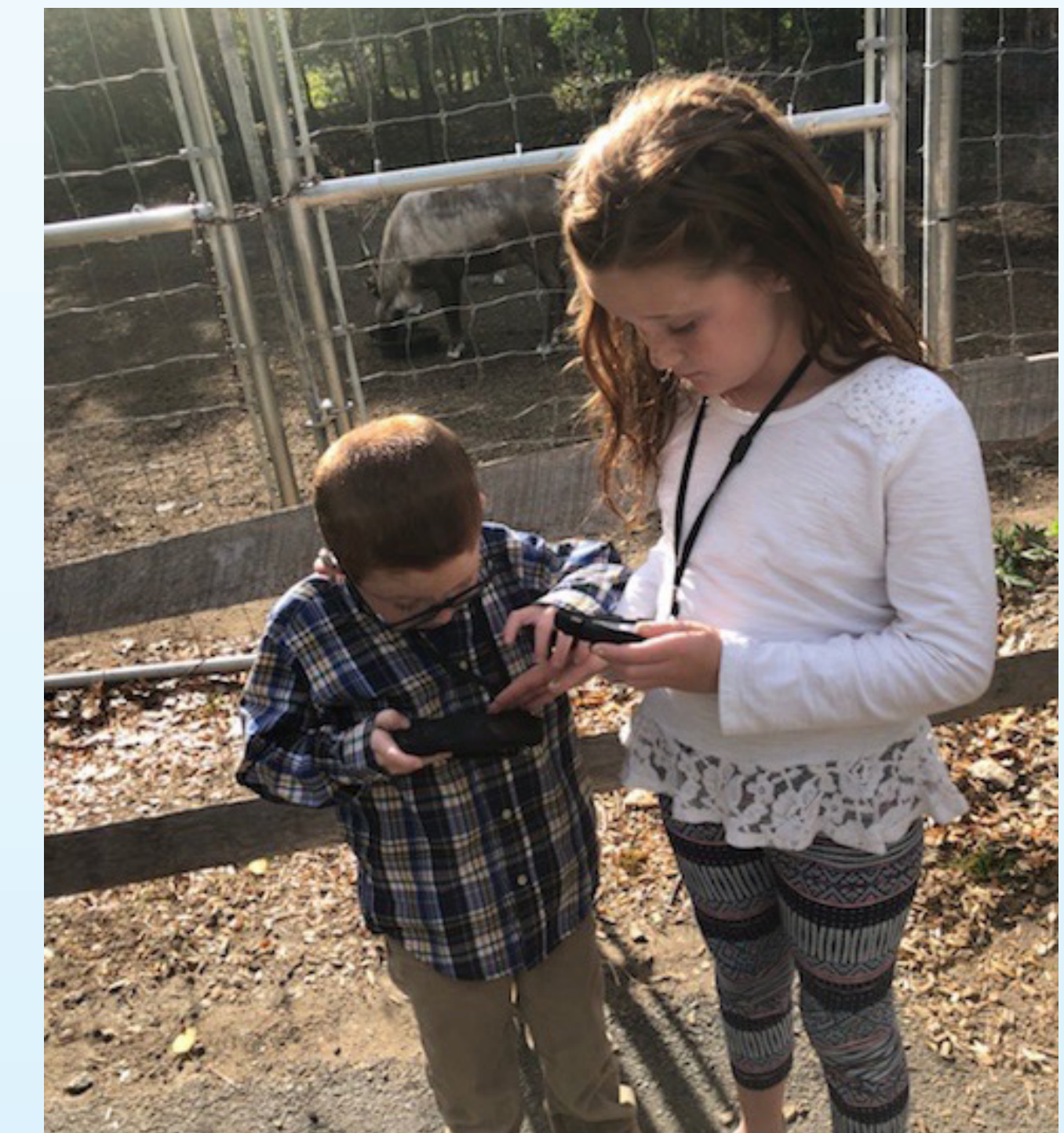
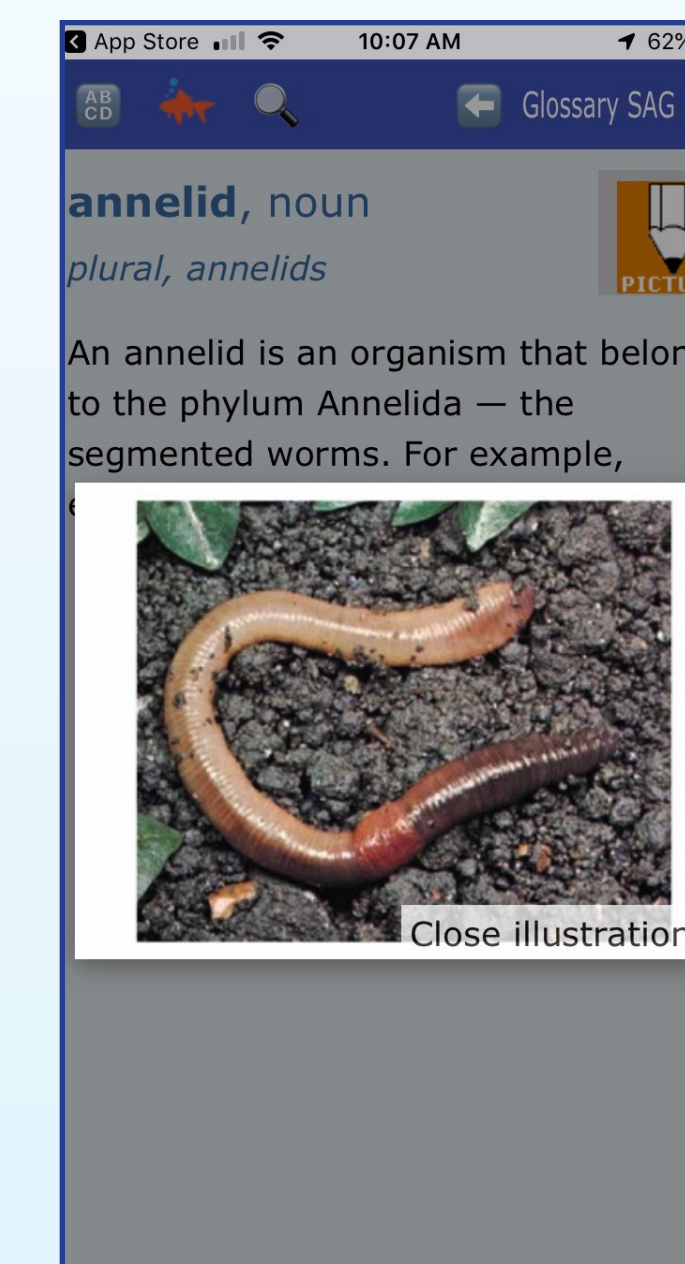
