


Thank you, Ma'am!

[HelpKidzLearn](#) from Inclusive Technology is an award winning collection of software for people with the most severe disabilities. Not only is it a vital resource for learners in the UK, but also it is proving to be a firm favourite in the United States and 148 other countries. Now its success has been crowned by the Queen. To mark her 90th birthday she has given Inclusive Technology the most prestigious International Trade award in the UK – the Queen's Award for Enterprise 2016.


Martin Littler, Chairman and CEO of Inclusive Technology, has been a pioneer in the field of technology for children and adults with severe learning disabilities (SLD), profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD) or those without speech who need alternative or augmentative communication (AAC) who perhaps can only make a single voluntary movement or sound.

Last month the HelpKidzLearn development team received the  2016 Education Resource Award for Special Educational Needs including ICT for their work on harnessing [Eye Gaze](#) technology to meet the needs of learners with complex needs. Eye-gaze technology is the closest equivalent we have to thought-operated hardware so far, and is already surprisingly affordable. Inclusive Technology's myGaze costs just £875 and is having an impact not just on children but on adults as well.

Just looking around a computer screen moves the mouse pointer and gazing at an area performs a click with no physical effort needed. Support workers can now use eye gaze to identify where the user is looking when different images, prompts or questions are asked, giving an insight into what users can see, what they are interested in looking at and some indication of their understanding skills.

Sean Carroll, IT/Assistive Technology Consultant at Sensation

Communication and Technology Solutions, describes its impact: 'James has sat in his chair since he was 19 with very little to occupy himself with, and even when at school I don't think his independent access skills were attended to very much at all.' Now with an Eye Gaze tracker James is able to access some online games and his parents are delighted to discover evidence of new skills.'

Yesterday Martin was on TV with his colleague Sandra Thistlethwaite who is a Specialist Speech and Language Therapist, and Dan Woodman, deputy head teacher at Richard Cloudsley School in London. They were talking to the presenter of London Live about the impact of the technology on children's lives. 

'Children need to play, have fun and communicate,' said Martin, 'but this technology also lets children who are non-verbal use on-screen symbols and words to build language, create messages and take part in conversations with families and friends. The award is a huge pat on the back for our team of developers, teachers and therapists.'

Martin and his managing director Sukhjit Gill will collect the award at a Buckingham Palace reception on July 14, 2016.