Writing First: Strategies for Struggling Writers

Assistive Writing

What is Assistive Writing Technology?
- takes the place of pen/pencil
- produces a hard copy
- may need to be portable
- a tool to allow student to meet the writing requirements of the curriculum

What Assistive Writing Technology is NOT!
- not computer-aided instruction
- not the only tool to be considered
- not the answer to all writing situations/needs

Writing Considerations

What do Students Have to Write?
- Grade level tasks
- School assignments vs. homework
- Journals
- Worksheets
- Spelling Sentences
- Essays
- Tests
- Notes
- Book Reports
- Letter

What are the difficulties that they are having?
- Not Enough Time
- Repeated Errors
- Staying on Topic
- Get Stuck on Thoughts
- Translating a Verbal Story into a Written Story
- Editing
- NoteTaking
- Getting Started
- Staying Motivated throughout the Writing Task
- Generating Ideas
- Falling behind Others in Class
- Illegible Handwriting
- Lack of basic computer skills
- Completing lengthy assignments
- Following directions
- Putting thoughts into words
- Generating cohesive idea

Addressing composition woes...
- Word cards, word wall, word banks, picture banks
- Sentence starters, story starters
- Cued notetaking
- Theme-mapping
- Outlining, Webbing

The Writing Process
1. Getting Started: Prewriting
2. Sloppy Copy: First Draft
3. Hamming it Up: Revision
4. Tuning It Up: Editing
Complex activity that involves the blending of:

- Fine motor coordination (Graphomotor)
- Attention
- Language
- Memory
- Higher-order thinking

Neurodevelopmental differences can occur in one or more of those areas.

“There is not another academic skill that demands that a child bring together as many different neurodevelopmental functions as are required for writing.”

~Dr. Mel Levine

http://www.allkindsofminds.org/

Graphomotor

Graphomotor function refers to the ability to use muscles in the fingers and hands to form letters easily and legibly and to maintain a comfortable grip on a writing instrument. This function plays an important role in maneuvering a pen or pencil and allowing the fingers to keep pace with the flow of ideas.

- Coordinating small muscles of the fingers needed to form letters
- Signs of writing problems:
  - Finds it hard to form letters
  - Has difficulty manipulating a pencil
  - Grips a pencil uncomfortably tightly
  - Holds a pencil in an awkward manner
  - Struggles to coordinate small muscles to keep up with the flow of ideas

Possible Solutions

- Pens & Pencil Grips
- Raised Paper
- Slant Boards
- Templates
- Labels
- Magnetic Letters
- Fonts
- Dictation
- Portable Word Processors
- Onscreen Keyboards
- Speech Recognition

Attention

Attention plays an important role in all stages of writing. This task often demands considerable mental energy and focus over long periods of time. Writers must not only preview what they want to convey as they put their ideas on paper, but also continually self-monitor to stay on track.

- Maintaining concentration and self-monitoring work
- Signs of writing problems:
  - Is distracted or fidgety during writing tasks
  - Loses one’s place while writing
  - Appears mentally fatigued or overly tired while writing
  - Doesn’t exert effort if topic is not personally interesting
  - Is unable to get started on writing assignments
Possible Solutions

- Emphasize Key Information
- Preview, Plan & Monitor
- Edit - Talking Word Processors
- Talking Word Processors
- Microsoft Word
- Report Wizard, Templates

Language Production

Language is an essential ingredient of writing. The ability to recognize letter sounds, comprehend words and their meanings, understand word order and grammar to construct sentences, and describe or explain ideas all contribute to a child’s ability to write clearly.

- Using words and forming sentences correctly
- Signs of writing problems:
  - Has difficulty with word sounds or meaning
  - Cannot easily spell words so they reflect the way they are pronounced
  - Finds oral expression difficult
  - Struggles with sentence structure and proper word order
  - Has trouble reading back what is written

Possible Solutions

- Dictionaries
- Inspiration
- Spell Checkers
- Microsoft Word
- Word Prediction
- TextHelp
- Kurzweil ~ WYNN
- Earobics
- Ultimate Phonics
- Simon SIO
- Clicker 5
- E-pals
- Hollywood High

Memory

Memory ability has a significant impact on writing. The rate at which children generate ideas must coincide with their retrieval of necessary vocabulary, spelling, and prior knowledge. When organizing essays, writers must be able to think about a topic, draw upon facts and concepts, and sequence ideas and facts in the right order.

