Using Voice Over

The following has been taken from the CALL booklet iPads for Communication, Access, Literacy and Learning (iCALL) (2014) available on the following link <https://www.callscotland.org.uk/common-assets/cm-files/books/ipads-for-communication-access-literacy-and-learning.pdf>

There are some useful but simple gestures that allow a blind or visually impaired user to interact with items on the screen such as tapping, double tapping, threefinger swipe, which will initially require some practice and familiarisation.

1. To start **VoiceOver** tap **Settings > General > Accessibility** and **VoiceOver**.

Tap the VoiceOver button to turn it on.

VoiceOver will start reading information aloud whenever and wherever you touch or select an item.

**Double tapping with 3 fingers** will switch speech on and off but it will not close VoiceOver. *Take care - if you triple tap you will black out the screen (i.e. turn on the Screen Curtain)! To see the screen again triple-tap to turn Screen Curtain off. More information about this in point 3.*

1. VoiceOver works more efficiently when you use **Gestures.**

For example, **Double tap to activate an item**, such as turning VoiceOver On and Off.

To navigate back to the Accessibility options, double tap the Accessibility button at the top of page and so on.

To **scroll** through items or pages, **‘Flick’ the screen with three fingers.**

Another way to navigate around the screen is **to hold your finger down and glide it along the screen**. VoiceOver will read each item aloud - **double tap** the item to open it.

1. When VoiceOver is activated a new button appears on the screen called ‘**VoiceOver Practice’**.

VoiceOver Practice is designed to be a ‘safe’ area where you can practice taps, double tapping, flicks etc.

VoiceOver Practice is supported with speech guidance which speaks relevant commands.

**We would recommend that you use VoiceOver Practice to familiarise yourself with the different commands and gestures.**

**Screen Curtain** – triple tapping anywhere on the screen will activate Screen Curtain. This will black-out the screen, simulating what it would be like for a blind user. To switch off Screen Curtain, triple tap the screen with three fingers. Most people, if they do it by accident, think they have broken the iPad. Don’t Panic!

1. **Speaking Rate** is a simple sliding bar to increase or decrease the rate of the speech.

5. There are some options in this section that allow you to finely tune VoiceOver.

For example

‘**Typing Feedback’** provides options for software keyboards and hardware keyboards (Bluetooth attachment). You can choose to set VoiceOver to speak characters, words, and a combination of both characters and words.

**Pitch Change** will change the pitch of the voice, e.g. when pronouncing capital letters etc. To turn VoiceOver off navigate to Settings and Accessibility or if you have the Accessibility shortcut set up, triple-click the Home button.