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T echnologies for  
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R eachable Digital  
N A T I V E S



Bi - Weekly Resources for  
Reaching & Teaching  
"Digital Natives"  
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Compiled by David Grapka  
Education (T.R.E.) Center

Technology Resources for  
[www.TRECenter.org](http://www.TRECenter.org)

Note: Some links are time-sensitive. Access to some may require registration or free subscriptions.

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### **QUOTE OF THE WEEK:**

Look not mournfully into the Past. It comes not back again. Wisely improve the Present. It is thine. Go forth to meet the shadowy Future, without fear, and a manly heart. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, US poet (1807 - 1882)

### **UDL ALTERNATIVES:**

"Universal Design for Learning is a concept or philosophy for designing and delivering products and services that are usable by people with the widest possible range of functional capabilities. It includes products and services that are directly usable (without requiring assistive technologies) and that are made usable with assistive technologies."

AT Act of 1998, P.L. 105-394, S.

<http://trecenter.org/pdf/UDL-Summit.pdf>

Summary 2007 National Summit on Universal Design for Learning Working Groups. It provides valuable guidance as we work towards implementing the Principles and Practices of UDC in New York State. (from Ralph Giordano)

<http://alltogether.wordpress.com/2007/11/20/including-samuel/>

for information on a new documentary on inclusion called "Including Samuel."

<http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/toolkit.htm> Toolkit for Rebuilding Student Supports into a Comprehensive System for Addressing Barriers to Learning and Teaching

<http://weocr.ocrgid.org/> WeOCR is a platform for Web-enabled OCR (Optical Character Reader/Recognition) systems that enable people to use character recognition over networks. (This is the page the program is located on: <http://ocr1.sc.isc.tohoku.ac.jp/e2/A>) WeOCR server receives document images from users, recognize texts in the images, and return recognition results to the users. WeOCR does not have its own character recognition engine. Instead, it is intended to accommodate various character recognition engines. WeOCR provides a simplified user interface so that more people can benefit from OCR easily.

### **AAC ALTERNATIVES:**

<http://www.chattervox.com/> Chattervox and <http://www.maxiaids.com/store/prodView.asp?idstore=2&idproduct=5370> the Speak-N-Hear.

<http://www.phonemerchants.com/amdialxlphon.html> Clarity XL-30 - amplifies either incoming or outgoing phone volume. (from Dan Fendler [fendler@UDEL.EDU](mailto:fendler@UDEL.EDU))

### **ACCESS ALTERNATIVES:**

<http://www.creaturediscomforts.org/watch> Aardman Animations on the BBC are creating TV ads about disabilities for the UK market. "Change the way you see disability" is the tagline. (Chuck Hitchcock at CAST)

Switch Game Resources from Margeret Cottis:  
<http://www.oneswitch.org.uk/index.htm>

<http://www.oneswitch.org.uk/4/DIY/index.htm>  
DIY guide for different adapted games.

<http://www.oneswitch.org.uk/4/DIY/water-blaster.htm> switch adapted super-soaker

<http://www.google.com/search?hl=en&q=NICHOLAS+NEGROPONTE&btnG=Google+Search>  
<http://www.q-and-a.org/> <http://laptop.org/>  
Nicholas Negroponte founded this wonderful "Laptop Give One Get One" program. While not devoted specifically to persons with disabilities, I am sure that they will benefit. He has been featured on CBS 60 minutes, on CNN, and others. (From Ralph Giordano) We encourage all of our "Alternatives" readers to learn more about this program devoted to true access for all. (Ed.)

#### **ART ALTERNATIVES:**

<https://edison-student-publishers.wikispaces.com/Images> for a collection of web-based tools for creating art. (Kirsten A. Haugen)

#### **CONSULTING ALTERNATIVES:**

<http://www.frontiersofassistivetechology.com>  
"Exploring the Frontiers of Assistive Technology" video podcast series: "We can because we think we can." Summary: Leigh-Anne Tompkins was born with cerebral palsy. This did not stop her from making her dreams come true. She graduated magna cum laude in Fine Arts and now has her own company: Graphics Afoot Studio Design. She does web and print design work for local, national and international companies. <sharon.eilts@GMAIL.COM>

#### **COST SAVINGS ALTERNATIVES:**

<http://www.paint.net> a free and very powerful photo editor.

<http://www.cogain.org/results/applications/dasher>  
DASHER - (Google - dasher project) free word prediction application!

<http://connectingdots.typepad.com/ppt/2007/08/embed-video-cli.html> How to embed internet video directly into your Powerpoint. (from Dan Fendler)

Check out Simon's site!

