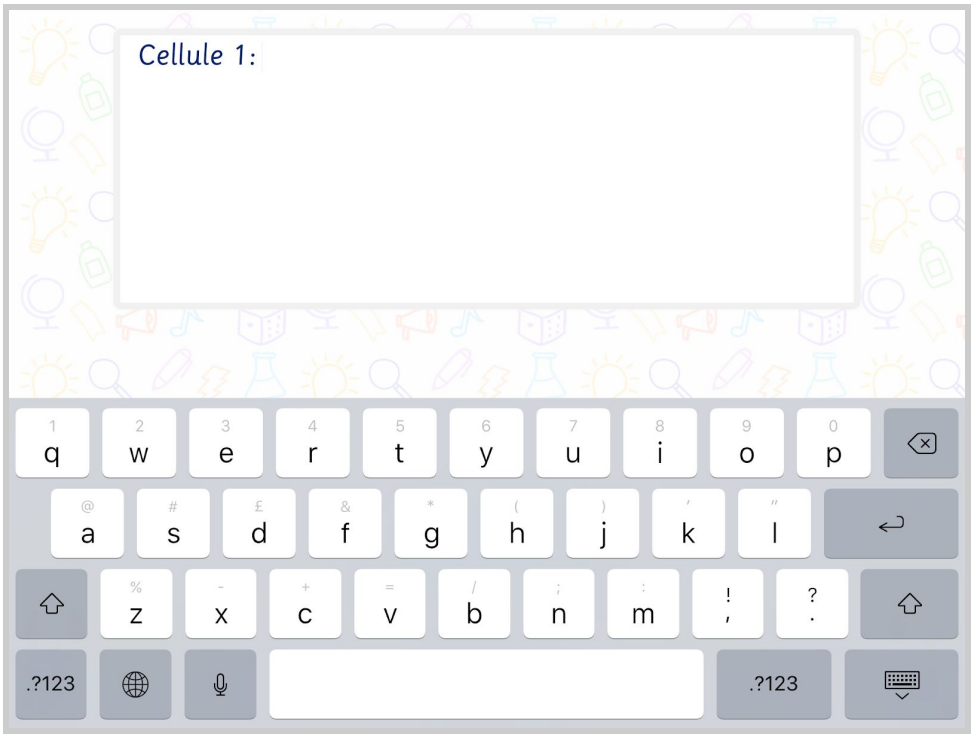


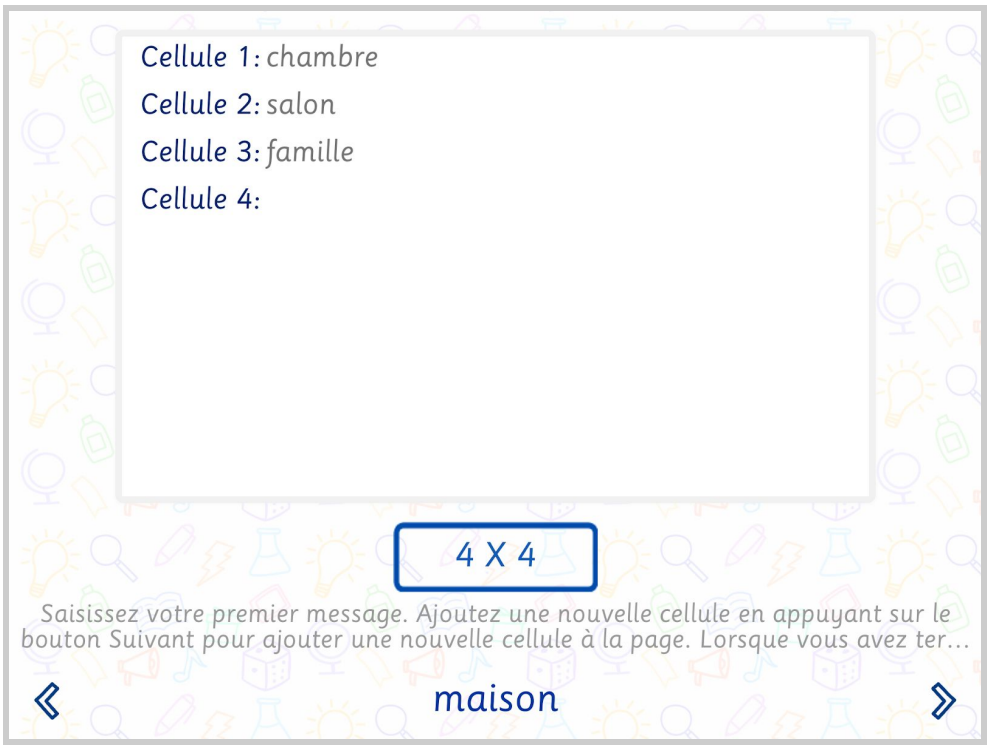
We offer 3 different types of page: grid, scene and hybrid.

4.1 Grid

Choose the size of your grid (you may set a maximum of 10x10 rows and columns). Tap on the forward arrow to start making cells.

You will be prompted to write the cell headings for each of the cells you wish to create in your grid. Every time you press “next” you’ll be adding a new cell.


Cellule 1:


Cellule 1: chambre
Cellule 2: salon
Cellule 3: famille
Cellule 4:
4 X 4
Saisissez votre premier message. Ajoutez une nouvelle cellule en appuyant sur le bouton Suivant pour ajouter une nouvelle cellule à la page. Lorsque vous avez ter...
maison

When you finish, drop the keyboard (icon with a keyboard and a down icon in the bottom right of the keyboard) and tap on the forward arrow in the bottom right corner of the screen. The app will create a page using the cell labels to automatically search for and select appropriate PCS symbols. A screen will appear with your newly created grid.

You can change the size of the page by tapping on the 'size button' on the bottom right of the screen indicating the current size of the grid (ie 3x3).

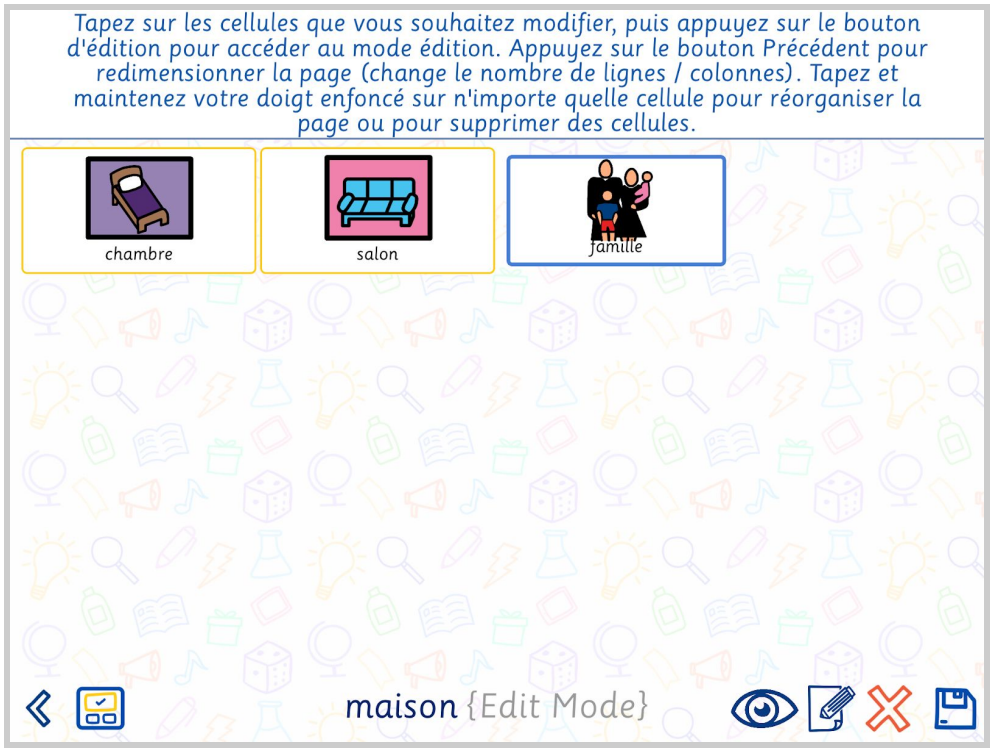
To edit the page, click on the cell you would like to change. You then have several options:

To delete one or more cells, tap on the cell(s) you wish to remove, then tap on the red "x" icon in the bottom right corner of the screen.

To edit one or more cells, tap on the cell(s) you wish to edit, then tap on the pencil and paper icon in the bottom right of the screen.

Tap on the eye icon in the bottom right to show or hide the cell.

Tap on the save icon when you are ready to finalise your page.



4.1.2 Cell Editing Options

Cell Label

The cell label is shown on the screen, in a textbox named “Display text”. You can remove, change the text or the location of the text as you please.

Below this is a textbox named “Spoken text”. If you leave this blank, the app will automatically use the display text as the text to put into the message window and/or read aloud. If you want the display text to be different from the spoken text, all you need to do is tap on the Spoken text box and add some new text.

Speech

Under the speech header (see image above), you have all the options relating to how the app will speak when the cell is tapped. If you want the spoken text to be read aloud using a synthetic voice, tap on Use TTS Voices. You can also record your own voice, select an iTunes song, or select an emotion sound to play.

