

We Will Rock Q! Become Queen of Quality with Assistive Technology

BC Care Providers Annual Conference

Fairmont Chateau Whistler

Tuesday, May 28th, 2019



University
of Victoria



Territory acknowledgement

We acknowledge the significance of the land we are on today. The **Lil'wat** and **Skwxwú7mesh-ulh** **Temíxw** (Squamish) have existed and prospered on this land since time immemorial.

We also acknowledge with respect the Lkwungen-speaking peoples on whose traditional territory the university stands and the **Songhees**, **Esquimalt** and **WSÁNEĆ** peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

Overview of CanAssist



Overview of CanAssist

A centre of
excellence
for disability.

Unique in
North
America.



Today's team of about 25
includes mechanical, electrical
and software engineers



Part of a vibrant campus at
the University of Victoria.

We engage UVic
researchers and hundreds
of students each year.

CanAssist Technologies



We develop
customized solutions.



CanAssist Technologies



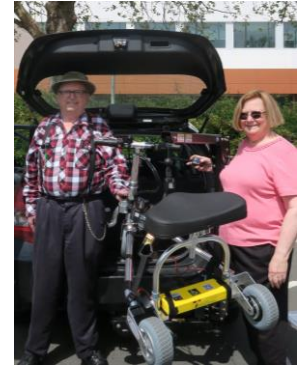
We also develop broad impact technologies.



CanAssist Technologies

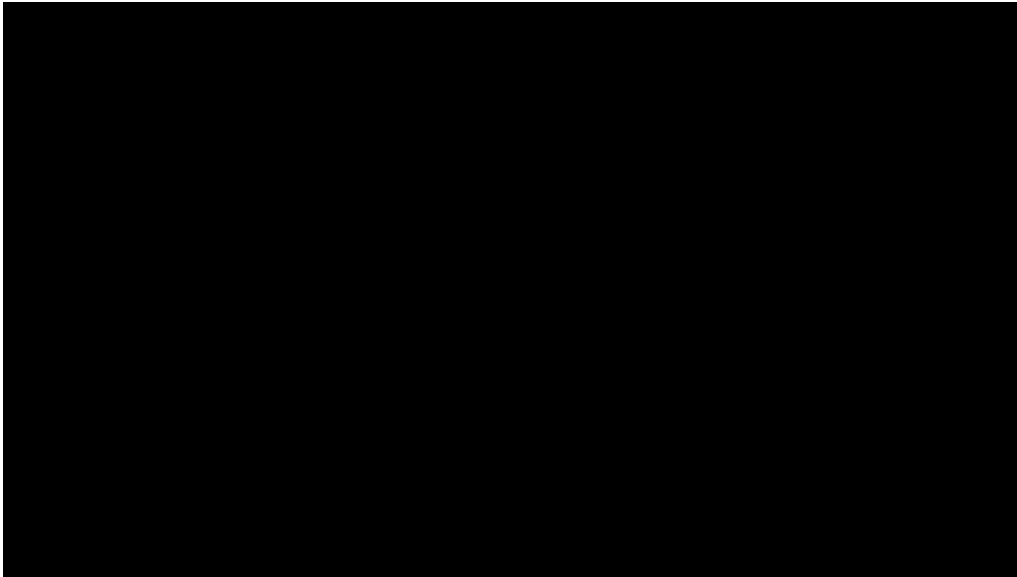


CanAssist focuses on innovation and unmet community needs.