- Recalling letters, rules and ideas
- Signs of writing problems:
  - Cannot easily recall letter formation.
  - Cannot easily recall rules of spelling, grammar, punctuation
  - Presents ideas out of sequence
  - Has trouble accessing prior knowledge while writing
  - Struggles to organize ideas while writing

Possible Solutions

- Desktop Helpers
- Strategies
  - Break Processes into steps
  - Mnemonic strategies
    - POWER
    - COPS
    - P...Plan the paper
    - Capitalization
    - O...Organize your ideas
    - Omissions
W...Write the draft
E...Edit your work
R...Revise

Post writing
Does content equal framework?
Error monitoring strategies
Does the writing make sense to others?
Is the writing too long or short?

Self-Checking:
Do the sentences make sense?
Are the correct words capitalized and all others lower case?
Is correct punctuation used?
Are all the words spelled correctly? (Isaacson, S. 1997)

Make sure that:
You did not spend too much time on one part.
You did not leave out anything important.
You did not include too much information.
The writing flows smoothly.
Events happen chronologically.
(Kemper et al. 1995)

Questions when revising:
Was any information overlooked?
My favorite part of the writing is....
Is there a section that could be made clearer?
Are my thoughts chronological?
Could I have done this differently? (Marzano et al. 1995

C-D-O Revising Strategy:
Compare: Read a sentence.
Diagnose: Does this sound right?
   Am I getting away from the main idea?
   Will other people understand and believe the main idea?
   I like it as it is.
   Why was this the diagnosis for that sentence?
Operate: Do I need to leave this sentence out?
   Do I need to include more information?
   Do I need to reword it?
   I should leave it the same.
   Go to the next sentence. (Harris et al. 1996)

EmPOWER (Singer & Bashir – www.architectsforlearning.com)
Evaluate – pick apart the assignment to find out what I have to do
Make a Plan – decide how I will approach the task & what strategies I'll use
Organize - show & organize my ideas visually
Work – do the work of writing my paper
Evaluate – reflect on & judge the quality of my work
Re-work – make any necessary adjustments

Inspiration
Activate Prior knowledge - Organize and arrange thoughts  http://www.inspiration.com/

Higher Order Cognition
In the upper grades, writing relies on higher-order cognitive functions. Assignments often require students to generate original and creative ideas while integrating spelling, grammar, and punctuation rules. By early adolescence, many written assignments demand critical thinking skills and conceptual ability such as evaluating opposing arguments and drawing conclusions.
• Generating ideas and taking a stepwise approach to plan/revise
• Signs of writing problems:
  o Cannot easily generate ideas or elaborate on them in writing
  o Has difficulty with writing tasks requiring creativity and/or critical thinking
  o Finds organizing writing tasks difficult

Higher Order Cognition involves (allkindsofminds.org)
Concept Formation/Transformation – Integrating ideas that go together
Critical Thinking – evaluating ideas and opinions
Creativity – independent thinking and self-generated thoughts
Problem Solving – applying a strategic approach to complex questions
Rule Use – Learning, developing, and applying rules and principles
Logical thinking/Reasoning – generating answers to complex issues
Mental Representation – portraying new ideas so they are meaningful and lasting

Helpful hints
Create an environment for risk taking and promotes innovative thinking
Encourage areas of focused interest
Allow students to select materials, projects, reading texts, writing topics, spelling words
Use high interest subject matter for creative activities
Allow students to create products using different formats
  Comics, TV scripts, magazine articles, song lyrics

Develop activities that help the students’ ability to think ahead, or predict possible outcomes
  Collaborative activities, working in teams
  Write using story starters
  In social studies, students have students make predictions about historical events
  Have students estimate answers to science experiments
  Provide a strategy sheet for problem solving with estimation, prediction and outcome comparison

Possible Solutions
  Note Taking
  Be able to listen and write at the same time
  Fine Motor speed
  Saliency determination required
  Recall
  Sequencing

  Note Taking – Outline/Web
  Graphic Organizers
  Web Resources:
  Design and print different graphic organizers. You don’t have to be an artist to do it!
  http://teachers.teach-nology.com/web_tools/graphic_org/
  http://www.eduplace.com/kids/hme/6_8/graphorg/

Brainstorm Ideas/Lists
  Generate ideas apart from writing
  Record ideas in list form
  Record ideas into a tape recorder