If you don't want the app to make any sound when the cell is tapped on, uncheck all of the options (tap on whichever option is marked with a tick: this will deselect it). If you don't want the spoken text going into the message window, turn Text to message window off.

ChatAble will have automatically tagged the word as a certain type (noun, adjective, etc). If the automatic tagging was incorrect, you can change that here (this is important if you are using Fitzgerald colouring or Naturally grammar options).

Image

You can replace the image that was selected automatically. Tap on the category of image you would like to use. Choose from:

PCS Symbol Library

Core, Addenda, Thin line and High Contrast are **all** included as standard

Safe web search
Child-friendly bing search -- internet access is required.

Take photo
Use the iPad's camera to take an image on the spot.

Device photos
Find a suitable image in your iPad gallery.

ChatAble image
Select from a series of stock images

No image
It's fine if you don't want an image, tap on remove image to deselect the picture from your cell.

Pinch to zoom in or out, move and rotate the image as you want.

Chatable now offers the option to support multiple images. Above the preview window is a control to select Image 1 or Image 2. Whichever of these is selected will control which image you can change. By default, Image 1 is selected. To add a second image, tap on Image 2 at the top, then choose an image category and add an image.
While Image 2 is selected, you can zoom or rotate the second image, change it, or remove the second image. To manipulate the first image, select Image 1.

Style

Change the look of the cell.

Font
All of the standard apple fonts are offered, in addition to a selection of more accessible fonts, such as Tiresias infofont, which was developed with RNIB for people with visual impairment.

Font size
Give more or less focus to your cell text by increasing or decreasing the font size.

Font Colour
Change the colour of the font as you please.

Background colour
Change the colour of the cell background. ChatAble can automatically alter background colour according to Fitzgerald colour coding, but if you have a preferred colour scheme, you can alter that here.

Border colour
This allows you to change the border colour as needed.

Strikethrough colour
Place a strikethrough in the text.

Media

If you want easy access to websites or videos, add them into a cell. When you activate a cell in communication mode, it will play the media that you have saved within it.

Record video
Take a video on the spot. You'll have a chance to review before saving.

Video gallery
If you already have a video saved to your iPad, you can add it here.

YouTube
Search through all of YouTube for a video you love or which illustrates your point.

Webpage
Link to a webpage, which will open in a simple, accessible browser.

Link

If you tap on a linked cell, it will open up a new page, so you can navigate through the app by tapping on cells that you've created. There are some different options here.

Home Page: links you back to whichever page you have set as home (you can change this through settings).

Previous page
Turns the cell into a back button. You'll be taken back to whichever page you were on previously. This is useful if you're linking to a page from several different locations.

Existing page: link to a page you've already created.

New page

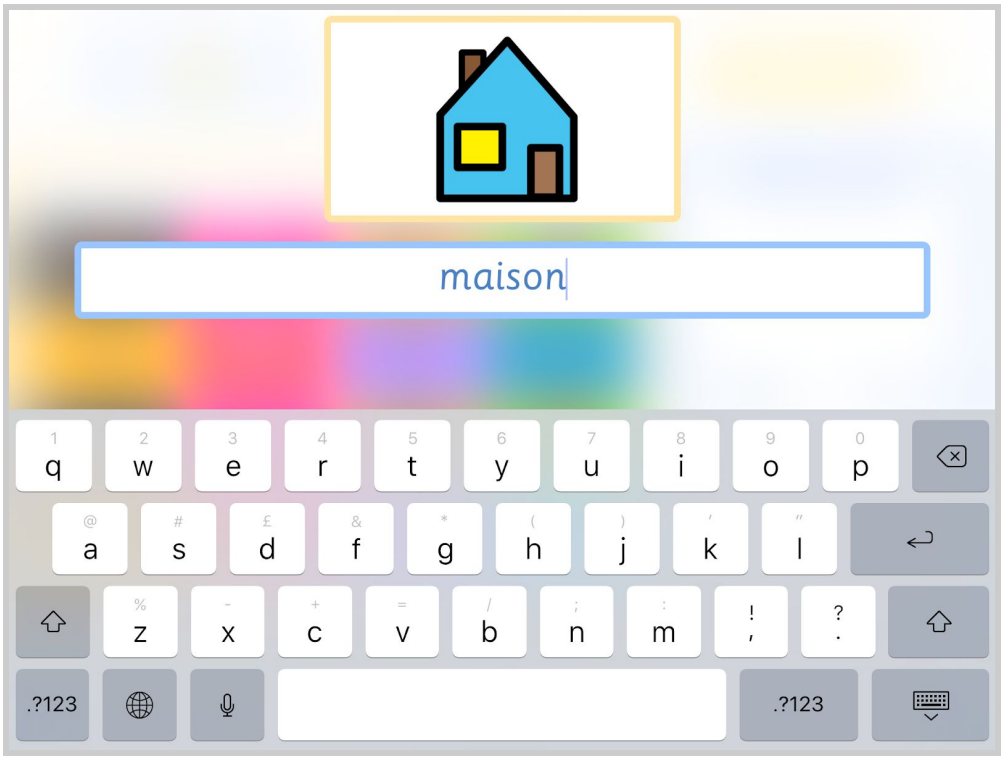
If you know you want to link to a page, but you haven't built that page yet, choose New Page. You'll be able to link to your new page and set it up at the same time.

Function Page
Link to your timetable, one of the writing inputs (keyboards and handwriting), your communication books, or the play time section.

4.2 Scene

To set up a scene from communication mode, tap on the Page Library icon (book) which is in the bottom right corner of the screen. In the Page Library, click on the 'Add Page' icon.

Name your page, and add an image (this will be used to represent the page in the history section, and elsewhere throughout the app).



You will then be prompted to add an image for the page. The process is exactly the same as the process for adding an image to a grid cell heading.

Tap on the next button in the bottom right of the screen, then select Scene from the three options at the top of the screen.

Scenes need a background image. If you want to take a picture on the spot, tap Capture from Camera. The preview window on the left of the screen will turn onto a camera. Frame the image you want to use, then tap anywhere on the image to take a photo.

If you already have a suitable image saved on your iPad, choose Capture from Library.

If you want to look on the internet for an image, choose Safe web search.

ChatAble also comes with a full library of PCS symbols and a collection of stock photos which can all be used as a scene background. You can resize your visual scene image using the pinch-to-zoom, move and rotate it as you prefer.

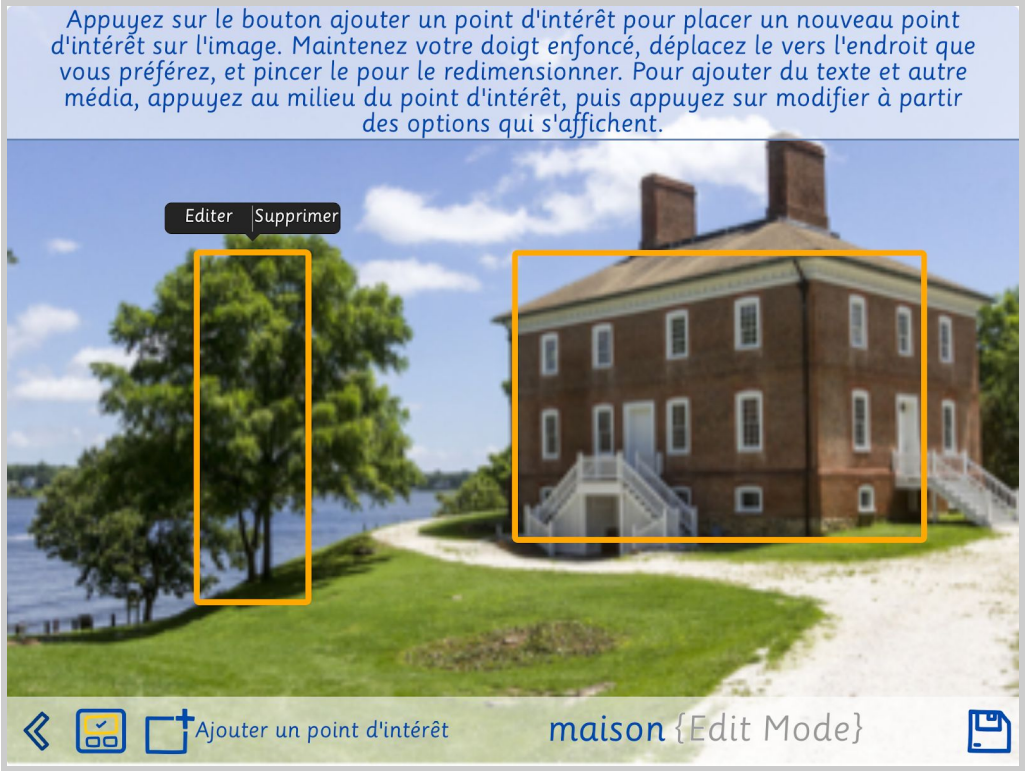
4.2.1 Adding a hotspot

After you have found or taken the background image you want to use, you'll need to start creating some hotspots. Tap on the next arrow in the bottom right of the screen to go into the hotspot editor.

Tap on the add hotspot button on the bottom of the screen.

Tap and hold on the hotspot to drag it over the portion of the background image that you wish to highlight. Hotspots can be resized by holding on one of the corners and dragging in the direction you'd like the shape to expand.