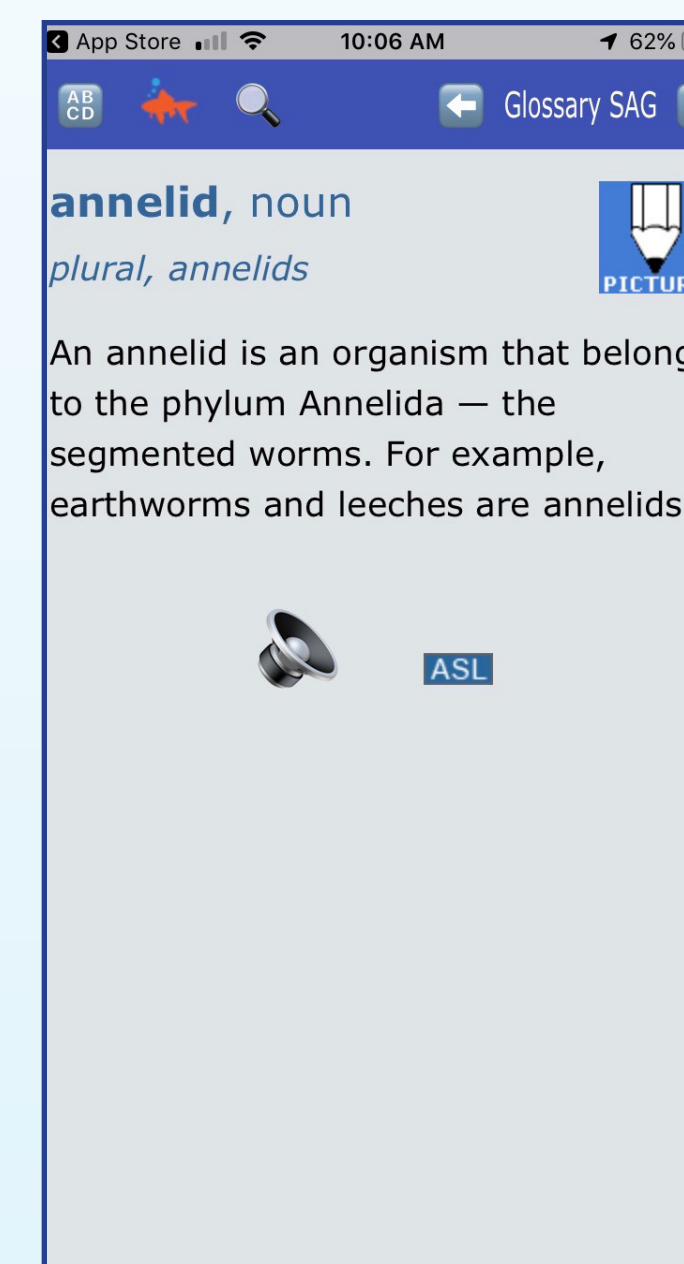
