



The Coastline Newsletter

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Florida Diagnostic & Learning Resources System/East serving Brevard & Volusia Counties

Computer Assistive Technology – What It Means Today

By Judi Sweeney

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My primary interest and expertise in assistive technology lies in the area of computer technology, especially as it relates to school aged children with special needs. The use of assistive computer technology in the academic program of a child with special needs can provide him or her with some exciting tools.

1. If a child has trouble accessing a standard keyboard, there are a number of options, including larger touch sensitive keyboards with interchangeable, easily created overlays, onscreen keyboards, single switches with scanning, and even voice input.

2. Kids who always depend on paraprofessionals or parents to read to them or to handwrite what they dictate are ideal candidates for computer use. A wide variety of talking productivity software allows them to finish assignments more independently without having to wait or ask for assistance.

3. Children with visual or print disabilities have a full array of hardware and software that can help them use the computer independently. Talking word processors, text and screen readers, and graphic menus are some of the most exciting new software tools in today's special needs programs.

4. If a child has control of even one muscle, he can use a switch; and a switch attached to a computer can run virtually any software through a process called scanning.

5. For kids with persistent spelling problems and/or slow entry speed, interactive spell checking (both auditory and visual) and word prediction software offer exciting possibilities for writing assistance.

6. Even tasks that have been hard to put on the computer are being computerized. Programs and keyboards that help kids do math problems, create writing webs, and finish work sheets on the computer are increasingly being used in schools.

7. Language based software programs are increasing, but more importantly, the quality of speech in computer programs has made a dramatic leap. Computer speech today is far from robotic, and some computers allow students to record, play back, and compare their pronunciations to prerecorded pronunciations.

8. Children who need overteaching or reteaching and who benefit from multi-modality presentations benefit from the use of computer technology, especially the new curriculum enhancing CD programs that teach with infinite patience and consistent use of pictures, animations, sounds, words, and reinforcement.

9. More and more companies are producing age appropriate software in functional, daily living areas or as vocational preparation. In addition, with the growing ease of including actual digitized photographs in computerized lessons, students can work with totally individualized images and experiences from their own schools, homes, and communities.

10. On-line resources and CD references offer information at everyone's fingertips. Text and screen readers help kids who can't read or turn pages access information they need to complete work or just learn more about the world around them. In addition, the Internet is an ideal source for thousands of e-texts, entire books that can be viewed on and read by the computer.

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"Assistive Technology for Special Kids" article.

<http://www.onionmountaintech.com>

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What's NEW in the Library?

Did you know you can search our FDLRS Library database from your own computer at school or at home? Just go to our website - <http://fdlrs.brevard.k12.fl.us/east/> - click on the "Library" button, click on the "Search the database" button, and enter a keyword, or title, etc. It will bring up a list of materials in groups of 10 at a time. If there are more than 10 materials, just click the "next" button and you'll see the next 10 items. If you find something you want to check out, just give us a call or send us an email request with the catalog # (letters and numbers). If the material is checked out, we can put you on a waiting list. We can send materials to you through the courier and you can return them to FDLRS through the courier. It's that easy!

Here are a few of our most recent acquisitions. Contact FDLRS/East at 321-631-1911, ext. 540 (Brevard) or 386-258-4684 (Volusia) to checkout these materials and more.

LA020 K - 12 Literacy Leadership Fieldbook, The; *Corwin Press*

Sets forth a plan for improving literacy for students from kindergarten through high school. Demonstrates a proven process for creating a fail-safe approach to literacy that results in measurable improvement.

LK048 Planning Ahead - A Handbook for Parents, Family Members and Guardians of Individuals with Developmental Disabilities; *Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, Inc.* Contains information on: Using Government Benefits; Understanding Florida's Social Service System for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities; Advocating & Coordinating Care; Choosing the Best Place to Live; Life Stages; Legal Ways of Protecting Rights; Making an Estate Plan; Dealing with Health Care Concerns; Coping with Changes & Losses; and more.

LA225 REWARDS Plus - Reading Strategies Applied to Science Passages; *Sopris West*

For students in grades 6 - 12 who read minimally at the 4th grade level, have completed REWARDS, and need to improve reading, vocabulary and comprehension skills.

