



**Freeware/Shareware/Demos
and just Plain Good Sites
on the Internet to Support the Classroom**

AAC Support

On this website you will find books that have been adapted using the Picture Communication Symbols (PCS) and the Mayer-Johnson program BoardMaker.

www.baltimorecityschools.org/boardmaker/adapted_library.asp

www.mcps.k12.md.us/curriculum/pep/teachingideas/anim.htm for Animal boards.

For pre-designed Boardmaker activities, explore:

www.baltimorecityschools.org/boardmaker/Results.asp and

www.mcps.k12.md.us/curriculum/pep/teachercreate.html#bfiles

Make and Take Ideas:

www.tinsnips.org/Pages/makeandtake.html

www.designtolearn.com/pages/ts.html Tangible Symbol Systems were designed for people who are unable to understand the meaning of the abstract symbols used in formal language systems.

Computer Safety

Child Proof is a program that protect your computer from children by accident pressing wrong buttons or key. It hides all windows, the toolbar at the bottom and the desktop and replaces it by a toolbar with programs you allow your child to execute. This avoids most problems when children use the computer (but not all).

www.cs.uu.nl/people/markov/kids/cproof.html

Cursors

Cursors may need to be enlarged or animated for better visibility. There are several sites on the Internet, here are a few:

Windows

<http://joescursors.tripod.com/HVCurPg.htm>

www.supercursors.com/ Super Cursors is a free utility lets you color your windows cursor.

www.tucows.com/preview/16285 These are very large and colorful cursors. Downloads and software from Tucows the largest online software download site.

Macintosh

www.tucows.com/preview/204209 CursorAnimator lets you substitute five system cursors (arrow, watch, text, cross-hair and plus) with a static or animated cursor of your

choice.

If your Macintosh supports color, you can even get color cursors.

Drawing, Coloring and Creating Programs

There are so many sites on the Internet that offer ways to explore your creative side. Here are just a few:

TuxPaint www.newbreedsoftware.com/tuxpaint/

Drawing for Children

www.cs.uu.nl/~markov/kids/draw.html

Doodle

www.adders.org/freeware/doodlepad.html

A simple drawing and coloring program which includes stamps (small pre-drawn pictures to color) of Winnie The Pooh, Piglet, Tigger, Owl, Rabbit, Gopher, Roo and Kanga to add to your pictures.

Rub a Dub

www.kidsdomain.com/down/pc/rubadub.html

Teach kids to mouse with this fun art application! Beginning mousers sometimes have trouble with the "click and drag". This fun little coloring book is designed with the tiniest tykes in mind. Kids can color pictures by dragging the mouse over them. The rubbing reveals colorful surprises underneath the black and white features!

E-Mail

Using e-mail is such a great way to get kids writing but you may want to explore some sites that provide just a little extra:

www.springdoo.com/ Springdoo is a free service that lets you talk your emails. Anyone can now easily send talking emails in their own voice, without typing. You can use your computer and a microphone, or any telephone. This allows users who have difficulty with writing / typing / spelling to create voice emails and email to anyone they want.

www.yackpack.com/ YackPack is simple, web-based voice messaging for groups. For younger or cognitively challenged people this would be absolutely ideal - it's a closed and controlled system... click on the *PHOTO* of the person you want to email, click on the BIG button to record, then click on the BIG button to send. It really is an amazing system and just ideal for people who are able to talk but who have difficulty with functional typing or writing.

Skype is a program for making free calls over the internet to anyone else who also has Skype: www.skype.com/ (Google gmail and yahoo messenger all allow for full telephone conversations over the web - a benefit for people with physically disabilities.)

www.ablelink.org/ Ability OnLine "is a friendly and safe computer friendship network

where children and youth with disabilities or chronic illnesses connect to each other as well as to their friends, family members, caregivers and supporters."

www.google.com/talk/ Google Talk enables you to call or send instant messages to your friends for free—anytime, anywhere in the world.

Gmail is a in a new kind of webmail, built on the idea that you should never have to delete mail and you should always be able to find the message you want. Go to Google and go to Gmail. It's just one click to chat with the people you already email, as well as anyone on the Google Talk network.