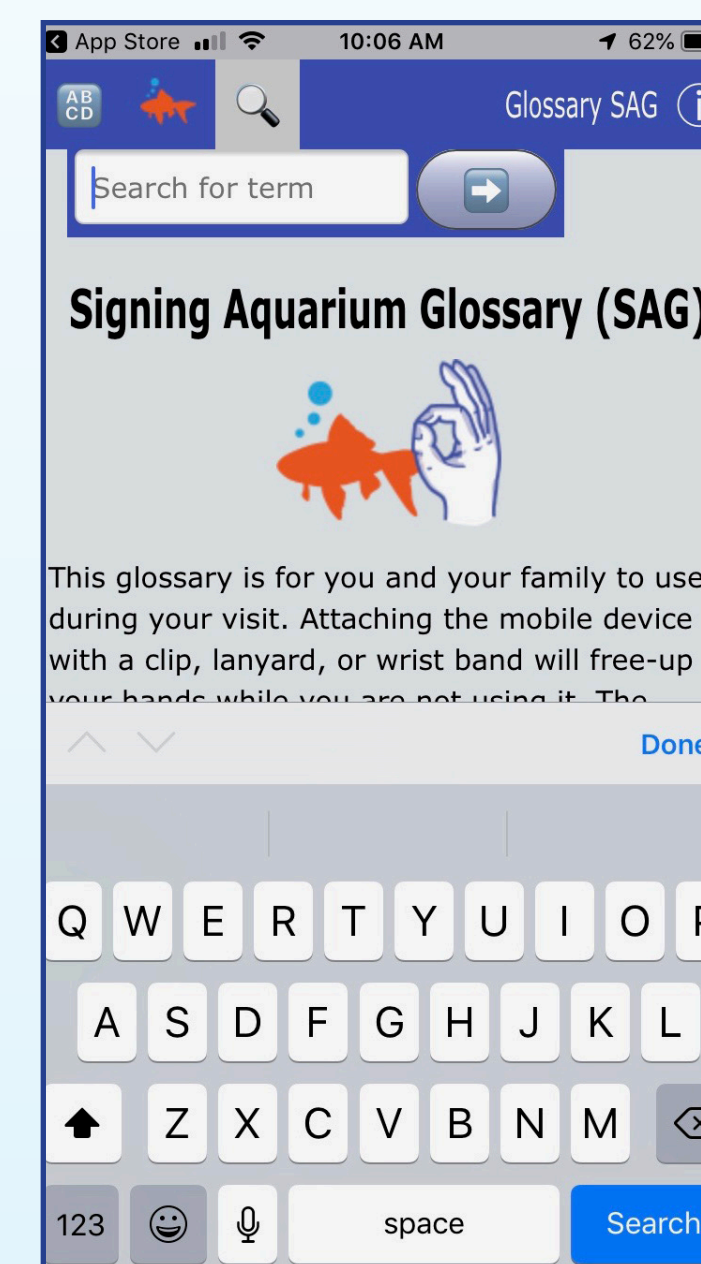
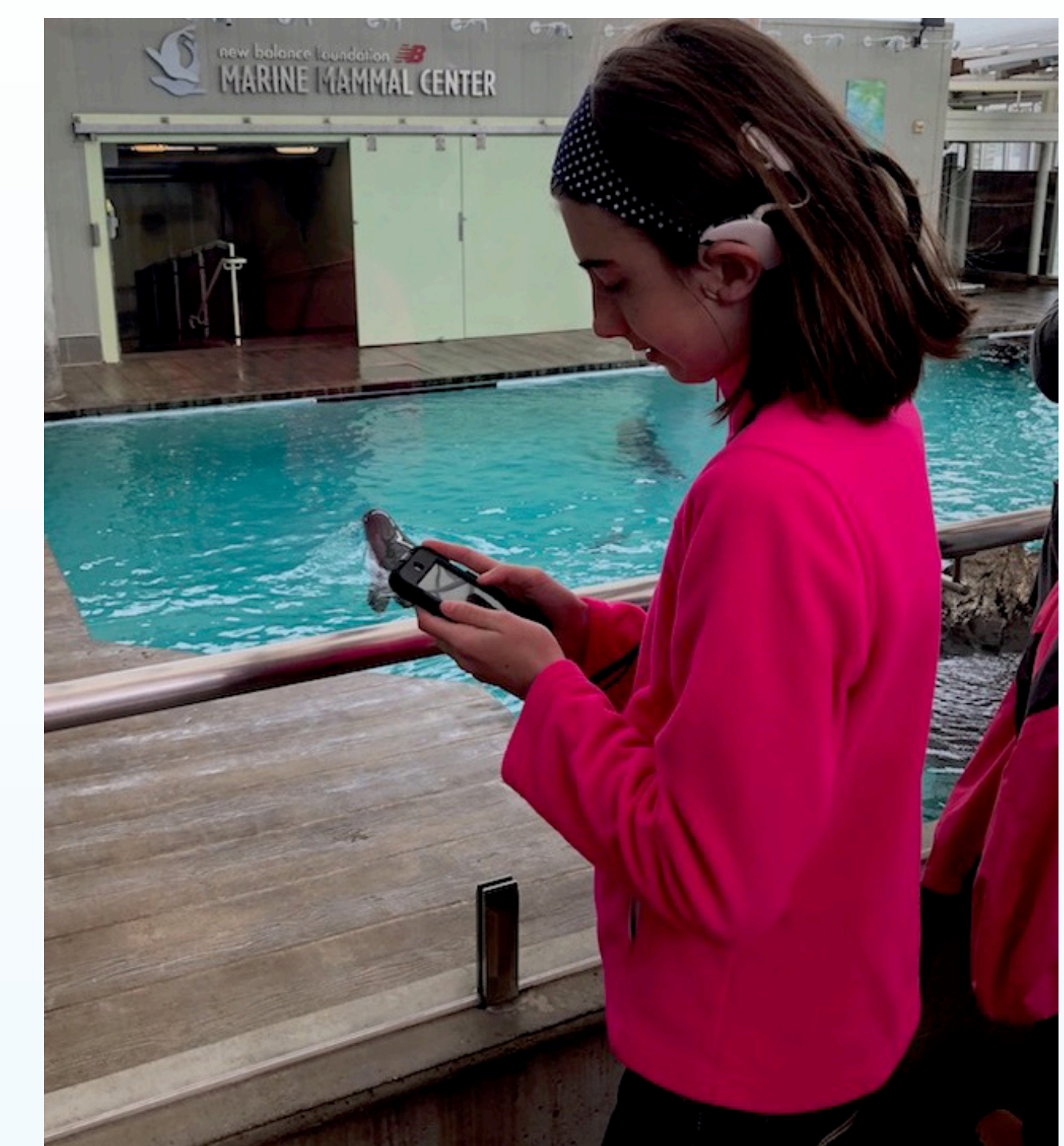