CanAssist Technologies

CanAssist does not compete;
instead seeks to collaborate

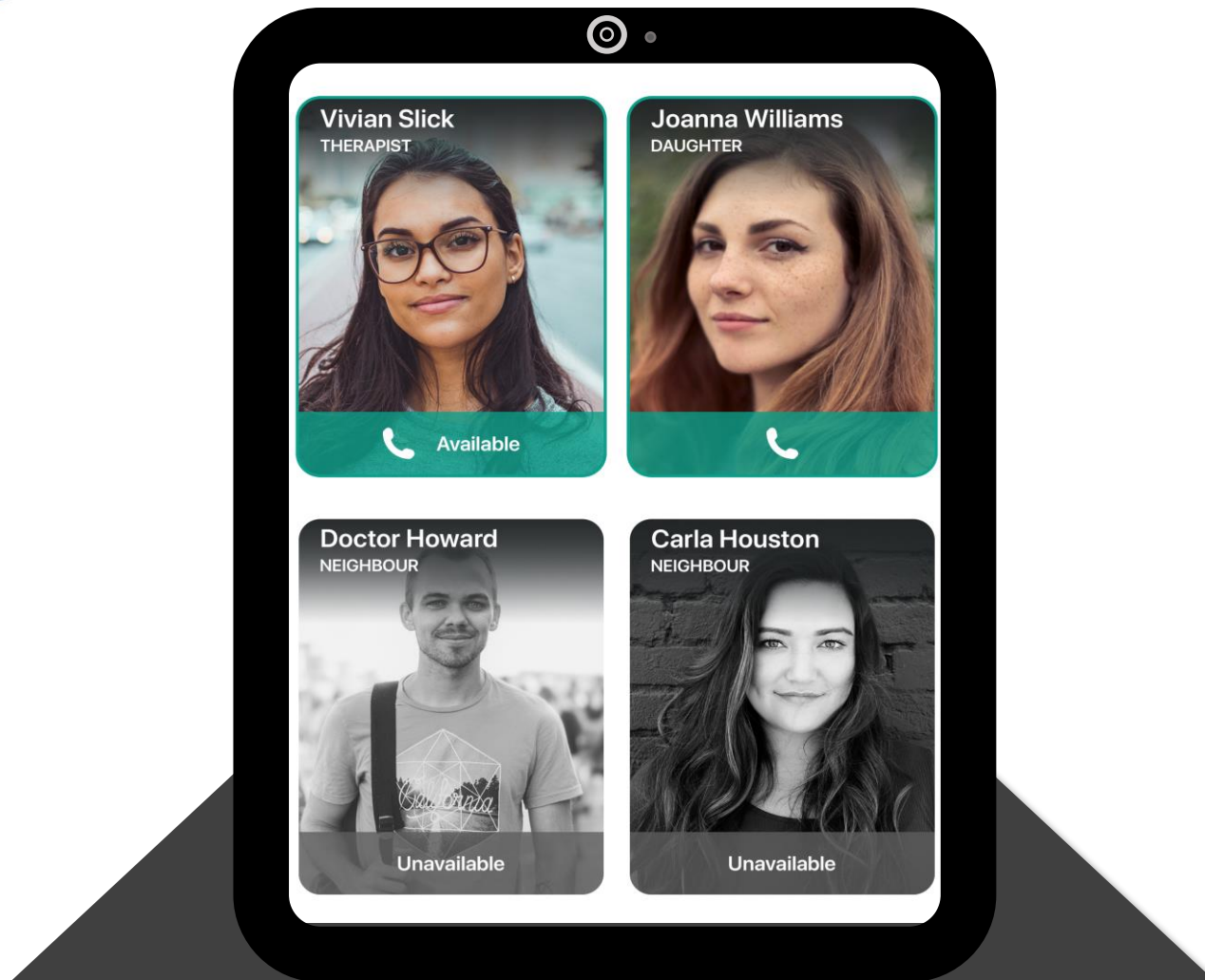


CanConnect

- 92-year-old with dementia
- Dialing 911 constantly
- Running for the phone
- Globally dispersed children



CanConnect



Caregiver Intercom

Caregiver calls in

Caregiver
enters
passcode



Caregiver can
speak directly
from the
intercom!

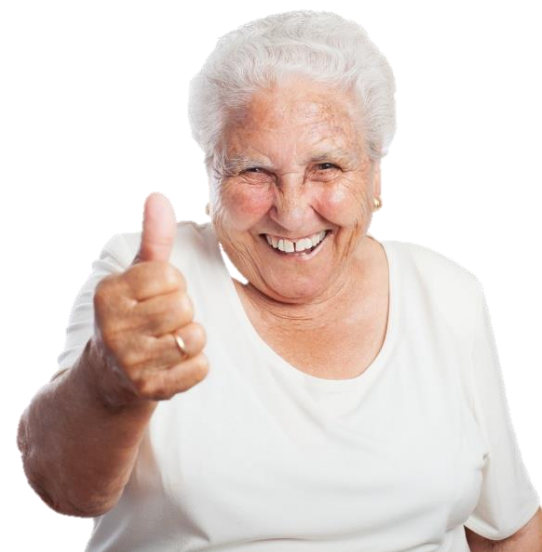
John is hard of hearing,
and enjoys a good nap.



Benjamin just leaves the
phone off the hook.



Susan always gets to the
phone seconds too late.