Tap on the edit button to enter the Edit Hotspot Mode (if you don't see the edit option, tap in the centre of the hotspot).



4.2.2 Editing a hotspot

The process of editing a hotspot are exactly the same as the process of editing a cell in a grid. For more information on this see section 4.1.2 above.

4.3 Hybrid

To set up a scene from communication mode, go to the page library then tao on Add Page. Name your page, and add an image (this will be used to represent the page in the history section, and elsewhere throughout the app)- follow exactly the same process as adding a grid or scene.

Tap on the next button in the bottom right of the screen, then select Hybrid from the three options at the top of the screen.

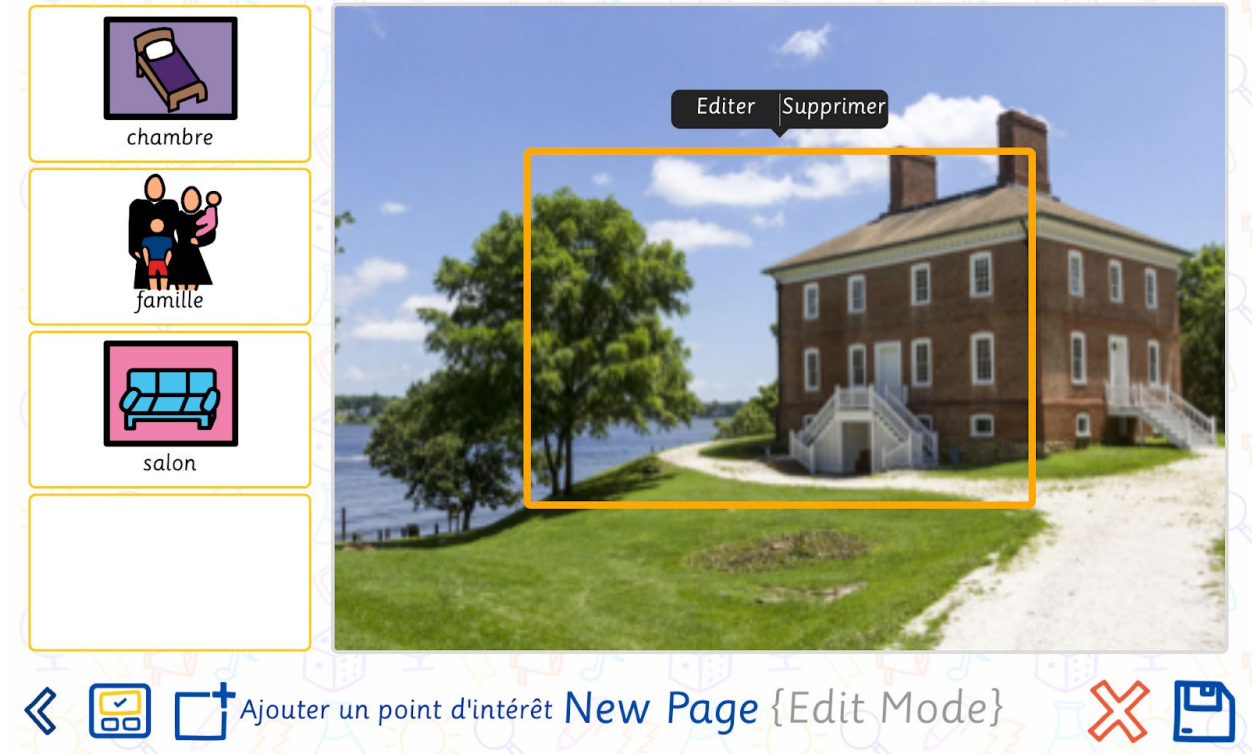
Hybrid pages contain a small scene on the right side of the screen and a column of cells down the left. Scenes need a background image.

The different options for the scene images are the same as when creating a scene. You have the option to take a photo, choose an image from your photo library, do a safe web search, choose a PCS symbol or use ChatAble Images.

Tap on the next button at the bottom right of the screen. If you want to add cells, simply tap on one of the blank cells on the left of the page.

If you want to add hotspots to the scene portion of the screen, tap on the “Add hotspot” button and follow the same steps as you did in the scene editor page.

Cliquez sur Ajoutez un bouton afin d'ajouter un nouveau bouton intéractif sur l'image. Glissez et déposez le bouton jusqu'à la position désirée et redimensionnez la zone du bouton à votre souhait. Pour ajouter une fonctionnalité text-parole ou un autre média, cliquez sur le centre de votre bouton, puis cliquez sur l'option modifier.



5 Clever Core

Clever Core is a new vocabulary set designed by Therapy Box with both core and fringe vocabularies easily accessible. Clever Core prediction can be turned on in settings, and gives you constant access to your most frequently used symbols, whichever page you're on.

6 Using ChatAble to speak

Activate a cell or hotspot by tapping on it. When your whole message is in the message window, tap on it once and it will be read aloud by the app.

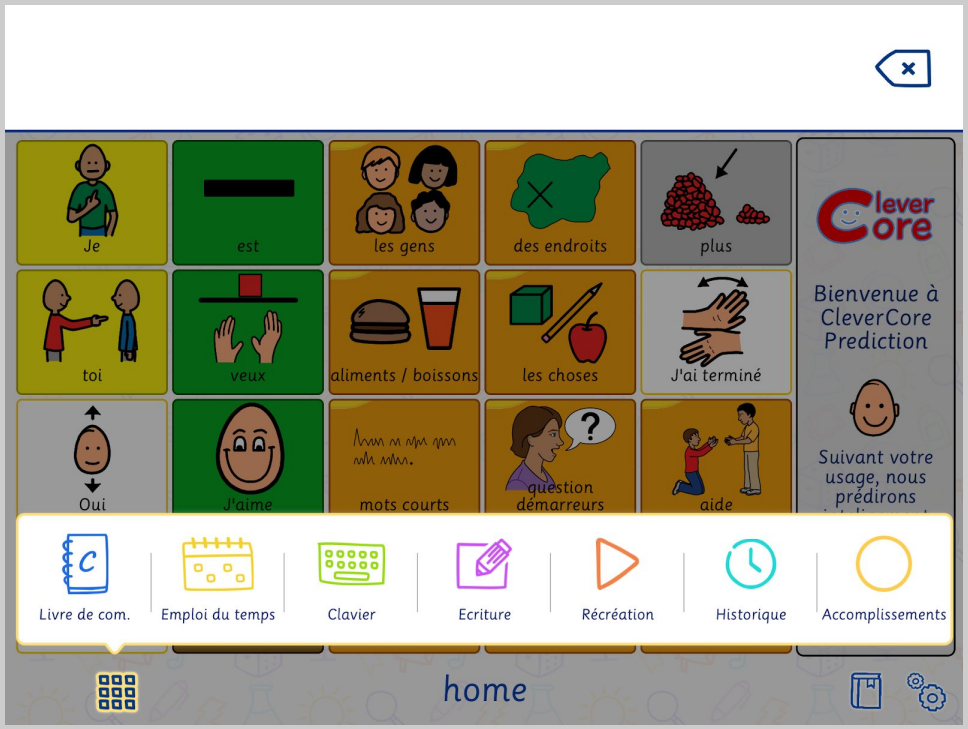
Use the back arrow in the top right if the screen to clear the most recent item from the message window. If you press and hold on the back arrow, it will clear the whole window.

There are several options on the bottom row of the screen, from left to right are:

Navigation menu: (see heading navigation menu for further details)
Page Library: This button takes you to the Page Library where you can access all of your grids, scenes and hybrids.
Settings button: The settings button appears in the bottom right of the page, and will bring up settings and editing options.

7 Navigation menu

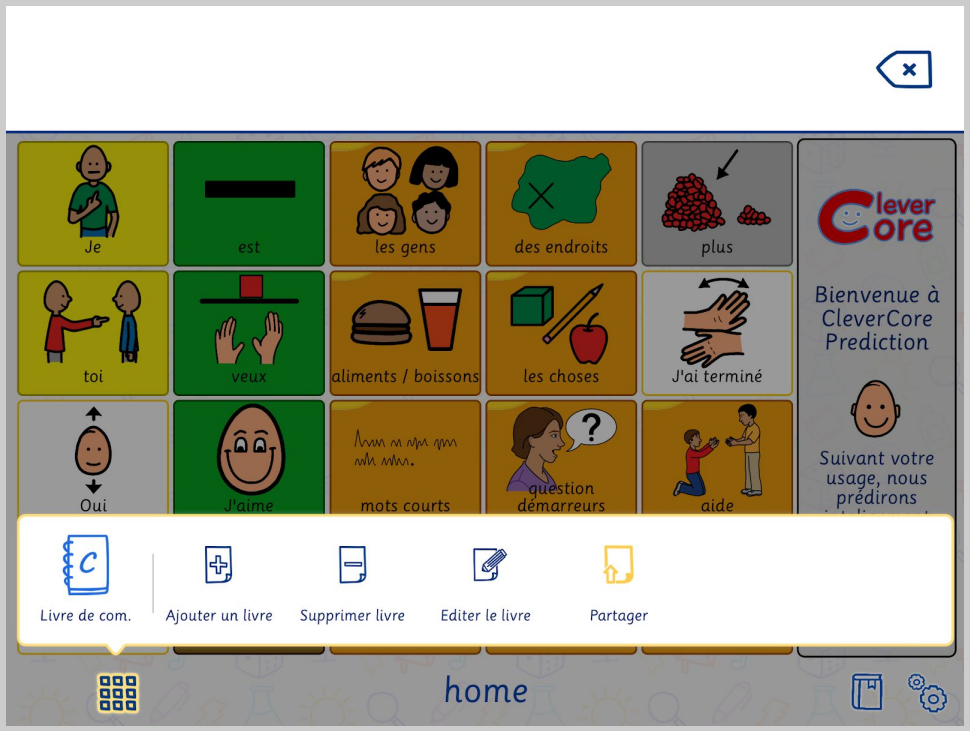
The navigation menu allows you to access a number of great features available in ChatAble.