# Signing Glossaries for Science Exhibits

## Interface Design

The interface is universally designed to allow family members to acquire information in different ways and to offer opportunities that make sense and are interesting to them.



## Goals

1. Research and develop signing glossaries for families with at least one member who is deaf or hard of hearing and uses American Sign Language (ASL) for communication during visits to aquariums, botanical gardens, natural history museums, nature centers, science museums, and zoos.
2. Disseminate six separate apps that are made up of terms drawn from TERC's signing dictionaries and each include ~1,000 terms.

## Needs Addressed

1. The English vocabulary of the average 15-year-old deaf child is about the size of that of the average 9-year-old hearing child and will not improve significantly.
2. The use of informal science education venues is a low priority for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing and whose first language is ASL.

## Research Outcomes

1. Families found the glossaries helpful, easy, and fun to use.
2. Children used the glossaries to learn things, such as the names of particular structures and their function, as they observed or engaged in an activity.
3. Parents found that their children were more engaged in the exhibits than had been the case during past visits to similar venues.
4. Children and parents learned new signs.

One visitor summarized what our research shows when she wrote: "We were most impressed at the versatility of the signing glossaries in navigating various types of museums. [Our daughter] loves visiting these locations, but we often avoided them because we were unsure what value they'd have without the rich explanations we were able to give to our boys, who are both hearing. The glossaries enriched not only her experience but ours as well, helping us to feel more connected to her during those visits. Sometimes as a hearing parent of a child who is deaf, you can feel inadequate or ill equipped to provide your child the best educational support—especially in the areas of science and math. Our experiences have all been positive, regardless of the type of museum we are visiting."

## Dissemination

Apps for the Signing Zoo Glossary (SZG), Signing Nature Center Glossary (SNCG), Signing Science Museum Glossary (SSMG), Signing Natural History Museum Glossary (SNHMG), Signing Aquarium Glossary (SAG), and Signing Botanical Garden Glossary (SBGG) are available free through Apple's App Store and from the Google Play Store.

For more information, contact Judy Vesel, Principal Investigator, [judy\\_vesel@terc.edu](mailto:judy_vesel@terc.edu) or visit our website at <https://signsci.terc.edu/glossary/index.html>