Kidspiration/Inspiration: Super Grouper - Rapid fire mode for brainstorming and listing ideas
Writer’s Companion – Systematically walks students through the writing process.
Solo - Students learn the “Process of Writing”
  1. Outlining and Mapping
  2. Add notes and expand outline
3. Synthesize outline and notes into a draft
   Provides auditory feedback
   Students can work in outline view, diagram view or both.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Writers Writing in the Content Areas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Writers write to demonstrate understanding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Writers write to Enhance Learning and memory</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Writers write to inform and to express important ideas in the real world</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Writers write to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Analyze and solve problems</td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ Express feelings including anger, joy, laughter, or sadness</td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ Share secrets, personal ideas, and interests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Share experiences, wildest ideas and discoveries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Record information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Share thoughts with other individuals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Appreciate the beauty and magic of language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Remember information for later use or study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Become a published author</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Play with words, thoughts, and ideas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Relax and enjoy self-expression</td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ Brainstorm and journal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resources</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Developing Minds - Getting Thoughts on Paper. Dr. Mel Levine. Videocassette. WGBH Educational Foundation, 2002.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### Websites

- [www.nwrel.org/assessment/lessonplans.php](http://www.nwrel.org/assessment/lessonplans.php)  This site has lesson plans for 6 traits of writing
- [www.nwrel.org/assessment/scoringpractice.php](http://www.nwrel.org/assessment/scoringpractice.php)  This site allows you to get practice papers for traits of writing. Can select trait and age group you want to score
- [www.kidpub.org/kidpub/](http://www.kidpub.org/kidpub/)  This is a site that publishes student writing. Even offers a page for schools to post their students’ writing.
- [www.kidscom.com/create/write/write_form.html](http://www.kidscom.com/create/write/write_form.html)  A site that publishes student writing
- [www.readwritethink.org/lessons/lesson_view.asp?id=195](http://www.readwritethink.org/lessons/lesson_view.asp?id=195)  This is a lesson that allows students to create a comic strip. It has a comic strip creator, planning sheet and grading rubric.
- [www.readwritethink.org/lessons/lesson_view.asp?id=101](http://www.readwritethink.org/lessons/lesson_view.asp?id=101)  Using Picture books to teach characterization in writer’s workshop. This lesson has book list for books that have strong characters, interactive graphic organizer and self assessment piece.
- [www.thinkfinity.org/home.aspx](http://www.thinkfinity.org/home.aspx)  From Verizon Foundation - A site for finding lesson plans in different curricular areas that incorporate technology. Many of the lessons have on-line tools for making brochures, timelines, graphic organizers, etc.
- [www.allkindsofminds.org/ptk/WritingBasics.aspx](http://www.allkindsofminds.org/ptk/WritingBasics.aspx) - Parent Toolkit - From the early formation of letters to crafting an essay, writing involves perhaps more subskills than any other academic task. To write well requires combining multiple physical and mental processes in one concerted effort to communicate information and ideas.
- [www.ldonline.org/ld_indepth/technology/technology.html](http://www.ldonline.org/ld_indepth/technology/technology.html) - Questions and answers about technology and dyslexia.
- [http://rubistar.4teachers.org](http://rubistar.4teachers.org) - RubiStar is a free tool to help teachers create quality rubrics.
- [www.allkindsofminds.org](http://www.allkindsofminds.org) - All Kinds of Minds is a non-profit Institute that helps students who struggle with learning measurably improve their success in school and life by providing programs that integrate educational, scientific, and clinical expertise.