7.1 Communication book

Tap on the 'Communication book' icon to enter the Communication book section.

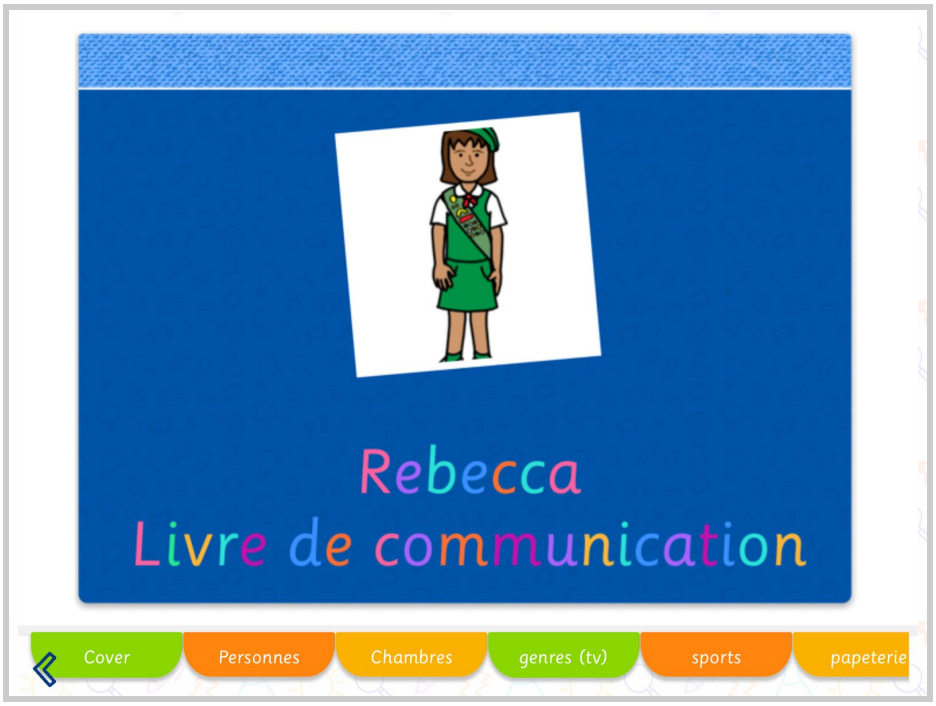
Create a new Communication book by tapping on "Add book":



Choose a picture and write your book name, then tap on the forward arrow.

Choose the pages that you want to add to your book. Tap on the page once to select it and tap on it again to deselect it.

The pages will be displayed in your communication book in the order that you select them. Tap on the save icon when you have selected all the pages that you want to use.

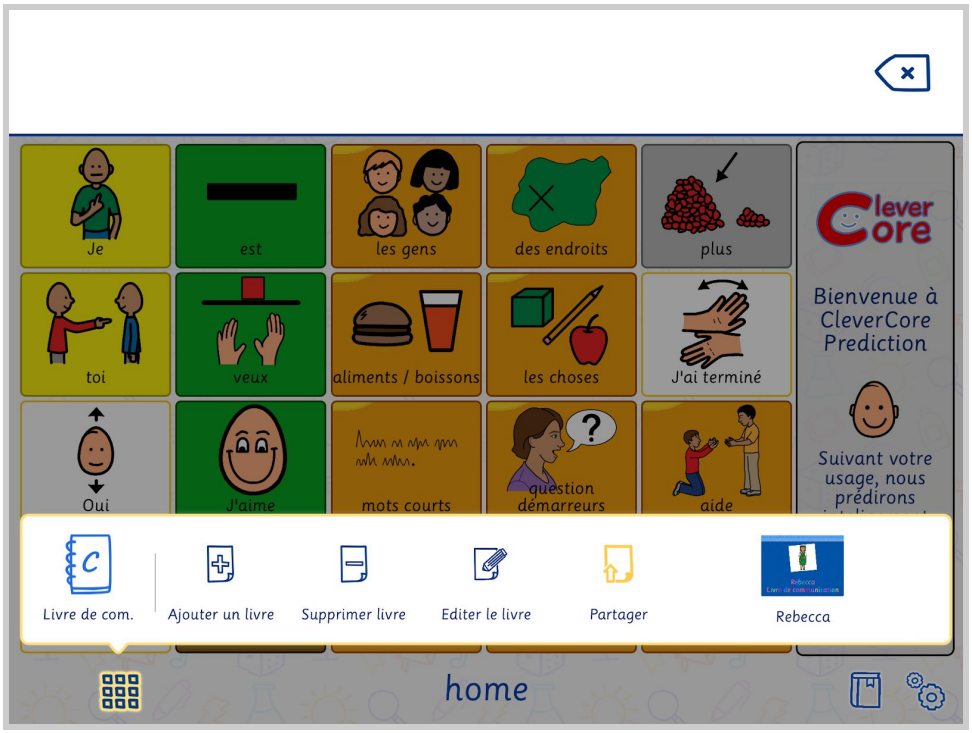


With the tab menu you can browse the book you created. The name on the tab is the page's name.

You can also move between pages with a flicking motion on the touchscreen, as though turning the pages of a book.

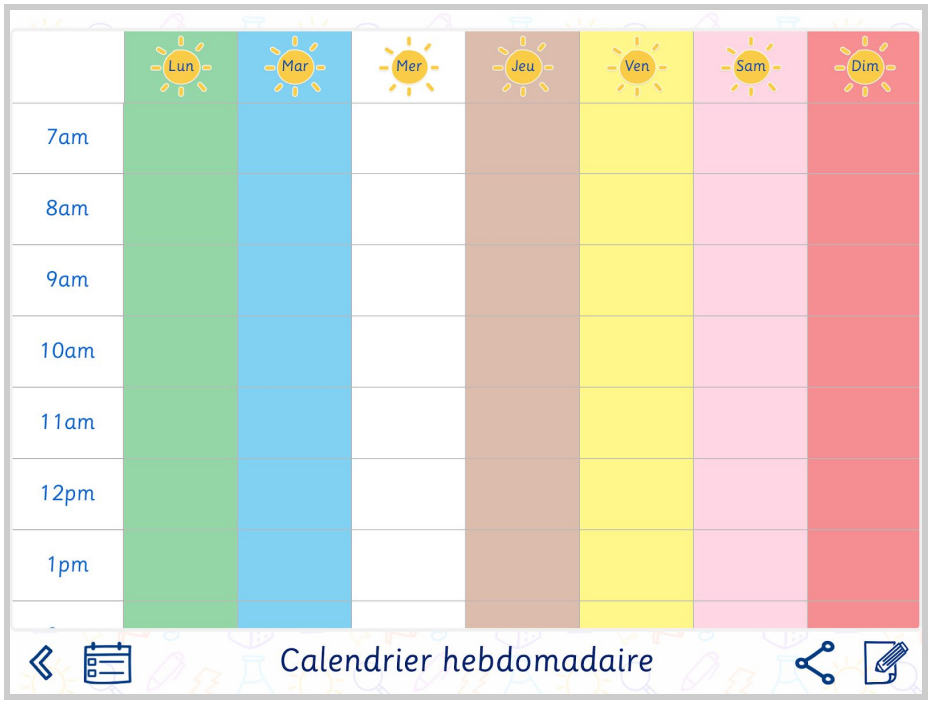
Tap on the "share" icon to share or print your book. You will create a PDF version of your Communication book, ready to be printed or shared through email.