E-Text

(Electronic Text) free books and text online - Electronic text provides access to digital materials for students with learning, sensory and physical disabilities. The Internet provides many sites for gathering e-text. Here are some links to explore e-text further:

www.bartleby.com/

www.digital.library.upenn.edu/books/index.html

www.acs.ucalgary.ca/%7Edkbrown/rteacher.html

www.gigglepoetry.com/

www.childrenstory.com/tales/index.html

www.indianchild.com/tongue_twisters.htm Tongue twisters for kids. This one isn't free but it is worth the \$49 a year. You can sort by author, title, reading level etc. The titles are books kids are already reading in school and they add new titles regularly.

www.accessiblebookcollection.org/

<http://wowio.com/index.asp> Free Books, Free minds. Selections provided by category.

www.gamequarium.com/magazines.html has a great list of on-line magazine sites that are very motivating for kids to use with text-to-speech software.

Google has a book search in their search engine now. Go to Google and then go to "More". Type in what you are looking for and voila! You just might find it.

www.magickeys.com/books/ illustrated and animated children's storybooks.

Graphics

Pictures are used to support students with communication devices, to use with picture schedules and to enhance presentations. Here are a few ways to tap into graphics on the Internet:

<http://office.microsoft.com/clipart/> provides all kinds of Microsoft graphics, photos, animations and sounds that will be downloaded right into your clipart library. Good source that is often forgotten.

www.google.com *Beware of copy right laws when using Google!*

Select the "Image" tab and type in your image search request. To copy just hold down the mouse on the graphic and there will be a little pull down menu that has Copy to Clipboard as an option. Select that and return to your document and select Paste. You can also select to download the image to a disk or your desktop and then insert picture from the pull down menu.

<http://pics.tech4learning.com/> includes "copyright friendly images for education" including American Sign Language. The Pics4Learning collection consists of thousands of images that have been donated by students, teachers, and amateur photographers.

<http://trainland.tripod.com/pecs.htm> includes pictures that you can use for communication systems. May be used with Boardmaker or on its own by using a cut and paste method. Includes real pictures of many items, such as food, fast food places, stores, etc.

<http://school.discovery.com/clipart> Discovery School makes it easy to add graphics to your next project, whether its for home or school. Choose from hundreds of original clip art pieces, including animations.

www.edupics.com/coloring.html Free coloring pictures for primary school. On this site you can find educational coloring pictures to color and print.

Just something to be aware of... Google has a video library. Go to Google, go to "more" and you will see Video: Search TV programs and videos. Great for adding a little visual to presentations! This may be a good source for students who can't go out and take their own. (Beware of copyright rules!)

PictureSET is a collection of downloadable visual supports that can be used by students for both receptive and expressive communication in the classroom, at home, and in the community. This searchable database allows you to find a wide range of useful visual supports for different curriculum areas, activities, and events:

www.setbc.org/pictureset/Default.aspx

Graphic Organizers

Math Graphic Organizers, All-Subject Graphic Organizers, Problem and Solution, Venn Diagrams and Webs, and Language Arts Graphic Organizers www.teachervision.com/ go to Lesson Planning Center then to Graphic Organizers.

"A picture is worth 1000 words." This is so true, and when students are juggling new concepts, a graphic organizer can be an excellent teaching aide.

www.freeology.com/graphicorgs/

<http://gliffy.com> Allows you to use diagramming in your web browser without downloading additional software. You can create many types of diagrams such as Flowcharts, UI wireframes, Floor plans, Network diagrams, UML diagrams, or any other simple drawing or diagram.

www.eduplace.com/graphicorganizer provides PDF files of many graphic organizers. With the hit of a button they are available in Spanish also!

<http://cmap.ihmc.us/download/> Alternative to Inspiration that is totally free. Doesn't have some of the supportive options that Inspiration has such as text to speech and wonderful graphics but the CmapTools program empowers users to construct, navigate, share and criticize knowledge models represented as concept maps.

www.inspiration.com has full-feature demos of their graphic organizer programs.

Math Support

Calculator Home Page for Windows high functioning calculator. Free download.

www.calculator.org/

Wide assortment of all types of calculators, ranging from 1885 Felt & Tarrant "Comptometer" Adding Machine and a Vector Calculator to an Astrophysical Calculator and a Linear Algebra Matrix Calculator.

www.middleschool.net/MainFeatures/caculate.htm

National Library of Virtual Manipulatives encourages active engagement in mathematical thinking and learning – helping students visualize relationships and applications.

