

Assistive Technology Tools for Writing

Sessions 71 or 82 (Beginning/Intermediate)
2008 National Autism Conference
State College, Pennsylvania

Presented by Scott A. Dougherty
IDEA Training and Consultation Coordinator, Assistive Technology
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About Me

- Certified Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- Certified Teacher in Elementary Education
- Certified Instructional Technology Specialist
- Transitional Program Instructor for Deaf/Hard of Hearing adults for five years
- PaTTAN Educational Consultant for two years
- AIU Assistive Technology Coordinator since October, 2001

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The Big Disclaimers

- Not a company representative
- Not a shopping list writer - other products will:
 - Do some things in a better way
 - Do some things in the same way
 - Do some things in a worse way
 - Do some totally different things
- What you see is NOT all you can get
- Products are not specific to autism
- We ARE dealing with silicon



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Housekeeping

- Feel free to ask questions as they come to you
- We will take a break mid-session, but feel free to move around
- Materials are available for download at <http://www.aiu3.net/Level3.aspx?id=3822>

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Session Goals

- Provide an overview of assistive technology software
- Demonstrate the use and application of several programs to aid writing
- Discuss implementation of software tools as part of daily learning experiences

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Learning Outcomes

- List 3 examples each of no-tech, low-tech, and high-tech AT supports for writing
- List 5 AT tools for writing and identify two key features of each
- Identify 5 writing tasks performed by a student and generate a list of AT tools that could support each task

Tool Name	Category	Features

Writing Task	AT Tool

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Definitions



AT Services

"Any services that directly assist in the selection, acquisition, or use of an assistive technology device."

AT Device

"Any item, piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially off the shelf, modified or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities."

(PL 100-407, Section 3, 1988)

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And in English?

- Any tool that helps you to accommodate a student's needs so that:
 - Curricular demands are met
 - IEP goals are attained
 - Communication is aided
 - Independence is fostered

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When Should AT Be Considered?

- During the IEP/IFSP process
- When a disability impacts the performance or potential of a person in any of several areas:
 - Play
 - Accessing environments
 - Communication
 - Writing
 - Accessing print and auditory information
- When progress is flat or negative in direction
- After someone asks "Should we consider AT?"

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Range of Assistive Technology Supports for Writing

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No-Tech Writing Tools



- Highlighter tapes & pens
- Specialized paper
- Specialized pencils/pens
- Post-It notes
- Pencil grips
- Picture/text cards
- Signature guides
- Graphic organizers
- Pencil toppers
- Labels

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Low-Tech Writing Tools



- Portable keyboards
- Spell checkers
- Scan/Store/Send pens
- Label machines

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High-Tech Writing Tools



- Computer software
 - Word processors
 - Speech recognition
 - Word prediction
 - Scan or scan-and-read
- Alternate input devices
 - Touchscreens
- AAC devices
- Magnifiers/CCTVs

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Words of Caution

- High-tech is not automatically synonymous with appropriate or useful
- Technology does not replace instruction
- Assistive technology can't work if it isn't used
- “Buy-in” is everything



- Success is not instantaneous
- “One size does not fit all”

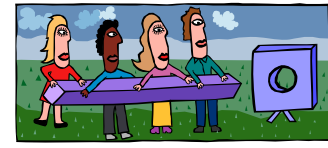
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Making Technology Work

- Determine the student needs and goals
- Investigate application features
- Match student needs to AT features





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Acquiring Software and Devices

- Lending Programs
 - PaTTAN Short Term Loan 
 - Pennsylvania's Initiative on Assistive Technology 
 - Community Agencies
 - Intermediate Units
- District, IU, School, or OVR Purchase
- Individual Purchase
 - Teacher
 - Family
 - Student



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Tools of the Trade

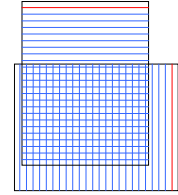
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Papers

- LoTTIE Special Papers Kit 
 - Grid/graph paper
 - Raised line paper 
 - Highlighted paper
 - Signature guides
- Pressure-sensitive paper
- Label paper
- Handheld label machines



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Papers

- Features
 - Varying widths and styles [↗](#)
 - Use color to provide visual cue
 - Static and passive (non-fading)
 - Horizontal and vertical options
 - Tactile cues possible with raised lines [↗](#)



- Considerations
 - Type/amount of writing will influence which paper or orientation to use