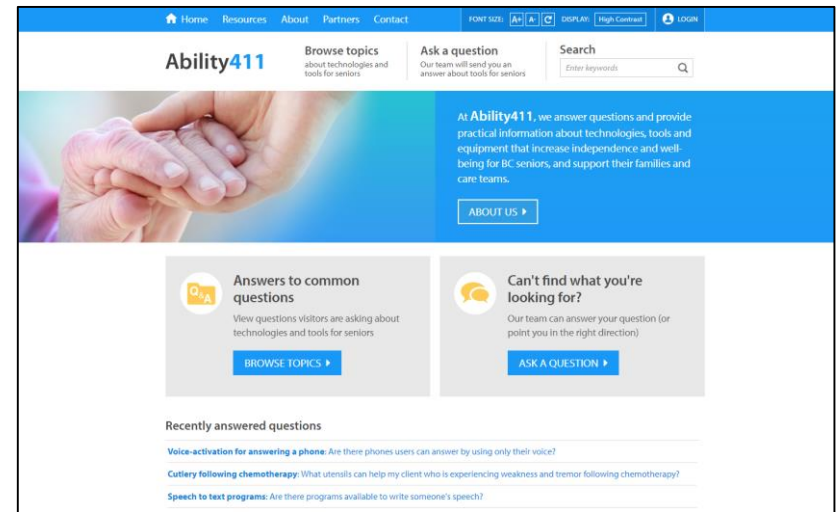
Sticky Picker-Telestik

If you do not have the dexterity or range of motion to comfortably pick up these items –how can you get them?



Ability411

- Ability411 allows seniors and their caregivers the opportunity to ask questions and get answers about assistive technology
- The website was designed to fill a gap in knowledge about the assistive technologies available to seniors
- Questions are reviewed by the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists – BC



How Ability411 Works

- Users can browse previously asked questions answered by Ability411, or they can submit their own questions.
- Categories include communication and computers, dressing, personal hygiene, eating and meal preparation, mobility aids and walking aids.

What are you having difficulty with?

Type a question you'd like to ask an Ability411 team member. *

E.g. Are there any apps or electronic gadgets that I can use to create a memory box for a family member who has recently been diagnosed with dementia?

Example cases

- Pamela has difficulty navigating the tiny buttons of her blouses and shirts due to her arthritis. She didn't think anything existed that could fix this relatively simple problem.
- \$16 button aid hook from Amazon and other retailers.



Example cases

- Bernice has troubles opening jars and cans due to her reduced grip strength. She knows of other solutions, but doesn't know what would work for



- Ability411 provides information about each technology it recommends

Example cases

- Gary is interested in technology. He's especially interested in "smart homes" but he doesn't really know about it or where to begin.
- Ability411 connected Gary to articles about "smart homes", and some of the most popular and useful accessories for a smart home.
 - Lightbulbs, outlets and tvs
 - How to set a reminder, timers and find information.



Waveband

Waveband lets people with a wide range of disabilities express themselves musically through movement.



Mobile Music Therapy Kit

"It opens up musical possibilities for more participants because of its physical adaptability.

Participants can now play from anywhere in the room and make music more easily....The whole music kit is a great package to **help groups play together** that would otherwise not be able to do so."