<http://matti.usu.edu/nlvm/nav/index.html>

www.vincentwortham.com/mathFlash.html and <http://cybersleuth-kids.com/mathflash/mathflash.html> have flash card programs for drill and practice.

Graph Paper- never buy it again! There are many sites that offer free graph paper or programs to develop your own. Great to use with students who struggle lining up their problems.

www.mathematicshelpcentral.com/graph_paper.htm or varied forms of graph paper at www.printfreegraphpaper.com/

<http://incompetech.com/beta/plainGraphPaper/> Offers on-line graph and grid paper in PDF format. There are various links from this site to support your graphing needs.

MathType is an interactive tool for Windows and Macintosh that lets you create mathematical notation for word processing, web pages, desktop publishing, presentations, and for TeX, LaTeX, and MathML documents. 30-day trial provided.

www.mathtype.com/en/

Edmark Algebra Calculator - Download a free algebra calculator which shows its work as it solves its problem. Other on-screen calculators are available also.

www.edmark.com/free/

Modification Checklists

www.createdbyteachers.com/modchecklist.html

www.addcentre.co.uk/modificationchecklists.htm is specific to ADHD and ADD

Mouse Skills

www.beenleigss.qld.edu.au/requested_sites/mousepractice/ This site has some great interactive activities for learning to use a mouse.

www.customsolutions.us/mouse/Internet_Resources.htm

www.intelore.com/reflex/ provides a game that is available to download.

www.burlco.lib.nj.us/Classes/Intforkids/cns1.html provides introduction to pointing and clicking.

www.shambles.net/pages/school/mouse has various links for providing skills in using a mouse. Also- links for specifically designed for left handers!

Mouse Support

ToggleMouse lets you assign a keyboard action to anything the mouse does, so you can point and click with your keys. It also lets you change your pointer and it hides the mouse pointer while you type. You can record a mouse click and assign it to a keyboard stroke-- you could even surf the Web or use Microsoft Word without ever touching your mouse. It has many, many features for controlling mouse function. Programming the "Panic Stopper" will allow you to ignore those repeated little mouse clicks some students insist on. Do a search to find this Freeware as it is available but the company has quit producing it. www.softpile.com/Desktop/Desktop_Utilities/Review_01645_index.html

On-Screen Keyboards

There is an On-Screen Keyboard bundled in with Windows XP. There are limitations however.

Dasher is a text-entry interface, driven by natural continuous pointing gestures to be used when operating a computer one-handed, by joystick, touchscreen, trackball, mouse, by head-mouse or by eyetracker, or on a palmtop computer.

www.inference.phy.cam.ac.uk/dasher/

Click-N-Type is an on-screen virtual keyboard designed for anyone with a disability that prevents him or her from typing on a physical computer keyboard. As long as the person can control a mouse, trackball or other pointing device, he or she can send keystrokes to

virtually any Windows application or DOS application that can run within a window. Click-N-Type is a 32-bit application that requires Windows 95 or later. Freeware
www.lakefolks.org/cnt/

KeyStrokes www.assistiveware.com/index.php for Mac OS 9 and Mac OS X is a fully-functional advanced virtual on-screen keyboard that allows you to type with a mouse, trackball, head pointer or other mouse emulator to type characters into any standard Macintosh application. Demo version available.

Productivity

www.OpenOffice.org is a multi-platform office productivity suite. It includes the key desktop applications such as a word processor, spreadsheet, presentation manager and drawing program with a user interface and feature set similar to other office suites. Sophisticated and flexible, it also works with a variety of file formats, including those of Microsoft Office.

Sign Language

For \$5 a month you can have access to: over 2,150 signs, Baby Sign, International Sign, Stock Trader Sign, Animal Sign sections and Sign Stories Articles at
www.handspeak.com/

www.neweventsonline.com/ASL/fingerspell.htm for learning finger spelling.

ALS Lesson tutor: www.lesstutor.com/ASLgenhome.html

Here are a few American Sign Language terms to help those of you who are trying to communicate with a person who signs. Also included is the basic alphabet and numbers 1-10. www.masterstech-home.com/ASLDict.html

Symbol Support

www.symbolworld.org/ has many on-line stories, some recipes, poetry, news stories, etc. written and supported with picture icons. Wonderful!