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Labels and Labeling Systems

- Features
 - Can be pre-printed for common terms
 - Clear labels allow for easier use with published documents
 - Labeling systems are portable [↗](#)
- Considerations
 - Fine motor limitation (or opportunity?)
 - Cost of label rolls
 - Preparation may be required
 - Spelling skill of user

David A. Coughlin Arling Intermediate Unit #9 472 E. Woodland Drive Haverhill, PA 17122-1144
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Writing Implements

- Tri-Write Triangular pencils [↗](#)
- Ring pen [↗](#)
- Evo Pen [↗](#)
- HandiWriter [↗](#)
- Grips [↗](#)
- Large-diameter pens [↗](#)
- Sensory pens [↗](#)
- Pencil toppers [↗](#)
- School Fonts software [↗](#) [↗](#)



The quick brown

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Writing Implements

- Features
 - Fit a variety of handshapes
 - Readily available
 - Wide variety of designs
- Considerations
 - Age appropriateness
 - Integrated vs. removable



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Keyboarding and Input Devices

- Keyboards
- Keytop Overlays
- Touchscreens
- Alternative keyboards
- Onscreen keyboards
- Portable keyboards
- Zooming user interface
- Typing methods



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Neo and Neo 2

- Features
 - Full-size keyboard
 - Work on Windows and Mac platforms
 - Battery operated
 - USB or Infrared transfer
 - WriteOn text files
 - AlphaQuiz
 - GoWriter
 - KeyWords
- Considerations
 - Screen size
 - Computer/printer access
 - Writing task/formats




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Dana Keyboard

- Features 
 - Word processing
 - Organization software
 - Synchronization
 - Access to thousands of Palm apps for laptop-like function
 - Large screen
- Considerations
 - Computer/printer access
 - Software reinstalls




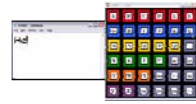
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Onscreen Keyboards

- Features 
 - Keyboard and text are on the same plane
 - Ability to change layout
 - Alternate input
 - Mouse – click or dwell
 - Switch
 - Touchscreen
 - Integrated word prediction and abbreviation expansion
- Considerations
 - Loss of “real estate”
 - Fatigue and repetitive stress
 - May require assistance with programming/setup




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IntelliKeys & Overlay Maker

- Features 
 - Large-format keyboard
 - Pre-formatted overlays
 - Compatible with IntelliTools Classroom Suite
 - Custom overlays with Overlay Maker
 - Activity-based
 - Color coding
 - Key appearance can differ from contents
- Considerations
 - Large size
 - Keyguards
 - Customization demands on time/labor











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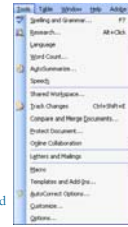
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Word Processors


- Portable
- Standard word processors
- Stripped-down word processors 
- Text-to-speech word processors  
- Cloze-style word processors 
- Symbol/Grid-based word processors  
- Online word processors 
- Useful Features
 - Highlighting
 - Auto correction
 - Spell check
 - Grammar check 
 - Word completion
 - Word prediction
 - Abbreviation expansion
 - Drawing
 - Scanning

Microsoft Word

- Features 
 - Tables and clip art for grid creation
 - Adding comments to documents
 - Highlighting key concepts
 - Creating locked worksheets and quizzes
 - Summarize lengthy text
 - Automatically replace text
- Considerations
 - Readily available
 - Same tool being used by peers and teachers
 - Tools are accessed differently in Word 2003 and Word 2007



Write:Outloud Features

- Features 
 - Fully-functioning word processor
 - Easy-to-use toggle buttons on the toolbar
 - Speaking dictionary and spell check
 - Supports PCT, JPEG, and BMP graphics
 - Speech settings can be easily changed
 - Integrates with other Solo products
- Considerations
 - Standalone or suite use
 - Classroom environment
 - Distractibility
 - Student
 - Peers and Professionals
 - Ability to access computer speech
 - External speakers
 - Headphones
 - Differences in speech engines and platforms



Cloze Pro

- Features [☐](#)
 - Type or paste prepared text
 - Remove words automatically or manually
 - Based on word or letter recurrence
 - Based on sequence
 - Based on pattern
 - Present words in a grid or pop-up list
 - Prompt with word shape, word, exposed letters
- Considerations
 - Useful when etext is available
 - Not a good tool for composition-style tasks
 - Learning Grids World [☐](#)



