

## ADVANCES IN ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

At the CLD International Conference in Kansas City in early October, Dr. Betty Nelson from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, presented a session entitled, "Making Assistive Technology Part of the Classroom Environment and Culture for All Students in Inclusive Settings". Some of the technologies are available to most of us who use computers. Microsoft Word has templates that offer the use of larger fonts to increase visibility. For more information, the items and programs listed below could be found using a search engine on the internet.

Remember....WWW = Whatever, Whenever and Whoever!

### **Tools for writing :**

Writing with Symbols 2000 (Mayer- Johnson)-(A talking word processor)

Write out Loud (Don Johnston Inc)

Inspiration Software, INC. (Free graphic organizers)

Kidspiration: 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> gr. Graphic organizers. – (tools kids can work on at home)

SymWriter (Widgett)

Clicker 5 (Crick Software) – Sentence builder- great for non – readers

Write On Line- personalized support for students.

Power Point- (Microsoft) - has sound file feature that allows questions to be read aloud.

### **Word Prediction Software :**

Read and Write 8.1 (Don Johnston, Inc. )

Read and Write Gold for Windows

Co-Writer- SET (Special Ed Technology- British Columbia)

Atomic Learning (Assistive Technology tutorials)

### **Notetaking:**

Neo software

Alpha Smart-(Intelligent Peripherals)

DANA wireless- runs PALM operating system)

Tungsten handhelds – PALM technology)

Zire – extended keyboards are available

### **Voice to Print:**

Dragon Naturally Speaking (\*\*\*) considered one of the best)

Speak-Q

I-Communicator

Audacity (looks at volume)

Avatar- (Signs to Hearing Impaired)

Cloze Pro

### **Collaborative Learning Communities:**

<http://moodle.org> ( free- course management system)

<http://www.pbwiki.com> - load kid photos, expectations, resources, Parent sidebar, etc.

<http://www.wikispaces> classroom web spaces

<http://www.blogger.com>

<http://www.classblogmeister.com> (classroom publishing and blogs)  
<http://thinkfinity.com> - multimedia websites curriculum guides

**Reading Tools:**

Quicktionary Reading Pen and translators ( Seiko Instruments USA, Inc)

Bookworm ( AbleNet Inc)

Interactive Reading Software- Start to Finish Series ( Don Johnston,Inc)

Screen Readers- Text HELP ( Microsoft- on most computers)

E-reader ( ResearchWare by CAST)

Kurzweil 3000 ( Kurzweil Education Systems) scan and read- thumb drive program

Talking Books- (Created in Microsoft PPT)

NIMAS electronic textbooks

BENETECH BOOKSHARE.org ( Accessible text) [www.bookshare.org](http://www.bookshare.org)

Adapted Books- <http://www.creativecommunicating.com> – storytime tricks

Bookworm- AblenetInc. (color codes, better than recorded books)

HelpRead- <http://helpread.net>

Project Gutenberg- free electronic books- MP3, CD, audio built-ins