



Assistive Technology for Cognition and Learning

Hand-out from Presentation delivered by OTs Catherine Aro & Chantal Doerig,
With demo by AT Instructor John Yates,
at Bloorview Kids Rehab's Transitions Conference 5, May 2010

Overview of Technology:

Name of Technology	Overview	Recommendation	Skill Level
Dragon Naturally Speaking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speech recognition software. • User able to dictate and have their speech transcribed as written text. • The programme transcribes the words into the active window at the location of the cursor. 	Speech Recognition, Writing	Elementary, High School, University, Adult
Inspiration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For visual mapping, outlining, writing and making presentations. • Brainstorm ideas, structure your thoughts and visually communicate concepts to strengthen understanding with the Diagram and Map Views. • To take notes, organize information, and structure writing for plans, papers and reports, use the integrated Outline View to focus on main and supporting ideas and to clarify thinking in written form. 	Graphic Organizer, Writing	Grade 6 to 12
Kidspiration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develops thinking, literacy and numeracy skills using proven visual learning principles. • Strengthens word recognition, vocabulary, comprehension and written expression. • With new visual math tools, students build reasoning and problem solving skills. 	Concept maps & webs, Graphic Organizer, Writing, Math Manipulatives, Visual Learning	Kindergarten to grade 5
Kurzweil 3000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides comprehensive reading, writing and learning software solution for any struggling reader, including individuals with learning difficulties, such as dyslexia, attention deficit disorder or those who are English Language Learners. • Offers access to any curriculum through increased reading fluency, study skills, decoding support, writing and self-editing tools, independent test taking. 	Reading, Graphic Organizer, Writing, Screen Reader, Word Predictor	Grade 3 to Adult
PDA/ Smartphone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can help organize daily activities • Provides auditory and visual alarms to aid in recall. • Portable Assistive technology 		All ages
Pulse Smart Pen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Records and links audio to what a person writes using the pen and special paper. • The user is able to take notes while simultaneously recording someone (e.g. a teacher) speaking. • He/she can later listen to any section of the notes by touching the pen to the corresponding handwriting or diagrams. 	Helps those who struggle with: writing, listening, memory and reading.	All ages

SpeakQ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A plug-in software that enhances WordQ version 2 or higher, with simple, speech-to-text functionality. • Choice of typing with the keyboard, using word prediction, or speaking straight into your text. • Speech recognition and word prediction are integrated to enhance the effectiveness of each other. • You can train SpeakQ to recognize your speech using texts provided that match your reading level or you can write your own training texts. 	Speech Recognition, Writing	Useful for those with severe spelling and/or writing difficulties
WordQ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A word prediction software. • Used along with any standard writing software (e.g., Microsoft Word, WordPad, Notepad, or Outlook). • When you type a letter, WordQ predicts what you might want to write and displays a list of correctly spelled words from which you can choose. When you see the word you want, you can choose it with a single keystroke or with the mouse. If you need help deciding which word to use, each word can be read aloud before you make a selection. • WordQ can read it back to you. Then you can hear if there are any mistakes such as missing words or punctuation. Often you can hear mistakes that you can't see. 	Writing, Word Predictor	All ages
Typing Programs: All the Right Type & Mavis Beacon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both programs teach proper typing techniques based on the QWERTY method. • Both teach proper sitting posture and hand alignment. • Both provide immediate feedback after each lesson. • Both engage the student in fun keyboarding games, animations, and provide rewards for accomplishments. 		All Ages

Links for Assistive Technologies & Ergonomic Solutions:

- Hardware:
 - PDA/Smartphone: numerous retail outlets
 - Digital Voice Recorder: numerous sources
 - Smartpen: www.livescribe.com
- Software:
 - Dragon Naturally Speaking: www.nuance.com/naturallyspeaking/
 - Kurzweil 3000: www.kurzweiledu.com
 - Typing software: www.learningcompany.com
 - WordQ and SpeakQ: www.wordq.com
- Ergonomics:
 - Harkel Office Furniture: www.harkeloffice.com
 - Paediatric Furniture: www.wildzoo.com
 - R.O.I. ergonomics: www.roiergonomics.com
- Microcomputer Science Centre
 - www.microscience.on.ca

For more information or to make a referral to our Assistive Technology Program, please contact Neuro-Rehab Services' Intake Department at 905-669-0011, ext. 224, or via email at intake@neurorehab.ca

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