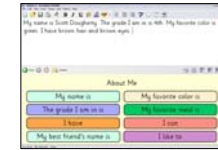
Writing With Symbols 2000

- Features [☐](#)
 - Symbol Processor
 - Word Processor
 - Grids for Printing
 - Grids for Writing
 - Can be used as a teacher or student tool
- Considerations
 - Grids for writing can be challenging to configure



Clicker 5

- Features [☐](#)
 - Good option for students comfortable with devices or communication boards
 - Develop writing skills in “non writers”
 - Allows for high level of structure
 - Option for textless composition
 - Universal Design employed
 - On-the-fly changes to cell content can be made quickly
- Considerations
 - Time to construct grids
 - Switch interface limited to Crick USB Switch Box
 - Learning Grids World [☐](#)



Boardmaker Plus/Speaking Dynamically Pro

- Features [\[link\]](#)

- Picture Communication Symbols (PCS) from Mayer-Johnson
- Additional symbol libraries
- Sign Language libraries can be added
- Foreign languages
- Symbolate tool
- Text to speech



- Considerations

- Access to CD
- Mayer-Johnson User Sharing Site [\[link\]](#)

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WriteOnline

- Features [\[link\]](#)

- Selectable word banks
- Word prediction
- Grid-based writing
- Text-to-speech

- Considerations

- School building licenses
- Access anywhere
- Learning Grids World [\[link\]](#)



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Word Prediction

- Features

- Increase the rate of output
- Improve legibility
- Reduce fatigue
- Ease frustration in writing
- Assist students with limited skills in spelling, vocabulary, and grammar

- Considerations

- Integrated or adjunctive
- Spelling/typing errors
 - Frequent transpositions
 - Phonetic
- Need for specialized lists
- Always on vs. on demand

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Co:Writer SE

- Features [\[1\]](#)
 - Intelligent word prediction
 - Flexible spelling
 - Collected words
 - Predict Ahead
 - eWord Banks
 - Basic, personal, and topic dictionaries
 - Text-to-speech
 - Neo version available
 - Adjunctive word prediction (may be used with a wide range of applications)
- Considerations
 - Platform
 - Standalone
 - Network
 - Portable



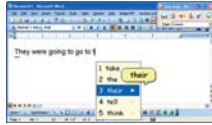
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WordQ

- Features [\[1\]](#)
 - Text-to-speech
 - Adjunctive word prediction
 - Usage examples for confusing words
 - Accommodates phonetic spelling attempts
- Considerations
 - Offers the option of speech recognition via SpeakQ



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Scan-and-Read Software

- Purposes
 - Provide bi-modal access to materials used in a district's curriculum
 - Promote independence in reading, writing, and study skills
 - Provide a plethora of reading and writing supports to perform a wide variety of tasks
- Scan and Read Titles
 - Kurzweil 3000 [\[1\]](#)
 - WYNN [\[1\]](#)
 - Test Talker [\[1\]](#)
 - Read & Write Gold [\[1\]](#)

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Kurzweil 3000

• Features

- Recursive American Heritage dictionary
- Text-to-speech output
- Variety of writing, studying, extraction, and notetaking tools
- Multiple scanning engines
- Imports files from TIF, PDF, DOC, etc.
- Type onto document images
- Audio file creation
- Web reading



• Considerations

- Cost and configurations
- Proprietary format
- Production demands
- Platform differences

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WYNN

• Features

- Simple, rotating toolbars
- Two working views
 - Text view
 - Exact view
- Text-to-speech output
- Variety of writing, studying, extraction, and notetaking tools
- Multiple scanning engines
- Imports files from TIF, PDF, DOC, etc.
- Type onto document images
- Audio file creation
- Web reading and highlighting

• Considerations

- Cost and configurations
- Proprietary format
- Production demands
- Windows only
- No option to type in Exact view



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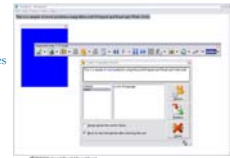


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Read and Write Gold

• Features

- Text-to-speech output
- Variety of writing, studying, extraction, and notetaking tools
- Multiple scanning engines
- Imports files from TIF, PDF, DOC, etc.
- Type onto document images
- Audio file creation
- Web reading
- Works as an adjunct to other software applications
- Show Sound Alikes and Homophones (MS Word)



• Considerations



- Cost and configurations
- Production demands
- Platform differences

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Alternatives to Scan-and-Read