LA151 Florida FCAT Reading & Writing+ Grade 8; *Research & Education Association (REA)*

Designed to prepare 8th grade students for the FCAT Reading & Writing. Includes: Pretest and posttest sections to assess skills, monitor progress, and pinpoint strengths and weaknesses; Skill-building lessons to strengthen vocabulary development, literary analysis, and writing; Color icons to identify and enhance retention of key concepts, questions, and tasks; and Confidence-boosting tips to reduce test anxiety and increase test-day readiness.

ACA006 Brain Bank - Science Box 1, Grade 3; *Scholastic*

Contains a collection of nonfiction science booklets aimed at building literacy skills while focusing on the content area. Contains 24 booklets (2 copies of each of 12 separate titles) and 48 activity cards.

MA049 Building Bridges through Sensory Integration: Therapy for Children with Autism and Other PDD; *Autism Asperger Publishing Company*

Resource book that explains sensory systems and sensory integration and how to identify problems in this area for individuals with autism. There are checklists to help identify concerns, and it is full of practical suggestions for activities for specific difficulties.

MA051 My Book Full of Feelings: How to Control & React to the Size of Your Emotions; *Autism Asperger Publishing Company*

Will help teach children to identify, access the intensity of and respond appropriately to their emotions. This book is fully interactive and one can use a dry-erase marker so that unique situations and solutions can be added and changed with a wipe of a paper towel, as the child masters a skill and grows.

Library Guidelines

The FDLRS Library is ready to serve you. Here are the answers to our most frequently asked questions:

Who can check out materials? Anyone who works with exceptional education students including regular education teachers with ESE students in their classroom, exceptional education teachers, and parents of exceptional students.

How many items can I check out?

Public School Teachers - 15 items; All Others - 5 items.

How long can I keep the materials? Videotapes - 1 week, computer software - 4 weeks, and most other materials - 9 weeks.

What are the loan policies? Materials are loaned for preview purposes. Participants may not write in the materials.

How can I get the materials? Materials may be requested in person, by phone, by a note through the courier, or by e-mail. Special assistance for selecting materials is available from FDLRS resource teachers. Remember, we can send and you can return items to FDLRS through the courier.

Who should I contact for assistance? Call 633-1000 (Brevard) for Cindy Wickham (ext. 559) or Becky Atwood (ext. 548), or (386)258-4684 (Volusia).



The Gift of Sight

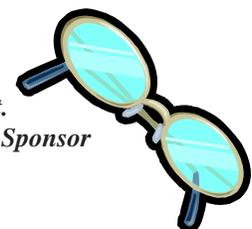
If you know a Brevard County Public School student in need of an eye exam and/or glasses but can't afford it, please contact Karrie Scarborough at Cocoa High School at scarboroughhk@brevard.k12.fl.us.

In addition, if you know of a parent/guardian who needs the same services and his/her student qualifies for free/reduced lunch, Ms. Scarborough can help him/her obtain an exam and/or glasses as well.

All families must provide their own transportation to Merritt Island and no family members can be on Medicaid.

A local retailer in Merritt Island sponsors this wonderful program and students can benefit from their generosity until December.

Karrie Scarborough
Cocoa High School English Dept.
Student Government Association Sponsor
321-632-5300 ext. 2615
321-636-1218 fax



The FDLRS/East Production Lab

The FDLRS Production Lab has a variety of equipment you may find useful when constructing teacher-made bulletin boards, wall charts, and other hands-on materials for your students, including:

Ellison Machines (both regular and large) - Choose from over 140 graphic dies, 2", 4", and 5" letters and 2" numbers. Call for an appointment and please bring your own paper.

Laminator – Due to funding constraints, we will be laminating for FDLRS workshops only.

Bookbinding Machine - Call for an appointment and bring your books and plastic spines (which can be purchased at any office supply store).

Button Machine – Bring your 2 1/4" button parts (ordering information is available upon request). Please call for an appointment.

Resource Books - The Production Lab contains a collection of resource books to assist you with unit development and classroom activities. These books are not available for checkout, but are available to you in the Production Lab. Please call for an appointment.

Who should I contact for assistance? Call 633-1000 for Cindy Wickham (ext. 559) or Becky Atwood (ext. 548), or send an e-mail (Brevard); call 386-258-4684 (Volusia).