Switch Support

www.cliu.org/se/assistive_technology.aspx then go to “Launch Assistive Technologies Resource CD” then to PowerPoint Ideas. There are several already made PowerPoint presentations designed for switch users. (Many other great resources available here also.)

Text-To-Speech

Please Read 2003 English, Spanish, German, French, UK English for Windows 95/98/ME/NT/2000/XP Freeware. Works in word processing programs and in e-mail.
www.readplease.com/

<http://www.convenienceware.com> for Mac OS X.

Talk-To-Me for Windows. Will read your E-Mail, Instant Messages, web pages, letters

and documents. Send Animated Messages to friends. Greet you daily with the date, time, and a personal message and set alarms to remind you of events. www.talk-to-me.net

Mac Users try Text-Edit Plus is a styled text editor that fills the gap between Apple's bare bones SimpleText and a full-featured word processor. www.tex-edit.com/ (Shareware \$15)

Natural Voice Reader - software that converts text into voice. Reads text directly from other applications, without copying or pasting. Can also convert text files into MP3 or WAV files for use on portable devices like iPod, CD players and PocketPCs. www.naturalreaders.com

CyberBuddy at www.thecyberbuddy.com has Microsoft Agents that are animated characters that can move around the screen and talk to you. Keep reminders and get your attention when a reminder is due, Instant Message (like ICQ) with speech and animation, Send Voice Messages and more.

Tools

WordWeb is a Thesaurus and dictionary for Windows which includes a comprehensive English thesaurus and dictionary, and can be used to look up words from within most programs. WordWeb works from a small icon in your system tray. To look up a word in almost any program just double-click on the word to select it, then click the WordWeb icon or use the keyboard shortcut. If you are editing a document you can select a synonym and replace the look-up word. <http://wordweb.info/free/>

Fact Monster- on-line Atlas, Almanac, Dictionary, Encyclopedia www.factmonster.com/

With Google Calendar, you can see your friends' and family's schedules right next to your own; quickly add events mentioned in Gmail conversations or saved in other calendar applications; and add other interesting events that you find online. Go to Google and then to more and to Calendar.

Visual Support

Bavisoft has changed the computer gaming industry. In place of graphics, audio games are powered purely with sound imagery, opening a world of entertainment for the blind and visually impaired. Bavisoft provides game players with music and sound quality, creating a gaming experience. www.bavisoft.com/index.htm

www.magnifiers.org magnification for the computer, including freeware/shareware and reviews of commercial products.

Black Light version 1.1- This utility inverts your screen colors, which return to normal when you quit from the application. This could be very useful for vision-impaired users. Availability: Freeware, Contact: Michel Fortin Email: michelf@mac.com

Magnifier version 1.0b2, Utility for magnifying part of your screen up to 32x; also

displays coordinates and RGB values. Freeware, Contact: Greg Ware, E-mail: feedback@grogware.com

Dot to Dot version 0.8, Designed for trained Braille transcribers; this is a simple Braille editor. Freeware, Contact: James Jennings, E-mail: jennings@halcyon.com

www.blindsoftware.com This site offers free activities of several programs. Example: Funk in the Trunk is a free full-version download of a virtual car stereo, which teens will love.

Perky Duck is a computer based Perkins braille emulator. It is designed to be used for distance education programs, particularly Internet-based situations. It allows Windows and Macintosh users to create electronic braille files on their computer through six key input. These braille files can then be printed, embossed or emailed to an instructor, proctor, etc. for examination and grading. Perky Duck has no translation capabilities and very little formatting -- essentially space bar, back space, and return key.

www.duxburysystems.com/freeware.asp#dbf

Final Word

Don't forget that each operating system comes with its own supports, "To enable people and businesses throughout the world to realize their full potential." To learn more about the built-in solutions that is available on your computer:

www.microsoft.com/enable/products/default.aspx for PC computers using Microsoft products. www.apple.com/disability/ for Macintosh users.

Final, Final Word... Other links for AT Freeware

If this didn't give you what you need, try the following:

Macintosh - http://trace.wisc.edu/world/computer_access/mac/macshare.html

Windows - http://trace.wisc.edu/world/computer_access/win95/win95sha.html