### Product & Software Resources:

- **The Writer**  Advanced Keyboard Technologies  [www.keyboardinstructor.com](http://www.keyboardinstructor.com)
- AlphaSmart, Neo, Dana  AlphaSmart  [www3.alphasmart.com](http://www3.alphasmart.com)
- Reach, SoothSayer  Applied Human Factors  [www.ahf-net.com](http://www.ahf-net.com)
- Link II, Stages  Assistive Technology  [www.assistivetech.com](http://www.assistivetech.com)
- Adapted Pens, Paper  Beacon-Ridge  [www.beacon-ridge.com](http://www.beacon-ridge.com)
- Adapted Books; Emerging Literacy  Creative Communicating  [www.creative-com.com](http://www.creative-com.com)
- Clicker 5; Cloze Pro; Word Bar  Crick Software Inc.  [www.cricksoftware.com](http://www.cricksoftware.com)
- Little Books; Solo  Don Johnston Inc.  [www.donjohnston.com](http://www.donjohnston.com)
- QuickPAD IR  QuickPad  [www.quickpad.com](http://www.quickpad.com)
- Adapted Keyboards & Mouse  InfoGrip  [www.infogrip.com](http://www.infogrip.com)
- Computer Access, Keyguards  Inclusive TLC  [www.inclusivetlc.com](http://www.inclusivetlc.com)
- Inspiration, Kidspiration  Inspiration Software Inc.  [www.inspiration.com](http://www.inspiration.com)
• IntelliTools Classroom Suite, IntelliKeys, Overlay Maker **IntelliTools Inc.** www.intellitools.com
• Kurzweil 3000 **Kurzweil Educational Systems.** www.kurzweiledu.com
• Tracker; Discover **Madentec Inc** www.madentec.com
• Writing Activities **Learning Magic** learningmagicinc.com
• One handed keyboard **Matias Corporation** www.halfkeyboard.com
• Speaking Dynamically Pro; BoardMaker+ **Mayer Johnson Co.** www.mayer-johnson.com
• Power Point; MicroSoft Word **Microsoft Corporation** www.microsoft.com
• PC Notetaker **NexConcepts** www.nexconcepts.com
• OmniGraffle, OmniOutliner **Omni Group** www.omnigroup.com
• Writing Aids, Lottie Kits **Onion Mountain Technology** www.onionmountaintech.com
• Head Mouse; OnScreen Keyboards **Origin Instruments** www.orin.com/access
• Laser PC; Writer **Perfect Solutions Software Inc** www.perfectsolutions.com
• Scan & Read Pro, Talking Dictionary **Premier Assistive Technology** www.readingmadeeasy.com
• WordQ, SpeakQ **Quillsoft** www.wordq.com
• Picture It; Pix Writer **Slater Software** www.slatersoft.com
• Spark Space **Spark-Space Ltd.** www.spark-space.com
• Read & Write Gold **TextHelp Systems Inc.** www.texthelp.com
• Teaching Rings **Therapro Inc.** www.theraproducts.com
• Scholastic Keys **Tom Snyder Inc.** www.tomsnyder.com
• Keyguards **Turning Point Therapy & Technology** www.turningpointtechnology.com
• Writer’s Companion **Vision’s Technology in Education** www.writerscomp.com

### Freeware Text to Speech Software

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Software</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Website</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Help Read</td>
<td>Free - Screen Reader - Win 3.1+</td>
<td><a href="http://www.helpread.net/">www.helpread.net/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microsoft Reader PC</td>
<td>Free - Screen Reader - Windows</td>
<td><a href="http://www.microsoft.com/reader">www.microsoft.com/reader</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Read Please</td>
<td>Free - Text-to-Speech Reader - Win 95+</td>
<td><a href="http://www.readplease.com">www.readplease.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ClipTalk</td>
<td>Reads anything copied to the clipboard</td>
<td><a href="http://www.fullmeasure.co.uk">www.fullmeasure.co.uk</a></td>
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## Resource List for Writing

### Graphomotor

<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pens &amp; Pencil Grips -</td>
<td>Beacon Ridge</td>
<td><a href="http://www.beacon-ridge.com">www.beacon-ridge.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Raised Paper</td>
<td>Pro Ed</td>
<td><a href="http://www.proedinc.com">www.proedinc.com</a></td>
</tr>
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<td>Literacy Lined Paper</td>
<td>Beacon Ridge</td>
<td><a href="http://www.beacon-ridge.com">www.beacon-ridge.com</a></td>
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<td>Structured Writing Paper</td>
<td>Assistive Writing Solutions</td>
<td><a href="http://www.assistivewritingsolutions.com">www.assistivewritingsolutions.com</a></td>
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<td>Magnetic Letters</td>
<td>Magnetic Poetry</td>
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<td>School Fonts</td>
<td>School Fonts</td>
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<td>Alphasmart, Neo, Dana</td>
<td>Renaissance Learning</td>
<td><a href="http://www.alphasmart.com">www.alphasmart.com</a></td>
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<td>Quickpad</td>
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<td>Laser PC 6</td>
<td>Perfect Solutions</td>
<td><a href="http://www.perfectsolutions.com">www.perfectsolutions.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Writer</td>
<td>Advanced Keyboard Technologies</td>
<td><a href="http://www.keyboardinstructor.com">www.keyboardinstructor.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>OnScreen Keyboards</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reach Keyboard</td>
<td>Applied Human Factors</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ahf-net.com">www.ahf-net.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>PixWriter</td>
<td>Slater Software, Inc</td>
<td><a href="http://www.slatersoftware.com">www.slatersoftware.com</a></td>
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<td>Intellitalk</td>
<td>Intellitools</td>
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<td>Dragon Naturally Speaking</td>
<td>Nuance</td>
<td><a href="http://www.nuance.com">www.nuance.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Speak Q</td>
<td>QuillSoft</td>
<td><a href="http://www.wordq.com">www.wordq.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Templates/Wizards</td>
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<tr>
<td>Highlighter Tape</td>
<td>Onion Mountain Technology</td>
<td><a href="http://www.onionmountaintech.com">www.onionmountaintech.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Web Highlighting</td>
<td>i-Lighter</td>
<td><a href="http://www.i-lighter.com">www.i-lighter.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Kidspiration, Inspiration</td>
<td>Inspiration Software</td>
<td><a href="http://www.inspiration.com">www.inspiration.com</a></td>
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<td>Read Please</td>
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<td>AspireReader</td>
<td>Aequus Technologies</td>
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<td>Intellitalk III</td>
<td>Intellitools</td>
<td><a href="http://www.intellitools.com">www.intellitools.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Write:Outloud</td>
<td>Don Johnston, Inc.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.donjohnston.com">www.donjohnston.com</a></td>
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### Language Production