ESE Week Winners in Volusia County!

Over 500 ESE teachers registered for the **2006 ESE Week Online Giveaway** sponsored by Volusia County Schools' Exceptional Student Education/Student Services Department, FDLRS/East (Volusia) and Space Coast Credit Union. Teachers registered for the event on the ESE website. Each day during ESE Week, names were randomly drawn to win one of the \$25.00 gift cards. The gift cards were delivered to winners' principals to be awarded to them. Congratulations to the 2006 ESE Week WINNERS! (in the order they were drawn)

Whitney Boylston, DeLand MS
Michelle Adams, Discovery
Thomas Allard, SSMS
Debra Wilk, SSMS
Jennifer Hughes, DLE
Regina Johnson, Chisholm
Patricia Mather, DeLand MS
Donna Cady, Port Orange
Phil Wassem, Coronado
Fred Hoffman, Taylor MS/HS
Jim Stehle, DeLand HS
Peter Giachetti, Enterprise
Bev Bobiak, PRHS
Kendall Pupello, Manatee Cove
Diane Zitrin, HHE
Dawn McKibbin, MHS
Allen Bechdel, Hinson MS
Sara Catherine Hubka, OBMS
Ella Jones, SCHS
Carlene Krause, Palm Terrace



Linda Earnest, NSBMS
Shaune Howden, Forest Lake
Wilma Mondell, Deltona HS
Elaine Koenig, Creekside MS
Anna Marie Filannino, Hurst
Sharry Zubrod, Tomoka
Tammy Heidt, IRE
Katie Tager, Edgewater
Pam Crowell, SHS
Denise Staheli, Deltona MS
Sherrill Giachetti, Freedom
Robin Booher, SCE

FDLRS' Volusia Office Welcomes Their New Secretary, Teresa Allan!

Teresa Allan comes to us from Brevard County where she worked for the school system as a paraprofessional, office clerk and interim art teacher. During her 13 years in the schools, she assisted many ESE children, from TMH to paraplegic; several individually as their special assignment paraprofessional. She was also in the Title 1 program at Sherwood and Christa McAuliffe Elementary where she worked with below-level general education students in kindergarten and first grade. One of her special moments was when she tutored several students after school, helping them achieve promotion to the next grade. Teresa also worked as a front office clerk and enjoyed the experience of dealing with parents as well as teachers. Her brief stint as an art teacher came when the previous one left at winter break and she was asked to take over for the remainder of the year.

Teresa took a leave of absence with the school system when her husband, Russ, was transferred with State Farm to the Daytona Beach office, leaving behind 20 years of living in Palm Bay. She also left behind her daughter, Laura, who is going into the graduate program at UCF, majoring in School Counseling. Her son, Andrew, a UCF graduate as well, lives in Orlando and is a commercial real estate broker with Grubb & Ellis, Inc.



After work hours, Teresa enjoys spending time in her two special hobbies, photography and drawing. She has won numerous awards for her work throughout the years, exhibiting in area art shows and the Brevard Art Museum, and has done many portrait commissions. Teresa attended Illinois State University, BCC and UCF. Currently she and Russ live in Deltona and enjoy going to UCF's football games and rooting for the Knights!

Plan to attend Volusia's annual transition fair
"Pathways to Transition"

Location: New Smyrna Beach High School

Date: Wednesday, November 1, 2006

Time: 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Breakout sessions

light meal available at no cost

Questions? Call 386-258-4684

This is an optional event for teachers!

Online Tutorial to Assist Individuals Responsible for the Education of Students with Disabilities

The Florida Department of Education is committed to a seamless education system that promotes academic achievement for all students. To accomplish this, the Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services announces an online tutorial designed to assist individuals responsible for the education of students with disabilities. It provides an overview of the requirements and benefits of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

The tutorial is organized into a pre-test, seven modules, and a post-test. It covers Section 504 requirements, procedures for K-12 students, developing a 504 plan, procedural safeguards, discipline, comparison of Section 504 and IDEA 2004, and Section 504 and protection for postsecondary students.