Tap on the "Delete book" icon to delete one of your books or on the "Edit book" icon to change something. Both buttons will ask you which book you want to edit or delete:

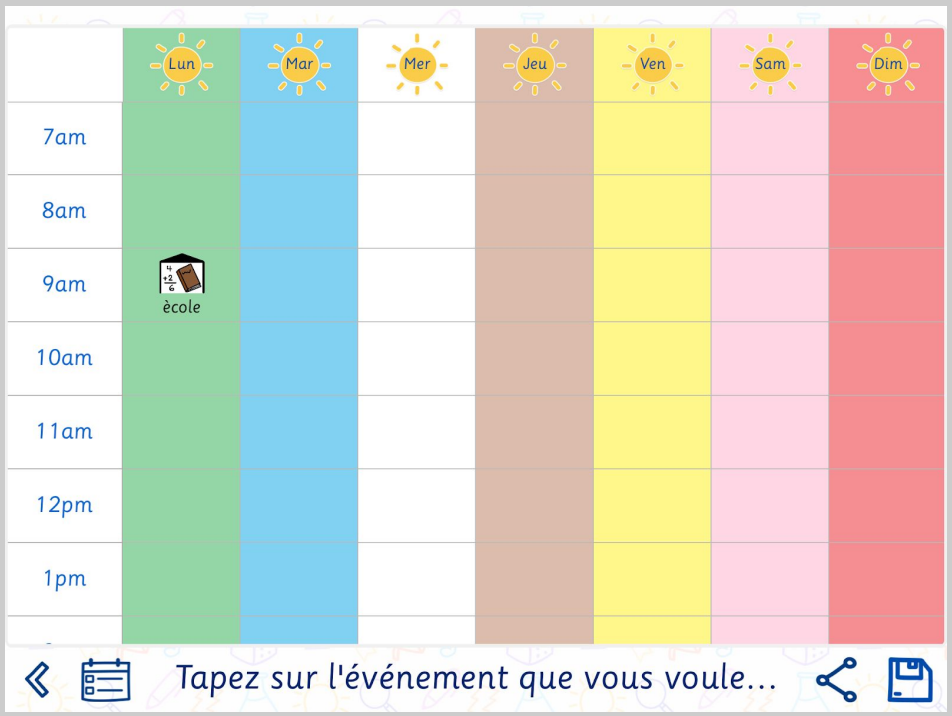


7.2 Timetable

The visual timetable is colour coded by day to aid with recognition. You have access to both a daily and a weekly view. Toggle between the two using the timetable icon in the bottom left of the screen.



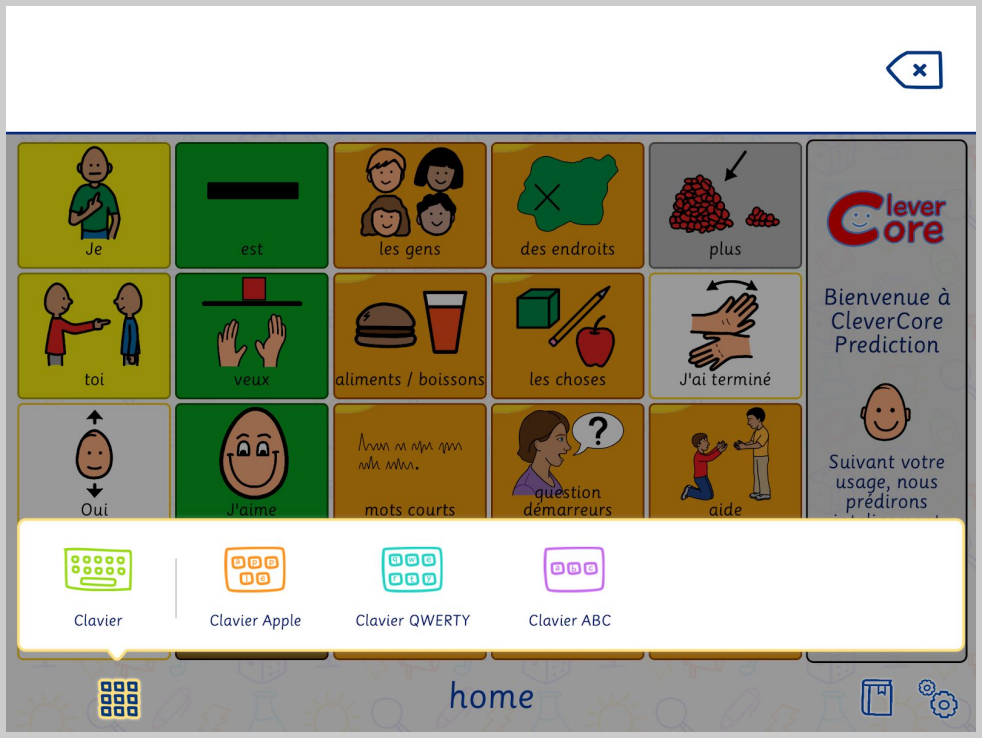
To set up a new event on your timetable, tap the edit button (in the bottom right hand corner of the screen) and then tap the box to which you would like to add an event.



If you would like to give the event a caption, tap on the text box in the preview window. ChatAble will automatically search for an appropriate PCS symbol. Make sure you press save when you are done!

The process of editing the event (Text - text and display, speech, image, style, media and link) is exactly the same editing a cell.

7.3 Keyboards

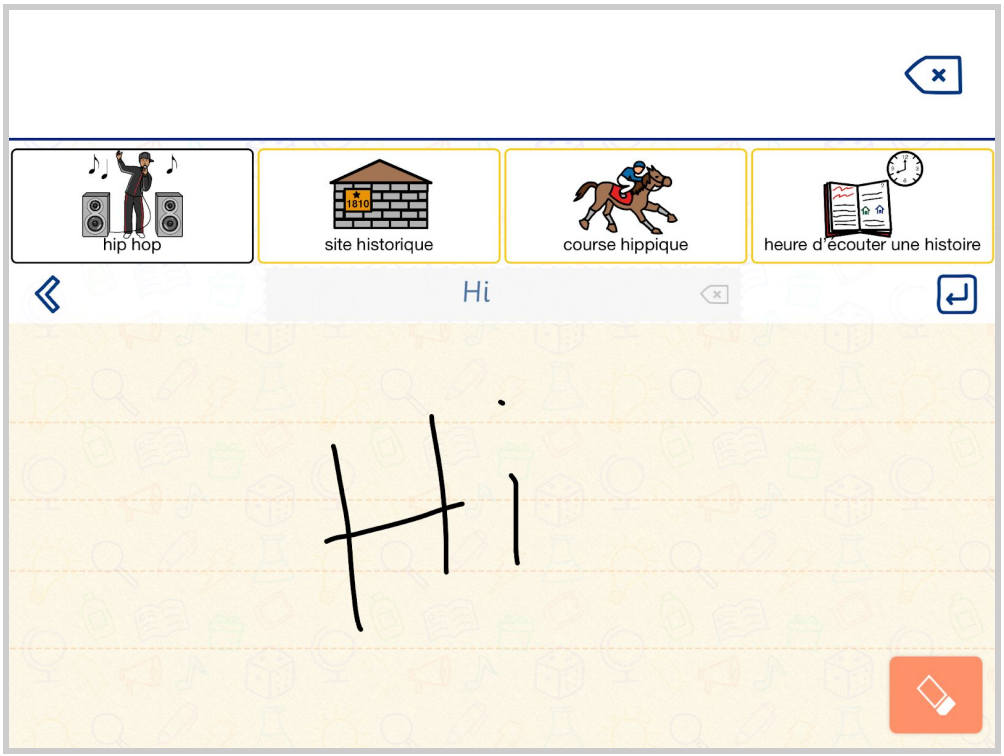


There are 3 different keyboard options in ChatAble 3:
Apple keyboard: Use the iPad's own keyboard. If you have a third party keyboard set up on your iPad, this will also be compatible.
QWERTY and and ABC keyboards: Grid keyboards based on QWERTY and ABC layouts.

When you type in ChatAble, a symbol prediction will come up based on the vocabulary in your pages and based on your speech history. Tap on a symbol to quickly enter it into the message window, or tap on the return icon next to the text entry strip above your keyboard if you want to enter the text as you've typed it. The symbol prediction should become more accurate with increased app usage.

7.4 Handwriting

Tap on the "Handwriting" icon in the navigation menu to to open the writepad.
The handwriting mode (this function works only if you are connected to the internet) also comes with symbol prediction.



7.5 Play time

7.5.1 Fireworks

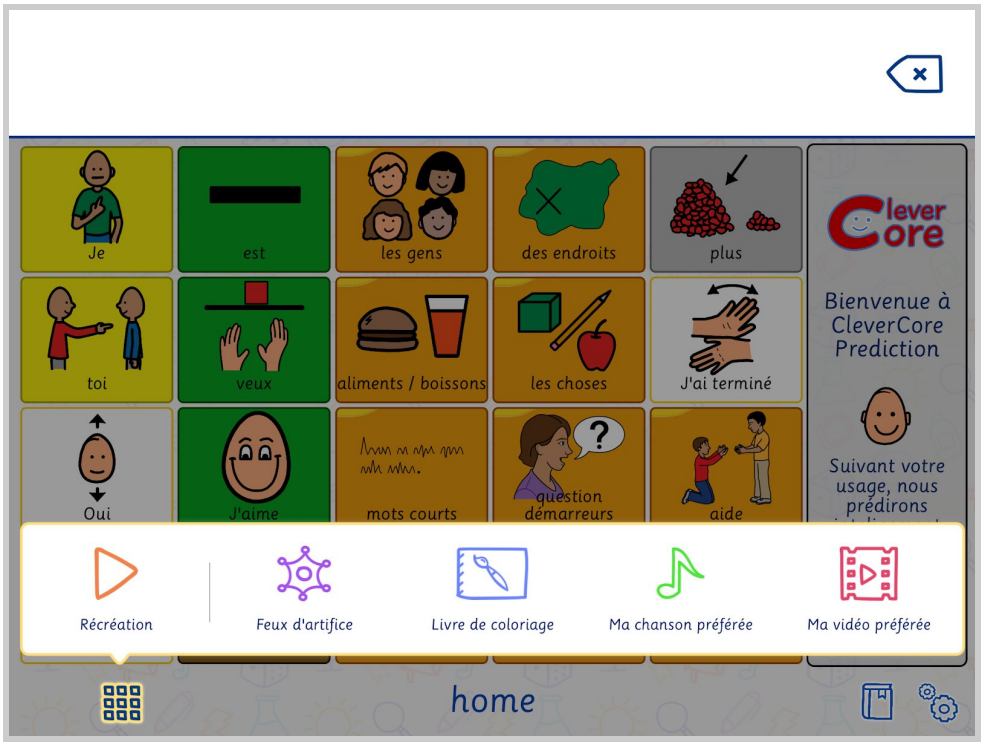
A sensorial game to get relaxed: tap on the screen to shoot a firework!