- Adobe Acrobat Professional 
- PaperPort 
- Microsoft Word
- Drawing and paint programs



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Speech Recognition

- Utilizes a microphone to input text
- Requires adequate speech skills
- Requires significant executive functions to maintain a topic and perform corrections/training
- May allow for reduced use of the hands when controlling the computer




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Dragon Naturally Speaking

- Features 
 - Continuous recognition
 - Allows for keyboard-free text input
 - Support for adult and teen voices
 - Analyzes existing documents for vocabulary and style
 - Skip Training option
 - Accuracy tool set
 - Works in an adjunct capacity to other software
- Considerations
 - Not suitable for discrete recognition
 - Environment and task
 - User cognition



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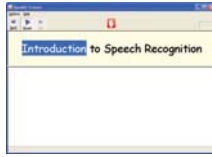
SpeakQ

- Features 

- Customizable training
- Discrete and continuous prediction modes
- Speech feedback of recognized text
- No verbal commands for control or correction
- Integrated word prediction capability
- Text-to-speech feedback
- Allows for both keyboard and speech input
- Server-level storage of student voice files

- Considerations

- Environment and task
- User cognition



Graphic Organizers

- Features 

- Two working modes
 - Visual maps
 - Outlining
- Scaffolded prompts
- Support throughout the writing process
- Notetaking ability
- Exportable as text to other applications

- Examples

- Draft:Builder
- Kidspiration
- Inspiration



Draft:Builder

- Features 

- Provides simplified, visual structure in writing tasks
- Encourages use of the writing process
 - Brainstorming
 - Notetaking
 - Reference citation
 - Draft writing
- Map and outline views

- Considerations

- Integrated/proprietary



Inspiration/Kidspiration

- Features [link](#)
 - Visual learning tool
 - Diagramming and outlining
 - Two formats for composing
 - Outline format
 - Map format
 - Provides a quick means of capturing ideas
 - RapidFire
 - Link Tool



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Software Suites

- SOLO [link](#)
 - Read-Outloud
 - Write-Outloud
 - Co:Writer
 - Data and reporting tools
- IntelliTools Classroom Suite [link](#)
 - Reading
 - Math
 - Writing
 - Creativity tools
 - Early Learning activities
 - Data and reporting tools



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Other Tools

- Notetaking
 - Wizcom InfoScan pen [link](#)
 - QuickLink-Pen Elite [link](#)
 - C-Print [link](#)
- Notetaking strategies
 - EasyScript and ComputerScript [link](#)
 - Cornell System [link](#)
- Grammar tools
 - Grammar Slammer Deluxe [link](#)

WIZCOM INFOSCAN PEN
 A unique note-taking system that allows the student to scan all high school and college level documents and then use the software to search, organize and display the scanned documents. The software also allows the student to create a digital notebook that can be shared with other students. It includes a built-in scanner that allows the student to scan documents directly into the software. The software also includes a built-in scanner that allows the student to scan documents directly into the software. The software also includes a built-in scanner that allows the student to scan documents directly into the software.

QUICKLINK-PEN ELITE
 A unique note-taking system that allows the student to scan all high school and college level documents and then use the software to search, organize and display the scanned documents. The software also allows the student to create a digital notebook that can be shared with other students. It includes a built-in scanner that allows the student to scan documents directly into the software. The software also includes a built-in scanner that allows the student to scan documents directly into the software. The software also includes a built-in scanner that allows the student to scan documents directly into the software.

C-PRINT
 A unique note-taking system that allows the student to scan all high school and college level documents and then use the software to search, organize and display the scanned documents. The software also allows the student to create a digital notebook that can be shared with other students. It includes a built-in scanner that allows the student to scan documents directly into the software. The software also includes a built-in scanner that allows the student to scan documents directly into the software. The software also includes a built-in scanner that allows the student to scan documents directly into the software.

EASYSOFT AND COMPUTERSOFT
 A unique note-taking system that allows the student to scan all high school and college level documents and then use the software to search, organize and display the scanned documents. The software also allows the student to create a digital notebook that can be shared with other students. It includes a built-in scanner that allows the student to scan documents directly into the software. The software also includes a built-in scanner that allows the student to scan documents directly into the software. The software also includes a built-in scanner that allows the student to scan documents directly into the software.