Pre- and post-tests are two short "true/false" tests that allow individuals to check their Section 504 knowledge before and after completing the tutorial. Interactive sections are located throughout the tutorial that present brief opportunities for individuals to read a common misconception about a Section 504 topic, then view the reality concerning the topic. A second interactive feature provides the opportunity for individuals to check their Section 504 knowledge following review of the module content by reading a scenario and then determining what the correct response would be.

The tutorial is located at <http://sss.usf.edu/504tutorial/>



College Students with Disabilities: Washington Center Scholarship Program

http://www.twc.edu/disability_about.shtml

Through a partnership with the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy, The Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars is offering scholarships for students with disabilities interested in working in the executive, judicial, or legislative branches of the federal government during the spring 2007 semester. Students will be exposed to community, national, and international leaders through workshops, seminars, lectures, embassy visits, and networking events during the semester. The American Association of People with Disabilities will offer technical guidance and support to the program.

Click on the link to the following URL to download a one-page informational flyer, which you may wish to include with other resources for college students with disabilities: <http://www.twc.edu/students/docs/disabilities.pdf>

Fifty scholarships of \$8,500 each are available.

Application deadline: November 15, 2006.

Access the URL to learn more about application requirements, internship opportunities and accommodations.

The Florida Diagnostic & Learning Resources System is funded by the State of Florida, Department of Education, Division of Public Schools and Community Education, Bureau of Instructional Support and Community Services, through federal assistance under the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part B, IDEA Part B, Preschool, and State General Revenue Funds.

*This publication can be made available to persons with disabilities in a variety of formats, including large print, cassette tape, and braille. Telephone or written requests should be made at least two weeks prior to the time you need the material and should include your name, address and phone number. In **Brevard County** requests should be made to Kim Riddle, ESE Lead Teacher, 2700 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Viera, FL 32940-6601, (321) 633-1000, ext. 535 and in **Volusia County** to FDLRS, 1825 Dunn Avenue, Daytona Beach, FL 32114, (386) 258-4684.

* You can access the *Coastline* newsletter by visiting the FDLRS/East website at <http://fdlrs.brevard.k12.fl.us/east/> OR http://www.volusia.k12.fl.us/ese/fdlrs_east



This is a Florida Department of Education website that contains resources for ESE teachers who are working with students with disabilities. Resources are available under the broad categories of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment. <http://www.cpt.fsu.edu/ese/>

Of particular interest are the accommodations sections where you can access a database and search for ideas which may provide access to the curriculum for your student. Think about the tasks the student has to complete and what his/her needs are for that particular task. For example: "student needs help with handwriting."

Don't Delay Start Today...SEARCH the **Accommodations** database! <http://www.cpt.fsu.edu:591/acsrch.html>



ONLINE TUTORIAL WEBSITES provide an excellent way for teachers, working with students with disabilities, to learn how to use specific hardware devices and software programs.

Assistive Technology Training Online Project provides a variety of reading and writing software tools tutorials. Are you interested in learning how to use *Intellikeys*, *Intellitalk* or *Overlay Maker*? At this website you will find step-by-step instructions on how to use software programs and practice activities. I especially enjoyed the *Creating Talking Books* modules. This section introduced three software programs with the ability to create mouse or switch operated talking picture books.

<http://atto.buffalo.edu/registered/Tutorials.php>

The Learning Electric Company website provides online tutorial videos. The videos use QuickTime format that can be downloaded for free and works on both Windows based PCs and Apple computers. I viewed the *Inspiration* software (a graphic organizer) video and it was easy to follow with great instructions.

<http://www.learningelectric.com/inspiration7.htm>

If you want a great handout showing you step-by-step directions and screen shots on how to use *Inspiration* visit this website.

<http://www.inspiration.com/tutorials/index.cfm?fuseaction=insp&color=red>



Remember that many of the suggested accommodations may also include Assistive Technology tools, ranging from Low Tech to High Tech. For assistance or additional information about AT tools contact FDLRS or your **LATS**, Local Assistive Technology Specialists. **Brevard:** LATS – Viera High School 321-632-1770; **Volusia:** VAATT 386-258-4685.

Educational Services Facility
2700 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Viera, FL 32940-6601

Palm Terrace Elementary
1825 Dunn Avenue
Daytona Beach, FL 32114

