Luke gets a communication aid

Identifying Appropriate Symbol Communication aids for children who are non speaking: enhancing clinical decision making. NIHR HS&DR Project 14/70/153

Illustrated by Nazifa Khatun
His little sister Ruby loves playing on the games console.
Luke and Ruby go to school together on the bus. Luke used to hate going to school because everyone else could speak.
One day, Luke’s Mum took him to a clinic to see Debbie and Umesh.
Umesh said that there were lots of different communication aids and asked if Luke would like to try some.
First he tried an Alltalker. It had a red cover and it was smart like Ruby’s tablet computer.
But the pictures were squiggly and he could not find the one he wanted. The Alltalker wasn’t right!
Then he tried a LetsChat. It had a cool voice and he could control a computer.
But it was really big and heavy! The LetsChat wasn’t right, it was too heavy!
Then he tried a LOCA-VOCA. This one was really small and neat. He could wear it on a strap and use it when he watched swimming on TV.
But when Luke tried to pick the picture he wanted, he kept pressing other pictures by mistake, it was really annoying. The LOCA-VOCA wasn’t right, it was too fiddly!
Then Luke tried the Taptalk. It had the same pictures as his communication board and it was easy to find his favourite TV programmes. He really liked this one!
Luke asked Debbie if it came with a red cover like the Alltalker. Debbie said it didn’t but that Luke could put some red stickers on his talker when it arrives. The Taptalk was just right!
Luke thought it would never happen, but eventually his Taptalk arrived.
Luke couldn’t wait to get to school to tell them about his swimming party. Luke loves using his Taptalk and now Ruby can’t boss him about anymore!