GRAMMAR SLAMMER DELUXE
 A unique note-taking system that allows the student to scan all high school and college level documents and then use the software to search, organize and display the scanned documents. The software also allows the student to create a digital notebook that can be shared with other students. It includes a built-in scanner that allows the student to scan documents directly into the software. The software also includes a built-in scanner that allows the student to scan documents directly into the software. The software also includes a built-in scanner that allows the student to scan documents directly into the software.



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Questions & Evaluations

- Is there a question you haven't asked yet?
- What further information do you need?

- Please take a minute or two to:
 - Complete the Session Evaluation
 - Provide written comments and suggestions
 - Complete the Learning Outcomes sheet and turn in the back copy

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Contact Information

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AIU Assistive Technology Home Page

<http://www.aiu3.net/Level3.aspx?id=1220>

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Assistive Technology Tools for Writing

Sessions 71 or 82 (Beginning/Intermediate)
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These links are embedded into the PowerPoint presentation used by Scott Dougherty at the 2008 National Autism Conference. The URLs are provided for your convenience, but may have been changed since the time this handout was prepared in July, 2008.

Slide	Description.....	URL
43	Adobe Acrobat.....	http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/
4	AIU Assistive Technology Resources	http://www.aiu3.net/Level3.aspx?id=3822
53	AIU Assistive Technology Home Page.....	http://www.aiu3.net/Level3.aspx?id=1220
11	Bright Lines Paper	http://www.onionmountaintech.com/
13, 28, 34	Boardmaker Plus! v.6.....	http://www.mayer-johnson.com/
12, 20	Brother P-Touch Labeling Systems	http://www.brother-usa.com/Ptouch/
51	C-Print.....	http://www.ntid.rit.edu/cprint/
28, 33	Clicker 5.....	http://www.cricksoft.com/us/products/clicker/
28, 31	ClozePro.....	http://www.cricksoft.com/us/products/clozepro/
51	Cornell University Learning Strategies Center - Study Skills Resources.....	http://lsc.sas.cornell.edu/SSWorkshops/SKResources.html
37	Co:Writer SE.....	http://www.donjohnston.com/products/cowriter/
26	CubeWriter.....	http://www.cubewriter.com/
12, 25	Dana	http://www.renlearn.com/neo/dana/
23	Dasher	http://www.dasher.org.uk/
23	DataCal Keytop Overlays	http://www.datacal.com/dce/catalog.htm#Labels
19	Do2learn Writing Tools	http://www.dotolearn.com/activities/writingtools/index.htm
47, 48	Draft:Builder	http://www.donjohnston.com/products/draft_builder/
44, 45	Dragon NaturallySpeaking.....	http://www.nuance.com/naturallyspeaking/preferred/
22	Draw Your World	http://www.drawyourworld.com/Catalog/HTML/pencilgrip.html

Slide	Description.....	URL
11	Dri-Mark Erasable Highlighter	http://www.officedepot.com/
51	EasyScript and ComputerScript (notetaking strategies)	http://easyscript.com/
13	ECO-14 by Prentke-Romich	http://www.prentrom.com/
21	Evo-Pen.....	http://www.maxiaids.com/
23	Five Finger Typist.....	http://www.mayer-johnson.com/
12	Franklin Children's Dictionaries.....	http://www.franklin.com/handhelds/dictionaries/childrens/
23	Fusion.....	http://www.keyboardinstructor.com/
28, 51	Grammar Slammer Deluxe with Checkers	http://englishplus.com/gramslam.htm
47	GraphicOrganizers.com	http://www.graphicorganizers.com/
21	HandiWriter	http://www.handithings.com/handiwriter.htm
44	IBM ViaVoice.....	http://www.nuance.com/viavoice/
9	IEP - School Age (Pennsylvania)	http://www.pattan.k12.pa.us/files/Forms/English/IEP-070108.pdf
47, 49	Inspiration	http://www.inspiration.com/
50	IntelliTools Classroom Suite.....	http://www.intellitools.com/
23, 27	IntelliKeys USB keyboard	http://www.intellitools.com/
23	KeyStrokes (Macintosh)	http://www.assistiveware.com/keystrokes.php
23	Keytec MagicTouch Monitors	http://www.magictouch.com/index.html
47, 49	Kidspiration.....	http://www.inspiration.com/
13, 39, 40	Kurzweil 3000 USB.....	http://www.kurzweiledu.com/kurz3000USB.aspx
35	Learning Grids World	http://www.learninggrids.com/learninggrids/
18	LoTTIE Special Papers Kit.....	http://www.onionmountaintech.com/kit.php?id=19
34	Mayer-Johnson User Sharing site	http://sharing.mayer-johnson.com/MainPage/tabid/54/Default.aspx
28	Natural Reader 7.0	http://www.naturalreaders.com/free_version.htm
24	Neo.....	http://www.renlearn.com/neo/