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<tr>
<td>Sound-It-Out Speller</td>
<td>Don Johnston, Inc.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.donjohnston.com">www.donjohnston.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bad Spellers Dictionary</td>
<td>Random House</td>
<td><a href="http://www.randomhouse.com">www.randomhouse.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speaking Homework Wiz</td>
<td>Franklin Learning Resources</td>
<td><a href="http://www.franklin.com">www.franklin.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Quicktionary Reading Pen II</td>
<td>WizCom Technologies Inc.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.wizcomtech.com">www.wizcomtech.com</a></td>
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<td>Co:Writer</td>
<td>Don Johnston, Inc.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.donjohnston.com">www.donjohnston.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Word Q, Speak Q</td>
<td>Quillsoft</td>
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<td>Read and Write Gold</td>
<td>TextHelp</td>
<td><a href="http://www.texthelp.com">www.texthelp.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>WYNN</td>
<td>Freedom Scientific Learning Group</td>
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<td>Kurzweil 3000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scan and Read Pro</td>
<td>Premier Assistive Technology</td>
<td><a href="http://www.readingmadeeasy.com">www.readingmadeeasy.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Phonics Companion</td>
<td>Visions Technology in Education</td>
<td><a href="http://www.toolsforteachers.com">www.toolsforteachers.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phonics Alive</td>
<td>Advanced Software</td>
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<td>Earobics</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.earobics.com">www.earobics.com</a></td>
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<td>Lexia</td>
<td>Lexia Learning System</td>
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<td>Simon SIO, WordMaker</td>
<td>Don Johnston, Inc.</td>
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<td>ePals</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.epals.com">www.epals.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hollywood High</td>
<td>Software Express</td>
<td><a href="http://www.swexpress.com">www.swexpress.com</a></td>
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| Memory | | | |
|---|---|---|
| Desktop Helpers | Really Good Stuff | www.reallygoodstuff.org |
| Kidspiration, Inspiration | Inspiration Software, Inc. | www.inspiration.com |
| Homework Wiz | Franklin Learning Resources | www.franklin.com |

| Higher Order Thinking | | | |
|---|---|---|
| Carbonless Notebook | Beacon Ridge | www.beacon-ridge.com |
| Kidspiration, Inspiration | Inspiration Software, Inc. | www.inspiration.com |
| SOLO | Don Johnston, Inc. | www.donjohnston.com |
| Writer's Companion | Visions Technology in Education | www.writerscomp.com |

