Symbol System Comparison Chart

We acknowledge that while other graphic languages like Widgit, Unity, or LAMP exist in specialized software, Boardmaker and SymbolStix represent the gold standards for community and outdoor communication boards.

Feature	SymbolStix (n2y / Everway)	Picture Communication Symbols / PCS (Boardmaker) (Tobii Dynavox / Mayer-Johnson)
Primary Visual Style	Dynamic, stylized stick figures showing movement, body language, and activity.	Clear line drawings featuring simple, rounded shapes (Classic "eggheads"), detailed illustrations (ThinLine), or high-contrast graphics.
Depiction of Verbs & Abstract Ideas	Highly transparent for actions due to dynamic stick figures depicting movement, gesture, and directionality.	Represented via contextual cues, arrows, and varied sub-styles (e.g., InContext line scenes, ThinLine action poses).
Specialized Vision Supports	Standard high-saturation color palette; customizable background contrast depending on the hosting app/software.	Dedicated PCS High Contrast Library created specifically for Cortical Visual Impairment (CVI) and low vision (bright neon tones on dark backgrounds).
Symbol Library Size	100,000+ symbols.	85,000+ symbols across 5 distinct libraries (Classic, ThinLine, High Contrast, InContext, Sign Language).
Cultural Diversity & Customization	Built-in skin tone customization tool; representations of varied ages, gender expressions, and assistive devices.	Built-in skin tone and hair color adjustments; extensive representation of multi-ethnic figures, disability equipment, and regional cultural icons (PCS Country).
Common AAC App Integrations	Proloquo2Go, TouchChat, LAMP Words for Life (optional symbol set), Avaz.	TD Snap, Compass, Boardmaker 7, DynaVox hardware, Predictable.
Curricular & Educational Ecosystem	Native visual system for n2y educational products (Unique Learning System [ULS], News2you, Positivity).	Native system for Boardmaker 7, Boardmaker Activities to Go, and Tobii Dynavox Core First curriculum.
Primary Clinical Strengths	Consistency across classroom curricula (News2you/ULS); clear depiction of verbs/motor actions; appeal across childhood to adult users.	Variety of sub-libraries for diverse clinical needs (CVI, adult aphasia, sign language learners); decades of user familiarity across clinical therapy settings.

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Sources:

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