Slide	Description.....	URL
11	Onion Mountain Technology	http://www.onionmountaintech.com/
21	OT Ideas, Inc.....	http://www.otideas.com/Items/PencilGrips2.htm
43	PaperPort.....	http://www.nuance.com/paperport/standard/
16	PaTTAN Short Term Loan Program.....	http://www.pattan.net/supportingstudents/shorttermloan.aspx
21	Pencil Topper Fidgets	http://catalog.beacon-ridge.com/fidgets_pencil_topper-p-999260.html
16	Pennsylvania's Initiative on Assistive Technology (PIAT).....	http://disabilities.temple.edu/programs/assistive/piat/
21	PhD Multi-Pen	http://www.expomarker.com/sanford/consumer/papermate/products-pens.jhtml
11	Pocket Full of Therapy	http://www.pfot.com/
12, 51	QuickLink-Pen Elite	http://www.wizcomtech.com/Wizcom/products/product_info.asp?fid=101
23	REACH Interface Author 5	http://www.ahf-net.com/reach.htm
39, 42	Read & Write Gold	http://www.texthelp.com/page.asp?pg_id=10059
21	Ring Pen.....	http://www.maxiaids.com/
21	School Fonts & Transitional Fonts	http://www.mayer-johnson.com/
21	SchoolFonts.com.....	http://www.schoolfonts.com/cursive-font-blockletter/CursiveHandwriting.html
11	Signature guides.....	http://www.maxiaids.com/
50	Solo	http://www.donjohnston.com/products/solo/index.html
13	SoothSayer Word Prediction.....	http://www.ahf-net.com/sooth.htm
44, 46	SpeakQ.....	http://www.wordq.com/speakqenglish.html
21	Squiggle Wiggle Writer	http://www.harttoys.com/swwriter.html
39	TestTalker	http://www.freedomscientific.com/lsg/products/testtalker.asp
18	TheraPro Raised Line Papers.....	http://www.theraproducts.com/index.php?main_page=index&cPath=307743_307746
13	Topaz Video Magnifier.....	http://www.freedomscientific.com/products/lv/topaz-product-page.asp
21	Tri-Write Pencils.....	http://www.dixoncanada.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=ProductEngine.products&ndx=98
11	Twist 'n Write Pencil.....	http://www.beacon-ridge.com/

Slide	Description.....	URL
21	Vibrating Pen – Achievement Products for Children	http://www.specialkidszone.com/Product_Level3.asp?ProductID=1440
19	Wikki Stix	http://www.wikkistix.com/
12, 51	WizCom InfoScan.....	http://www.wizcomtech.com/Wizcom/products/product_info.asp?fid=100
38	WordQ.....	http://www.wordq.com/
28, 35	WriteOnline.....	http://www.cricksoft.com/us/writeonline/
28, 30	Write:Outloud	http://www.donjohnston.com/products/write_outloud/index.html
28	WriteRoom (Macintosh)	http://hogbaysoftware.com/products/writeroom
11	Writing Guide	http://www.onionmountaintech.com/
28, 32	Writing With Symbols 2000	http://www.mayer-johnson.com/
39, 41	WYNN.....	http://www.freedomscientific.com/lsg/products/wynn.asp



Assistive Technology Tools for Writing
 Sessions 71 or 82 (Beginning/Intermediate)
 2008 National Autism Conference, State College, Pennsylvania

**Complete and
 turn in at the
 end of today's
 session**

Learning Outcomes

List three examples each of no-tech, low-tech, and high-tech assistive technology supports for writing

No-tech Tools

Low-tech Tools

High-tech Tools

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| • | • | • |
| • | • | • |
| • | • | • |

List five assistive technology tools for writing and identify two key features of each

Tool #1:

Features:

Tool #2:

Features:

Tool #3:

Features:

Tool #4:

Features:

Tool #5:

Features:

Identify five writing tasks performed by a student and generate a list of assistive technology tools that could support each task

Purpose/type of writing task	Technology tool to consider