

Indispensable Tips, Tricks and Tools for Writing

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Difficulty generating written work
processing deficits
weak visual-motor skills
varying cognitive ability levels
lack of motivation
Technology is enabling

The student learns strategies for writing.

Mechanics

Language Expression

Message Construction

Slant Boards

Magnetic Letters

Labels

Use Avery labels to make your own words

Pens & Pencil Grips

Raised Paper

Templates

Templates could be made for filling out envelopes, signature, and check writing.

Dictionaries

Commercially available or create your own personal dictionary

Portable Word Processors

Alphasmart

QuickPad

LaserPC 6

The Writer

Spell Checkers

A spell checker can provide auditory feedback.

Handwriting animation teaches penmanship - child enters any word to see it modeled in either manuscript or cursive writing

Fonts

Microsoft Word

- Microsoft Word
- Auto correct
- Grammar/spelling checker
- Change Preferences
 - Spelling
 - Grammar

AppleWorks

- Mac version can speak
- Spell check can show misspelled word in context

Kidspiration

Kidspiration is an easy-to-use tool designed to map out ideas in a visual diagram

Inspiration

Inspiration is an easy-to-use tool designed to map out ideas in a visual diagram

Hollywood High

- Create your own show by selecting characters, scenes and actions.
- Write your own dialog

Talking Word Processors

- Talking word processor with a talking spell checker and talking dictionary
- Great for editing. Students immediately hear if words are omitted or misplaced.

Word Prediction

Word prediction helps struggling students build and write complete and correct sentences.

Onscreen Keyboards

- Allows individuals to visually focus on the same work surface.
- PixWriter allows onscreen typing of whole words

Solo**Writers Companion****TextHelp**

- Read & Write
- Wordsmith

Speech Recognition

Resource Page for Indispensable Tip and Tricks

Pens and Pencil Grips•

Office Supply Stores, Beacon Ridge www.beacon-ridge.com, Pocket Full of Therapy

Raised Paper

Pro Ed, 1-512-451-3246, <http://www.proedinc.com>
List resource from Orlando

Literacy Lined Paper – Beacon Ridge www.beacon-ridge.com 1-800-737-8029

Labels and Magnetic Paper

Office Supply Stores

Magnetic Poetry

Bookstores or teacher supply stores, <http://www.magneticpoetry.com/>

School Fonts

Mountain Lake Software, 1-800-669-6574 or <http://www.schoolhousefonts.com>

Portable Word Processors

Alphasmart, <http://www.alphasmart.com>

Quickpad,

Laser PC 6, Perfect Solutions

The Writer, http://www.keyboardinstructor.com/back_to_school.html

OnScreen Keyboards

Built in on Windows 2000 and XP – under accessibility options

Reach Keyboard – Applied Human Factors, Inc., 1-210-408-0098

PixWriter - Slater Software, Inc., 719-479-2255, [http:// www.slatersoftware.com](http://www.slatersoftware.com)

Highlighter Tape

Office Supply Stores or <http://www.crystalspringsbooks.com/store/>

Talking Word Processors

ReadPlease – 2 versions shareware and freeware at www.readplease.com

Write:OutLoud - Don Johnston, Inc., 1-800-999-4660, <http://www.donjohnston.com>

Intellitalk II - Intellitools, Inc., 1-800-899-6687, <http://www.intellitools.com>

Dictionaries

Word Finder - Don Johnston, Inc., 1-800-999-4660, <http://www.donjohnston.com>

Bad Spellers Dictionary, <http://www.randomhouse.com>

Graphic Organizers

Inspiration Software, Inc., 1-800-877-4292, <http://www.inspiration.com>

Spell Checkers

Franklin Learning Resources, 1-800-525-9673, <http://www.franklin.com>

Word Prediction

CoWriter 4000 -Don Johnston, Inc., 1-800-999-4660, <http://www.donjohnston.com>

Word Q - QuillSoft inc. <http://www.wordq.com>

TextHelp, <http://www.texthelp.com>

WYNN - Scientific Freedom 1-888-223-3344,
<http://www.freedomscientific.com/WYNN/index.asp>

Kurzweil 3000 - Kurzweil Education Systems, 1-800-894-5374 -

<http://www.kurzweiledu.com/index.html>

Earobics - Cognitive Concepts, 1-847-328-8099, <http://www.cogcon.com>

Ultimate Phonics 1-858-455-9818 www.spencerlearning.com

Simon SIO - Don Johnston, Inc., 1-800-999-4660, <http://www.donjohnston.com>

Clicker 5 - <http://www.cricksoft.com/>
E-Pals - http://www.epals.com/index_en.html
Hollywood High, Software Express, 1-800-527-7638, <http://www.swexpress.com>
DeskTop Helpers - <http://www.reallygoodstuff.org>
Speaking Homework Wiz - Franklin Learning Resources, 1-800-525-9673,
<http://www.franklin.com>
Inspiration - Inspiration Software, Inc., 1-800-877-4292, <http://www.inspiration.com>
Thinking Maps - <http://www.thinkingmaps.com/htthinkmap.php3>
Solo - Don Johnston, Inc., 1-800-999-4660, <http://www.donjohnston.com>
Stages – Assistive Technology, Inc., 1-800-793-9227, <http://www.assistivetech.com>

Resources

Developing Minds - Getting Thoughts on Paper. Dr. Mel Levine. Videocassette. WGBH Educational Foundation, 2002.
Sousa, David A. How the Special Needs Brain Learns. Vol. 1. California: Corwin P, Inc, 2001. 1-237.
Sousa, David A. How the Brain Learns. 2nd Edition. California: Corwin P, Inc, 2001. 1-3057. Developing Language for Literacy (1997) Larry Mattes
Balanced Reading Strategies and Practices (1999) D. Ray Reutzel and Robert Cooter, Jr.
The Literacy Dictionary (1995) Theodore Harris and Richard Hodges
Structured Writing – Using Inspiration Software to Teach Paragraph Development, (2001) Charles Haynes and Kathleen McMurdo
Making the Writing Process Work: Strategies for Composition and Self-Regulation, (1996) Karen R. Harris & Steve Graham

Voice Recognition

TALK to your Computer (2000) Dan Newman
The Dragon Naturally Speaking Guide (2000) Dan Newman
<http://www.edc.org/spk2wrt>
<http://www.synapseadaptive.com/joel/default.htm>
<http://www.voicerecognition.com>
<http://www.naturalspeak.com>

Websites

Suggestions for Helping Learning Disabled Students to Write by Paul Kaiser
<http://www.ldresources.com/suggestions.html>
Tools for People with Writing Problems by Richard Wanderman
<http://www.ldresources.com/writingtools.html>
Portable keyboards
<http://www.ldresources.com/keyboard.html>
Getting Windows to Speak
<http://www.ldresources.com/windoespeech.html>