Websites

- www.nwrel.org/assessment/lessonplans.php  This site allows you to get lesson plans for traits of writing
- www.nwrel.org/assessment/scoringpractice.php  This site allows you to get practice papers for traits of writing. Can select trait and age group you want to score
- www.kidpub.org/kidpub/ This is a site that publishes student writing. Even offers a page for schools to post their students’ writing.
- www.kidscom.com/create/write/write_form.html A site that publishes student writing
- www.readwritethink.org/lessons/lesson_view.asp?id=195 This is a lesson that allows students to create a comic strip. It has a comic strip creator, planning sheet and grading rubric.
- www.readwritethink.org/lessons/lesson_view.asp?id=101 Using Picture books to teach characterization in writer’s workshop. This lesson has book list for books that have strong characters, interactive graphic organizer and self assessment piece.
- www.thinkfinity.org/home.aspx From Verizon Foundation - A site for finding lesson plans in different curricular areas that incorporate technology. Many of the lessons have on-line tools for making brochures, timelines, graphic organizers, etc.
- www.allkindsofminds.org/ptk/WritingBasics.aspx - Parent Toolkit - From the early formation of letters to crafting an essay, writing involves perhaps more subskills than any other academic task. To write well requires combining multiple physical and mental processes in one concerted effort to communicate information and ideas.
- www.ldonline.org/ld_indepth/technology/technology.html - Questions and answers about technology and dyslexia.
- http://rubistar.4teachers.org - RubiStar is a free tool to help teachers create quality rubrics.
- www.allkindsofminds.org - All Kinds of Minds is a non-profit Institute that helps students who struggle with learning measurably improve their success in school and life by providing programs that integrate educational, scientific, and clinical expertise.
Assisted Writing Resources

Writing Print Resources

Writing Activity Workbooks:

Writing AT Assessment Books:
Assisted Writing Resources

- Slater Software. (2007). *PAL planner: Picture-assisted literacy.* Slater Software Inc.: CO
- Sweeney, J. (2002). *The AT continuum: Low to high tech tools for students with special needs.* Onion Mountain Technology Inc.: Canton, CT.
- Sweeney, J. (2002). *The CIRCUIT evaluation process for students with learning and other mild disabilities.* Onion Mountain Technology Inc.: Canton, CT.

Writing Resource Books:

- AlphaSmart. (2002). *Using AlphaSmarts in the writing process.* AlphaSmart Inc.: Cupertino, CA.
Assisted Writing Resources


Keyboarding Books:
- AlphaSmart. (2000). *Keyboarding with the AlphaSmart 3000*. AlphaSmart Inc.: Cupertino, CA.

Journal Articles

Internet Resources
- 101 Ideas for PDAs www.k12handhelds.com/apps.php
- AAC Intervention Resource www.aacintervention.com
- Center for Literacy & Disability Studies www.med.unc.edu/ahs/clds/index.html
- Educator’s Palm www.educatorspalm.org
- Florida Instructional Technology Resource Center www.itrc.ucf.edu
- Great Resources for Integrating Technology in Schools (GRITS) www.gritsonline.org
- Handheld devices in the classroom eduscapes.com/tap/topic78.htm
- International Society for Technology in Education www.iste.org
- LD On Line www.ldonline.org/
- LD Resources www.ldresources.com/
- Literacy Center.net www.literacycenter.net/
Assisted Writing Resources

- Literacy Empowerment Foundation  [www.colorcodedbooks.org/lef/index.htm](http://www.colorcodedbooks.org/lef/index.htm)
- The Palm Pilot Project  [www.leroy.k12.ny.us/District/PalmProject.htm](http://www.leroy.k12.ny.us/District/PalmProject.htm)
- pdaEd  [www.pdaed.com/vertical/home.xml](http://www.pdaed.com/vertical/home.xml)