7.5.2 Sketch book

Draw whatever you want in the sketchbook.
Tap on the palette icon to customise your sketch: set the background (you can use a solid colour, take a picture, or use a picture on your device); pick one the brush colours and choose the brush thickness.
Tap on the eraser icon to delete your sketch and on the share icon to save it (on your device), to print it, or to send it through email.

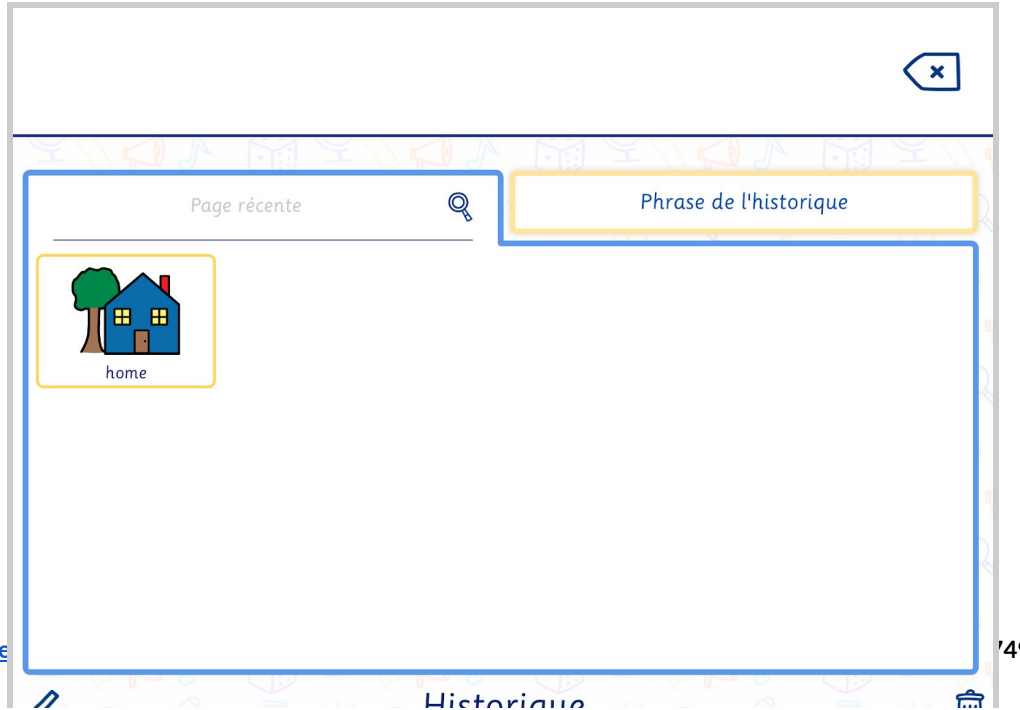
7.5.3 Favourite Song and Favourite video

Tapping on these two icons will play your favourite song and favourite video. You can choose these in settings.



7.6 History

Tap on history to see your recent pages and your phrases history. It will open on Page history. To see your spoken phrase history, tap on the phrase history tab. Tap on a page to open it or on a phrase to speak it. Both phrase history and page history are searchable, making it easier to find the item you're looking for.



7.7 Achievements

Compare your current daily score to your target score. Your lifetime scores for each category are shown below. The button in the bottom right allows you to navigate to the Analytics section of Settings. The More button can be disabled in settings if desired.

8 Settings

8.1 Analytics

Analytics allows you to track language development.

Text blocks: A count of the total number of words spoken, including repetitions.

Messages: Counts the total number of messages spoken. Every time the message window is tapped on to read it aloud, count goes up.

Message length: Calculates the average message length based on the number of words and the number of messages spoken.

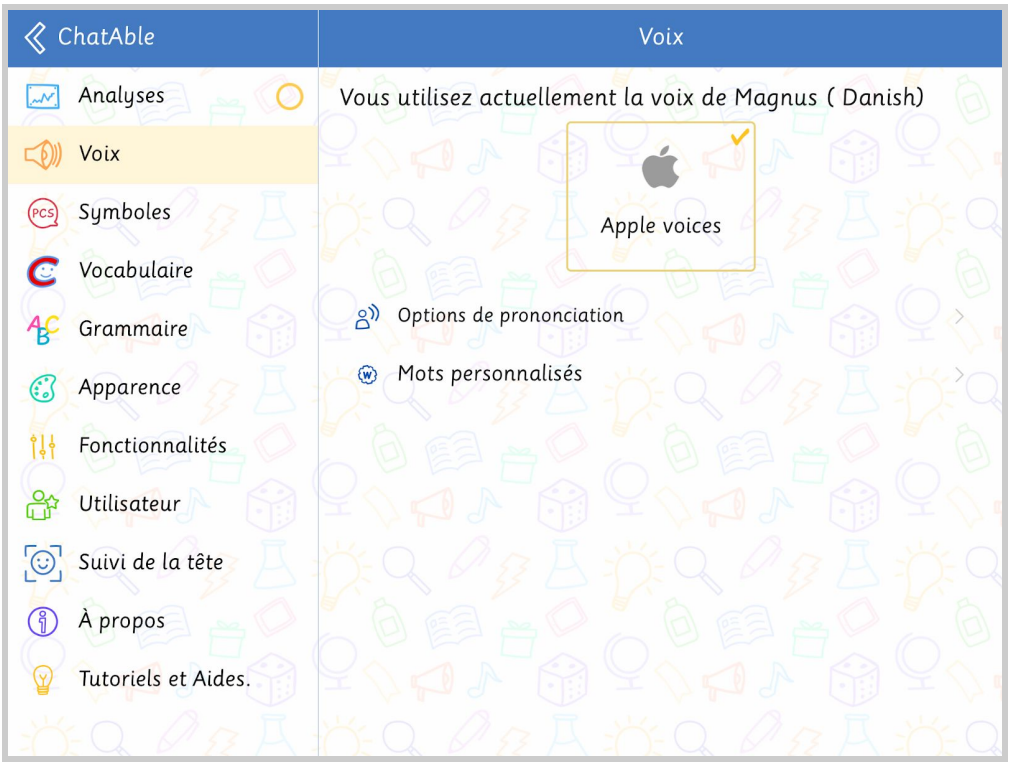
Unique words: Counts the number of words but discounts any re-used words.

Summary points: An overall calculation based on all 4 metrics, which are weighted to provide an indication of vocabulary and app usage.

Tap on any of the metrics to see more information and to export the data via email or printing.

8.2 Voice

ChatAble include several voices: Therapy Box voices and iOS voices.
To select a voice, you just need to tap on it and wait for download. After you select the voice you can change both the pitch level and the speed of it by using the sliders on the main voice page.



8.2.1 Speak options

Highlight during speech

When the message window text is playing, the app highlights each word as it reads it aloud.

Clear after speak
After the message window text is read by the app, the app automatically removes all text so that you don't need to use the delete button.

Publish
When you tap on the message window, the words aren't read upside down, but flipped over so that it's easy for someone sitting opposite to read. This setting can be used to conduct a private conversation when other people are around.

8.2.2 Custom words

Sometimes synthetic speech can make words sound wrong. Custom words helps reduce this problem by allowing you to change the way ChatAble pronounces a word.

In Display Text, type the word as it is spelled (how you would like it to be spelled on screen), then in shortcut text, type it out phonetically. A play button next to the shortcut text lets you hear how it will be read aloud, so you can quickly change the phonetic text if it needs further refinement.

8.3 Symbols

We are offering over 17000 PCS symbols within ChatAble 3, including Classic, Addendum, Thinline and High Contrast sets. The symbols section of settings provides further information on this.

8.4 Vocabulary

8.4.1 Clever Core Vocabulary

The Clever Core section provides more information on each of the 3 vocabulary sets that we offer in ChatAble.

8.4.2 My Backups

This section allows you to access your backups. A backup contains all of your data, including: pages and cells, settings, and all additional content such as communication books and timetables. You may create store up to five backups. Each backup should have a Title, creation date and sections which allow you to restore or delete the backups as necessary. Backups will only last for a maximum of 30 days - you will get a warning before the backup is about to expire.

Restore will allow you to replace all of the current data on the app with the data within that backup.

Delete will remove that backup.

You will need a valid password to carry out any of these actions.