-Allan Slade
Music Therapist

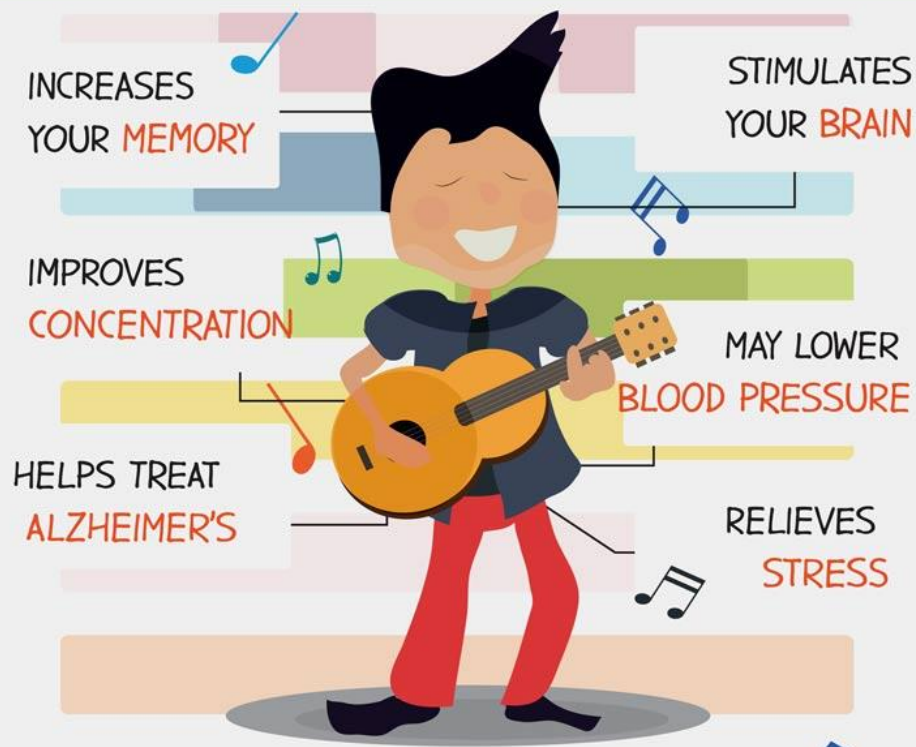


Mobile Music Therapy Kit



Mobile Music Therapy Kit

THE BENEFITS OF PLAYING A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT



IMPROVES **READING SKILLS**

IMPROVES **MATH SKILLS**

CAN BOOST
YOUR **IMMUNE SYSTEM**

IMPROVES
ORGANIZATIONAL SKILLS

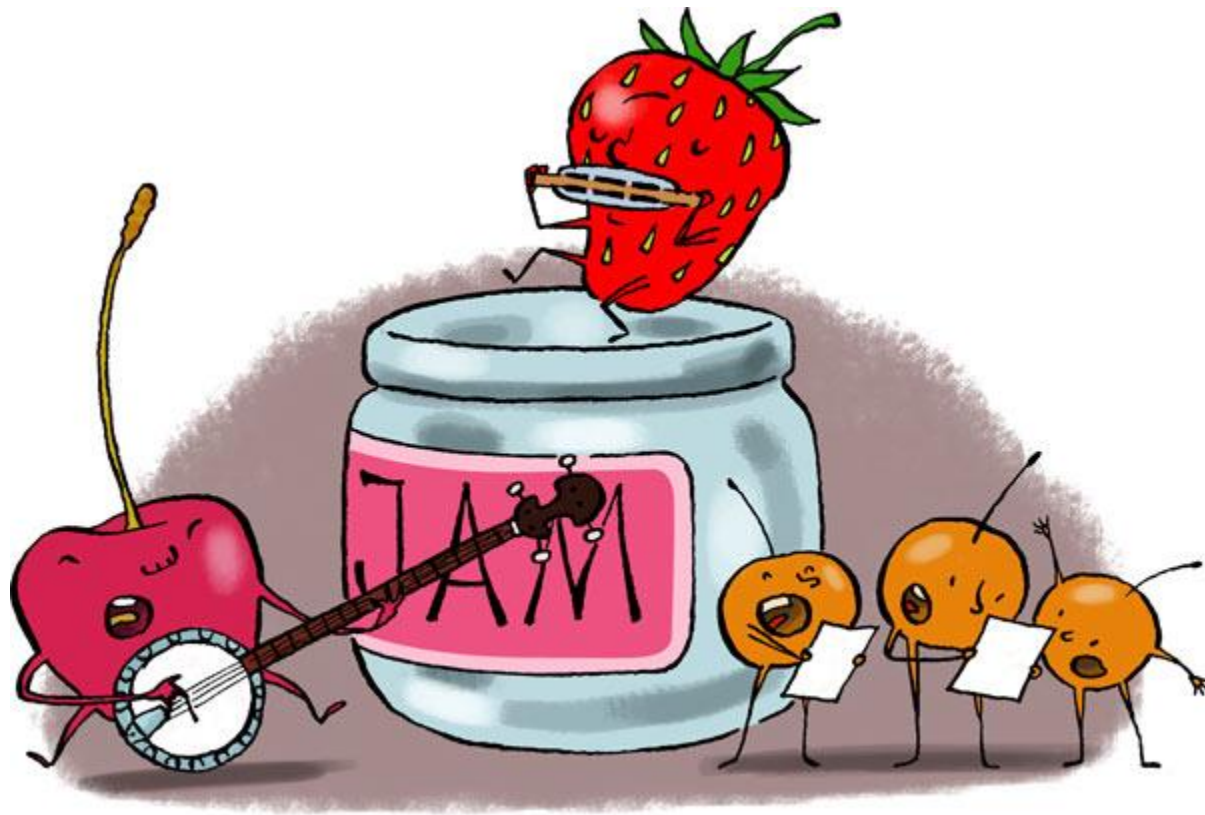
LESSENS
ANXIETY AND DEPRESSION

 **DEVELOPINGHUMANBRAIN.ORG**

SOURCES:

<http://www.healthfitnessrevolution.com/top-10-health-benefits-playing-instrument/>
<http://www.livescience.com/40597-playing-musical-instrument-good-health.html>
<http://www.effectivemusicteaching.com/articles/directors/18-benefits-of-playing-a-musical-instrument/>

Mobile Music Therapy Kit



How you can be involved



- Access www.ability411.ca to help find solutions for seniors in your life
- Help connect us to clients who could benefit from assistive technologies
- Spread the word, we are always accepting community requests

Thank you!



We sincerely appreciate any opportunity to engage with community leaders, healthcare professionals, clients, and families.

If you have questions, comments, or **if you are interested in becoming more involved with our projects** please leave your contact info with us, and take one of my business cards.

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