Websites for Supports on 6+Traits *(From ISTE information)*

- [www.eduplace.com/fakeout/index.html](http://www.eduplace.com/fakeout/index.html) Fake Out! Vocabulary game similar to Balder dash (Reading presentation)
- [www.nwrel.org/assessment/scoringpractice.php](http://www.nwrel.org/assessment/scoringpractice.php) This and the above site allow you to get practice papers for traits of writing. Can select trait and age group you want to score
- [www.kimskorner4teachertalk.com](http://www.kimskorner4teachertalk.com/) Scroll down to writing to lead you to lesson ideas on each of the traits of writing. It also had ideas for grammar and reading lessons.
- [www.kn.pacbell.com/wired/fil/intro.html](http://www.kn.pacbell.com/wired/fil/intro.html) This site guides you through the steps to create your own webquest.
- [www.qa.k12.pa.us/curtech/powerwk.htm](http://www.qa.k12.pa.us/curtech/powerwk.htm) This site has a “step by step” list of directions for using powerpoint.
- [www.qa.k12.pa.us/curtech/hyperlut.htm](http://www.qa.k12.pa.us/curtech/hyperlut.htm) “Step by step” directions for using Hyperstudio.
- [www.qa.k12.pa.us/curtech/WEBQPRE/assesspp.htm](http://www.qa.k12.pa.us/curtech/WEBQPRE/assesspp.htm) This is a sample rubric to use for grading a powerpoint presentation
- [www.epals.com/scholastic/index_sch.html?seesf=5537518](http://www.epals.com/scholastic/index_sch.html?seesf=5537518) Key Pals. Find key pals from around the world to give your students a new reason to communicate through writing.
- [www.kidpub.org/kidpub/](http://www.kidpub.org/kidpub/) This is a site that publishes student writing. Even offers a page for schools to post their students’ writing.
- [www.kidscom.com/create/write/write_form.html](http://www.kidscom.com/create/write/write_form.html) Another site that publishes student writing
- [www.hardin.k12.ky.us/res_techn/countyjeopardygames.htm](http://www.hardin.k12.ky.us/res_techn/countyjeopardygames.htm) Directions on how to create your own Jeopardy game.
- [teach.fcps.net/trt10/PowerPoint.htm](http://teach.fcps.net/trt10/PowerPoint.htm) Powerpoint game templates and directions how to create your own games. Jeopardy, Who Wants To Be A Millionaire and Hollywood Squares.
- [teach.fcps.net/trt10/PowerPoint.htm#temp](http://teach.fcps.net/trt10/PowerPoint.htm#temp) : Already created powerpoints to accompany math lessons, Hatchet, etc.
- [www.readwritethink.org/lessons/lesson_view.asp?id=195](http://www.readwritethink.org/lessons/lesson_view.asp?id=195) This is a lesson that allows students to create a comic strip. It has a comic strip creator, planning sheet and grading rubric! Excellent and fun!
- [www.readwritethink.org/lessons/lesson_view.asp?id=101](http://www.readwritethink.org/lessons/lesson_view.asp?id=101) Using Picture books to teach characterization in writer’s workshop. This lesson has book list for books that have strong characters, interactive graphic organizer and self assessment piece.
- [www.marcopolo-education.org/home.aspx](http://www.marcopolo-education.org/home.aspx) Excellent site for finding lesson plans in different curricular areas that incorporate technology. Many of the lessons have on-line tools for making brochures, timelines, graphic organizers, etc. A must see site!
- [www.marinette.k12.wi.us/hs/lmc/web_eval.htm](http://www.marinette.k12.wi.us/hs/lmc/web_eval.htm) Great website evaluation form to use.

Writing Product & Software Resources

- **Advanced Keyboard Technologies** Fusion, The Writer  [www.keyboardinstructor.com](http://www.keyboardinstructor.com)
- **AlphaSmart/Renaissance** AlphaSmart, Neo, Dana  [www3.alphasmart.com](http://www3.alphasmart.com)
- **Applied Human Factors** Reach, SoothSayer  [www.ahf-net.com](http://www.ahf-net.com)
- **Assistive Technology** Link II, Stages  [www.assistivetech.com](http://www.assistivetech.com)
- **Beacon-Ridge** Adapted Pens, Paper  [www.beacon-ridge.com](http://www.beacon-ridge.com)
## Assisted Writing Resources

- **CalcuScribe**  
  [www.calcuscribe.com](http://www.calcuscribe.com)  
  CalcuScribe

- **Creative Communicating**  
  [www.creative-comm.com](http://www.creative-comm.com)  
  Adapted Books; Emerging Literacy

- **Crick Software Inc.**  
  [www.cricksoftware.com](http://www.cricksoftware.com)  
  Clicker 5; Cloze Pro; Word Bar, Clicker Paint, Find Out & Write Abot

- **Don Johnston Inc.**  
  [www.donjohnston.com](http://www.donjohnston.com)  
  Write:OutLoud; Co:Writer; Draft Builder, Little Books; Solo

- **Dynavox Systems**  
  [www.dynavoxsys.com](http://www.dynavoxsys.com)  
  DynaWrite

- **EnableMart**  
  [www.enablemart.com](http://www.enablemart.com)  
  QuickPAD IR

- **Freedom Scientific Inc.**  
  [www.freedomscientific.com](http://www.freedomscientific.com)  
  WYNN; Test Talker

- **InfoGrip**  
  [www.infogrip.com](http://www.infogrip.com)  
  Adapted Keyboards & Mouse

- **Inclusive TLC**  
  [www.inclusivetlc.com](http://www.inclusivetlc.com)  
  Computer Access, Keyguards, Software

- **Inspiration Software Inc.**  
  [www.inspiration.com](http://www.inspiration.com)  
  Inspiration, Kidspiration, Inspiration Palm, InspireData