8.5 Grammar

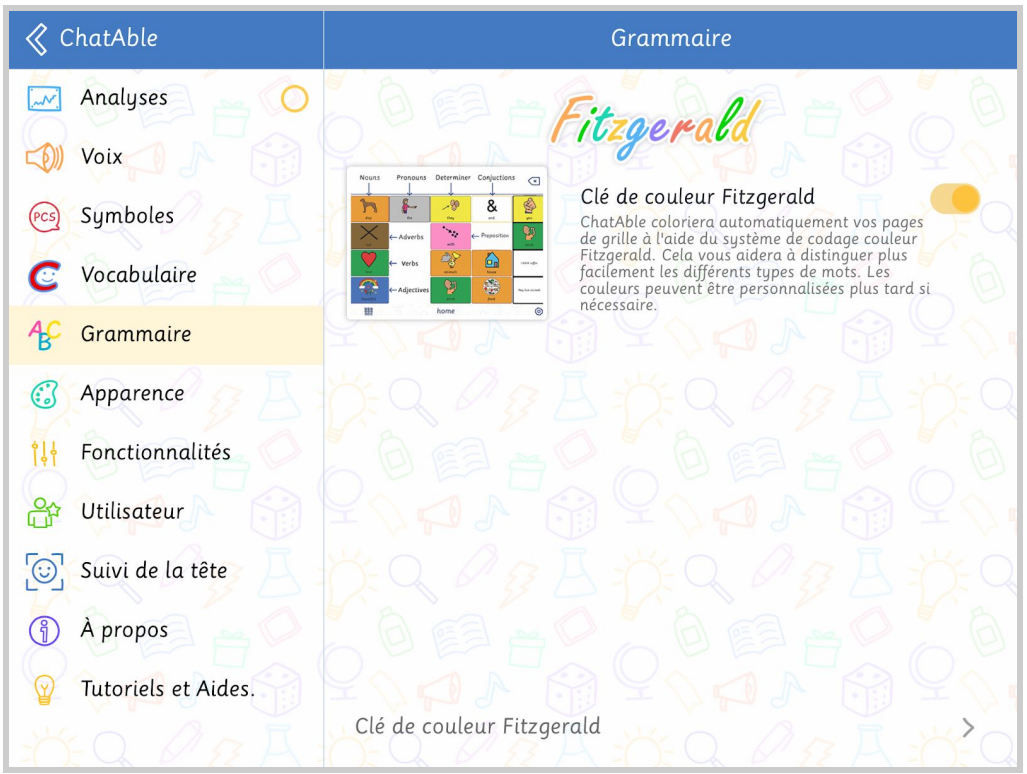
8.5.1 Naturally

A grammar support to help you write faster. Tap and hold on a word and Naturally will provide you with different forms of the word, depending on what type of word it is: hold on a verb to see the different conjugation, or on a name to see the plural and the possessive.

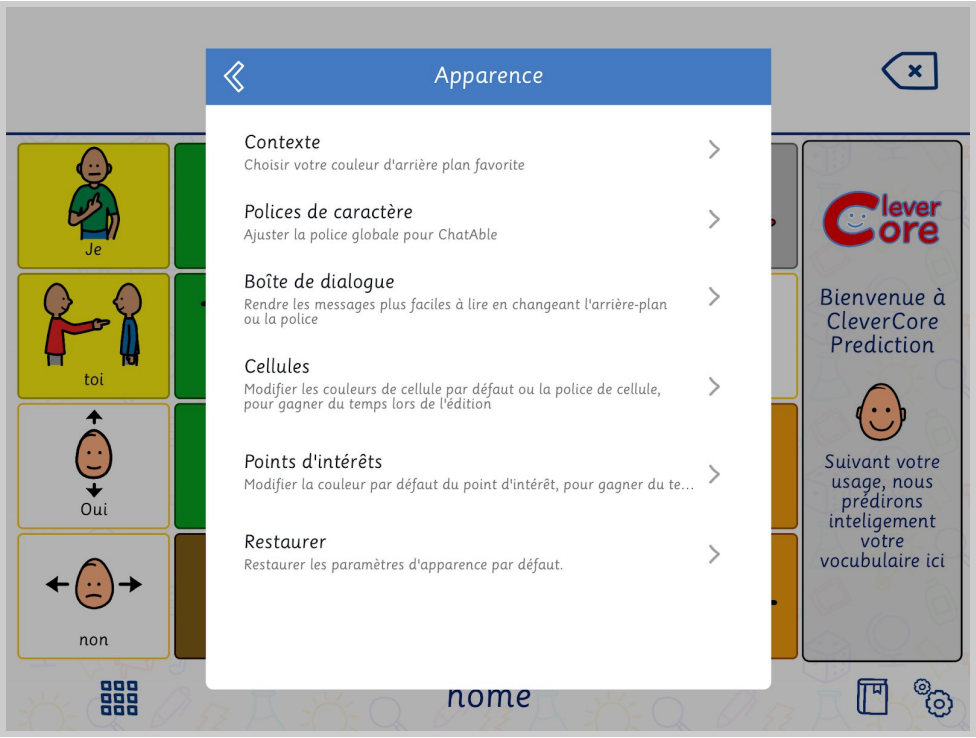
8.5.2 Fitzgerald

The Fitzgerald colour key will help you to identify the words in your grid. Each word type has a specific colour: Adjective - blue ; Verb - green ; Pronoun - yellow ; Noun - orange ; Conjunction - White ; Preposition - pink ; Adverb - brown ; Determiner - grey.

Some words can have two different meanings (“book” for example, can be both a noun and a verb). For this reason you can always change the word type in cell editing mode.



8.6 Appearance



8.6.1 Background

Change ChatAble background using the colour you like the most, tap on ‘Use the default ChatAble pattern’ to restore the default theme.

8.6.2 Fonts

Pick the global font to use in the whole app. The single cell setting has the priority; therefore, if you picked a specific font for your cell, you won’t lose it by changing the font here. However, all default font throughout the rest of the app will be updated.

8.6.3 Message window

You can choose whether to show the symbol and the text, or only the text when you tap on a cell.

Change the background colour and the font used in the message window. You can increase or decrease the size of the font using the Font size slider, and make the background more or less transparent using the background gradient slider.

8.6.4 Cells

Customise the default appearance of a cell (font, border and background colour). You will still be able to change the appearance of cells individually in cell editing mode.

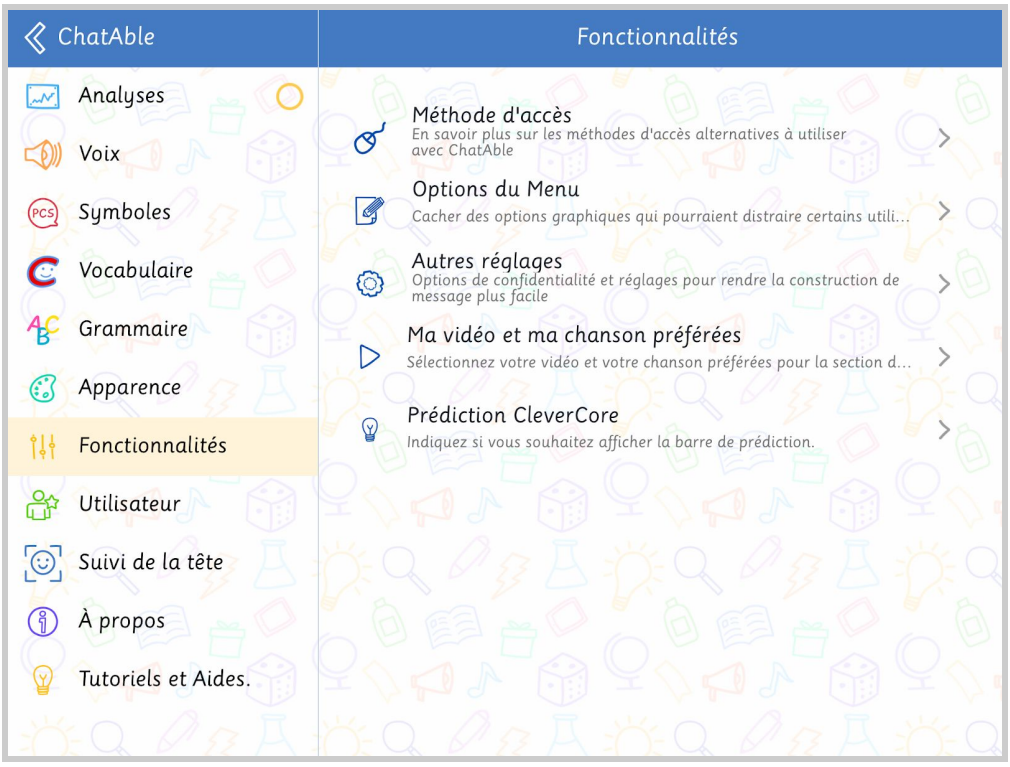
8.6.5 Hotspots

Customise the default appearance of a hotspot (border and background colour). You will still be able to change the appearance of hotspots individually in hotspot editing mode.

8.6.6 Restore

Tap on restore to go back to the default appearance settings.

8.7 Features

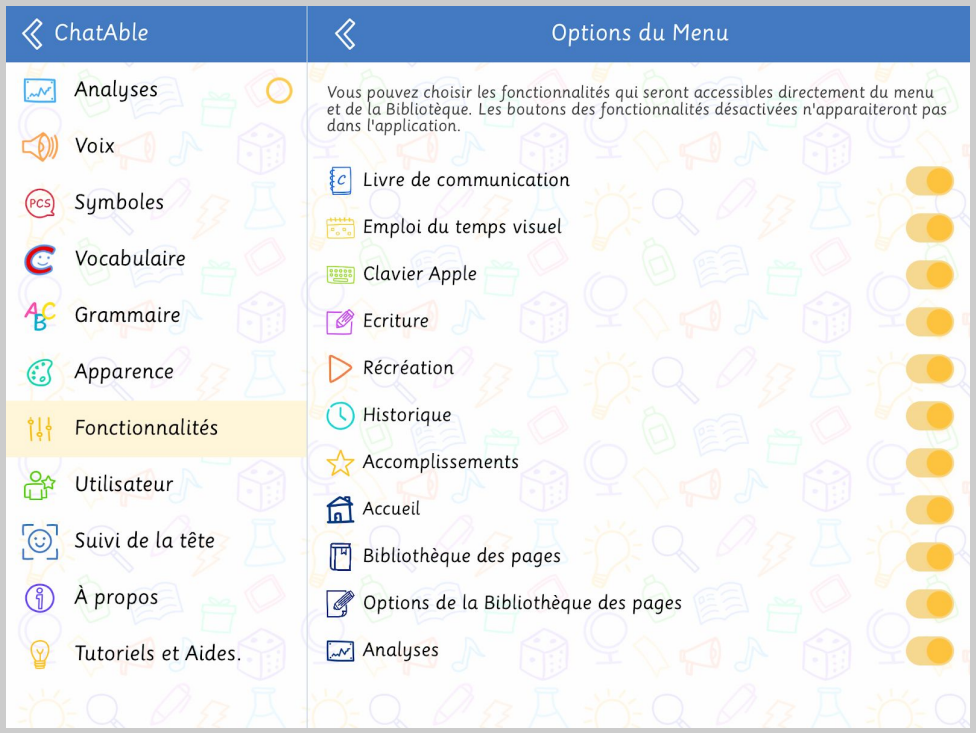


8.7.1 Accessibility

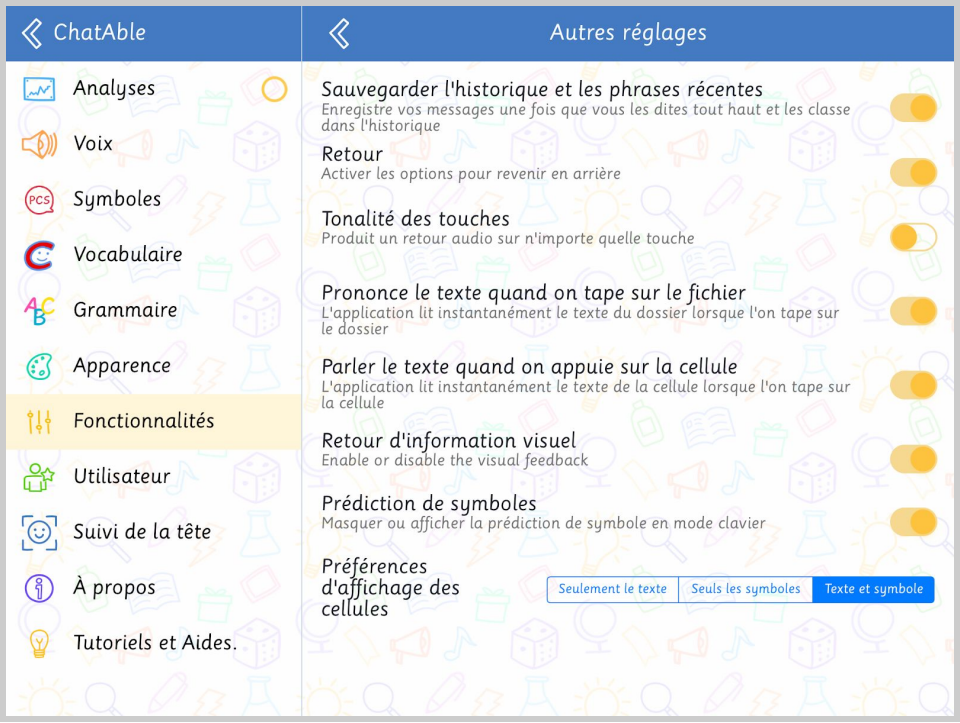
ChatAble doesn't have its own accessibility options, but it is optimised for and tested with iOS switch control and iOS touch accommodations.

8.7.2 Menu Options

You can choose which features can be access from the menu and page library. Setting any of these to off will hide the buttons in the app.



8.7.3 Other settings



Save history and recents

Disable this feature if you don't want to track which pages you're visiting and/or the messages you're speaking.

Jump

If disabled, then any of your jump back links (set up in cell editing link tab -- Jump back to home or jump back to previous page) will be disabled.

Key tone

Enable or disable the audio feedback in the whole app

Speak text when tapped on folder

Disable this feature to ensure that no folder name is ever read aloud by the app. This will automatically ensure that the app doesn't read out text from linked cells, even if TTS is left on in editing mode.

Speak text when tapped on cell

Disable this feature to ensure that no cell name is ever read aloud by the app. This will automatically ensure that the app doesn't read out text from any cells, even if TTS is left on in editing mode.

Visual feedback
Enable or disable the visual feedback

Symbol Prediction
Hide or show the symbol prediction by keyboard mode.

Cell Display Preferences
You can choose for only text to be displayed in your cells or you are able to set it to only images or both.

8.7.4 My Favourite Video and Song

This allows you to choose your favorite video and songs which you can access from the Play Time section in Navigation or you can get quick access to these when adding songs or videos to cells.

8.7.5 Prediction

Download one of the available vocabularies: you can choose if you want to add or to replace your existing vocabulary with the downloaded one. You can also decide to delete all your pages and start from scratch.

8.8 User

8.8.1 Import ChatAble Backup

This allows you to download a backup file from your Therapy Box account.

8.8.2 Create Backup

This takes a snapshot of the your account and stores it as a backup in your Therapy Box cloud account. This includes vocabulary, settings and all additional content such as your communication book and history too.

8.8.3 Password

Change your password here.

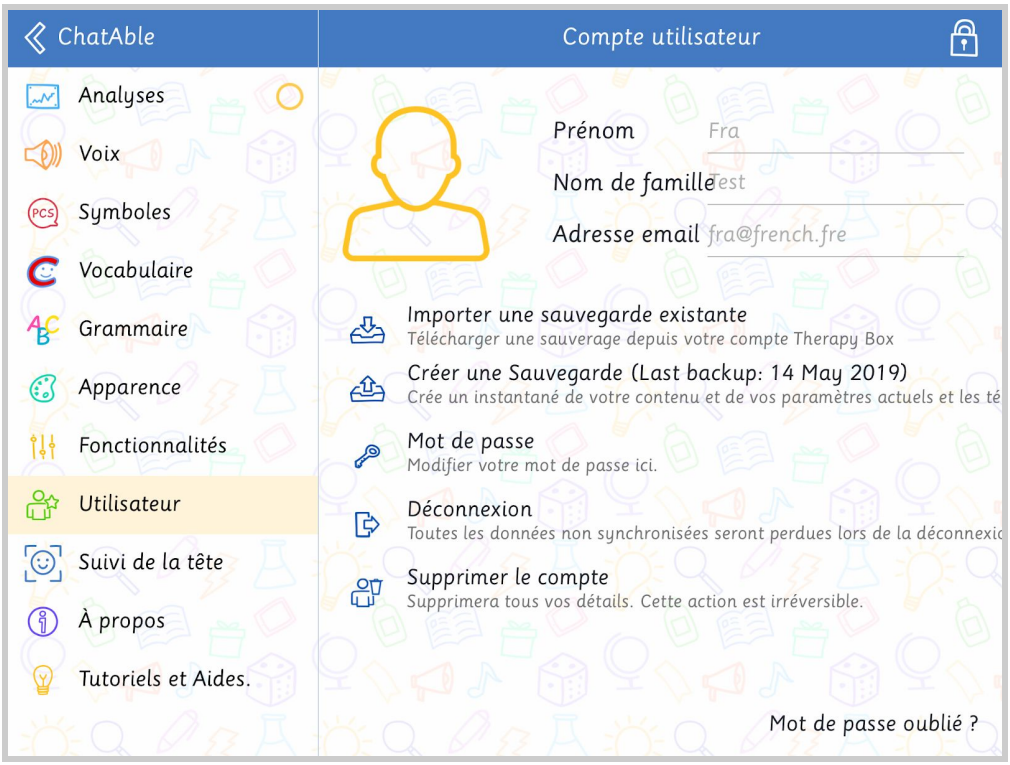
8.8.4 Log Out

Tap here to logout. Before logging out be sure to create a backup if you need to save any new

changes to your account.

8.8.4 Delete Your Account

'Delete your account' will erase all your data from your cloud (your details and your vocabulary). The ChatAble account is shared with Predictable: if you delete it you will lose even your Predictable data.



8.9 Head Tracking

Here you are able to access and activate head tracking within ChatAble if you have the required hardware (iPad Pro 2018).

Head tracking allows you to use and control ChatAble with your head movements.

8.10 About ChatAble

Here you can rate ChatAble, send us a support query email, and read this user guide!

The “In-App message” page will show you all the important news related to your account and your version of ChatAble.

8.11 Tutorials and Help

Access the user guide as well as other video tutorials here.