- **IntelliTools Inc.**  
  [www.intellitools.com](http://www.intellitools.com)  
  IntelliTools Classroom Suite, IntelliKeys, Overlay Maker

- **Learning Co.**  
  [www.learningco.com](http://www.learningco.com)  
  M-Power Express; KidPix Studio, American Girl; Storybook Weaver

- **Kurzweil Educational Systems.**  
  [www.kurzweiledu.com](http://www.kurzweiledu.com)  
  Kurzweil 3000

- **Madentec Inc**  
  [www.madenta.com](http://www.madenta.com)  
  Tracker; DiscoverPro, Discover Envoy

- **Learning Magic**  
  [learningmagicinc.com](http://learningmagicinc.com)  
  Writing Activities

- **Matias Corporation**  
  [www.halfkeyboard.com](http://www.halfkeyboard.com)  
  One handed keyboard

- **Mayer Johnson Co.**  
  [www.mayer-johnson.com](http://www.mayer-johnson.com)  
  Speaking Dynamically Pro; BoardMaker+

- **MicroSoft Corporation**  
  [www.microsoft.com](http://www.microsoft.com)  
  Power Point; MicroSoft Word

- **NexConcepts**  
  [www.nexconcepts.com](http://www.nexconcepts.com)  
  PC Notetaker

- **Omni Group**  
  [www.omnigroup.com](http://www.omnigroup.com)  
  OmniGraffle, OmniOutliner

- **Onion Mountain Technology**  
  [www.onionmountaintech.com](http://www.onionmountaintech.com)  
  Writing Aids, Lottie Kits, The CIRCUIT

- **Origin Instruments/Assistiveware**  
  [www.orin.com/access](http://www.orin.com/access)  
  Head Mouse; Keystrokes, Switch XS

- **Perfect Solutions Software Inc**  
  [www.perfectsolutions.com](http://www.perfectsolutions.com)  
  Laser PC; Writer

- **Premier Assistive Technology**  
  [www.readingmadeeasy.com](http://www.readingmadeeasy.com)  
  Scan & Read Pro, Talking Dictionary

- **QuickPad Technology Corp**  
  [www.quickpad.com](http://www.quickpad.com)  
  QuickPAD IR; QuickPAD Pro

- **Quillsoft**  
  [www.wordq.com](http://www.wordq.com)  
  WordQ, SpeakQ

- **River Deep**  
  [www.riverdeep.com](http://www.riverdeep.com)  
  Imagination Express; Stanley’s Sticker Stories; Bailey’s Book House
Assisted Writing Resources

- **SeikoSmart**
  www.seikosmart.com
  Smart Pad 2

- **Slater Software**
  www.slatersoft.com
  Picture It; Pix Writer

- **Spark-Space Ltd.**
  www.spark-space.com
  Spark Space

- **TextHelp Systems Inc.**
  www.texthelp.com
  Read & Write Gold

- **TFE: Technology For Education**
  www.tfeinc.com
  The Writer, software

- **Therapro Inc.**
  www.theraproducts.com
  Teaching Rings

- **Tom Snyder Inc.**
  www.tomsnyder.com
  Scholastic Keys

- **Turning Point Therapy & Tech**
  www.turningpointtechnology.com
  Keyguards

- **Vision's Technology in Education**
  www.writerscomp.com
  Writer's Companion

- **Words +**
  www.words_plus.com
  EZ Keys, Abbreviate

- **Zygo /Sensory**
  www.zygo-usa.com
  Grid, Prototype, Polycom

**Freeware Text to Speech Software**

- **Browsealoud**
  Free - Web Site Speech Enabler - Win 95+
  www.helpread.net/

- **Help Read**
  Free - Screen Reader - Win 3.1+
  www.microsoft.com/reader

- **Microsoft Reader PC**
  Free - Screen Reader - Windows
  www.microsoft.com/reader

- **Read-E**
  Free one-year license - Text-to-Speech Reader - Win 98+

- **Read Please**
  Free - Text-to-Speech Reader - Win 95+

- **Screen Reader PC**
  Free - Screen Reader - Win
  www.texthelp.com/screenreader.asp

- **Text Talkster PC**
  Free - Text-to-Speech Reader
  www.webtalkster.com/text_talkster.htm

- **WeMedia**
  Free - Talking Browser - Win 95+

- **Word Speak**
  Free - Text-to-Speech Reader - Mac
  www.microsoft.com/mac/download