[http://www.thefreemac.com/simon\\_elliott%40mac.com/Home.html](http://www.thefreemac.com/simon_elliott%40mac.com/Home.html)

<http://www.otexchange.com> Deanna Sava's site for OTs and all of us.

#### **MUSIC ALTERNATIVES:**

Looking for some new music for your class, but out of money? Below are links to free music! These links provide kids music in MP3 form.  
<http://www.ilovewavs.com/ForKids/KidsEveryDay.htm>

<http://www.notjustforkids.com/music.htm>

<http://kids.niehs.nih.gov/musicchild.htm>

<http://www.buddhanet.net/audio-library.htm>

[http://simplythebest.net/sounds/WAV/TV\\_show\\_wavs.html](http://simplythebest.net/sounds/WAV/TV_show_wavs.html)

[http://www.chalo.net/utilities/Free\\_Sounds/](http://www.chalo.net/utilities/Free_Sounds/)

<http://www.partnersinrhyme.com/soundfx/Household.shtml> (for sound effects - like burps and toilets and nicer things too, kids love of AAC)

<http://teachinglearnerswithmultipleneeds.blogspot.com/2007/05/free-mp3-music-downloads-for-kids-and.html>

[http://bp1.blogger.com/\\_NS9P7KE4fz0/RkUcrCa-3oI/AAAAAAAAKvc/JbH-xVzQVwg/s1600-h/music.JPG](http://bp1.blogger.com/_NS9P7KE4fz0/RkUcrCa-3oI/AAAAAAAAKvc/JbH-xVzQVwg/s1600-h/music.JPG)

<http://www.efolkmusic.org/ArtMusic/genrefeature.aspx?Genre=Childrens&Display=MP3> - eFolk Music Children

<http://freekidsmusic.com/index.html> Free Kids Music

<http://www.lindabook.com/musicdownloads.htm>  
| Linda Book's Children's Music

<http://tsc.kidsmusicweb.com/> Kids Music Web

<http://www.mp3forkidz.com/pages/songframe.html> Kid Tunes by Dayvel

<http://www.macidol.com/music/children/> Mac Idol

<http://www.barynya.com/mp3/index.stm>  
Russian Folk Music

<http://www.geocities.com/balkanfolkdances/>  
Folkdance Library

<http://www.ilovewavs.com/ForKids/KidsEveryDay.htm> kids music in WAV format

### **NIMAS ALTERNATIVES:**

<http://www.microsoft.com/presspass/features/2007/nov07/11-13daisy.mspx> This article from Microsoft announces a free download to convert Open XML documents to DAISY formats next year. (From Faith Paradis)

<http://www.bookshare.org/web/Welcome.html>  
As of October 1, 2007, bookshare ceased charging schools and students anything to join Bookshare.org. They expect to add over 100,000 new educational titles in high quality DAISY and Braille formats over the next five years, getting students the high quality textbooks they need for academic success.

### **PARENT ALTERNATIVES:**

<http://www.cnn.com/video/#/video/living/2007/12/05/heroes.kayla.cornale.cnn> CNN Heroes award ceremony is a wonderful story of a teenager taking the time to know her special needs cousin and seeing that things had to be different. She developed a way to link language with sounds. Without the research and the things we so often we think we need, this young brilliant developed a program for her cousin. The program is now being tested in 2 school districts in Canada. (Jeannette)

### **TEACHING ALTERNATIVES:**

<http://visual.merriam-webster.com/> Visual dictionary

<http://www.freerice.com> Great way to help build vocabulary skills and give to another. The more answers you get right the more rice you donate.

<http://www.irvingisd.net/specialeducation/LIFEskills.htm> functional life skills websites. (Nancy J. Young, Ph.D. Irving ISD Assistive Tech)

<http://www.actden.com/> The WritingDen and MathDen are good reinforcement tools.

[http://del.icio.us/search/?fr=del\\_icio\\_us&p=science&type=all](http://del.icio.us/search/?fr=del_icio_us&p=science&type=all) science links

<http://www.eschoolnews.com/resources/teaching-effectively-with-computers/> Ideas for dealing with challenges that teaching with computers poses.

<http://www.specialconnections.ku.edu/cgi-bin/cgiwrap/speconn/main.php?cat=instruction&section=teachertools> This site helps with every kind of teaching strategy -from cooperative learning groups to universal design for learning.

<http://www.itcfusion.wikispaces.com> Directions for using PhotoStory (Magi Shepley)

[http://www.ncsip.org/docs/LiteracyRichPreschool\\_2006\\_dft2.pdf](http://www.ncsip.org/docs/LiteracyRichPreschool_2006_dft2.pdf) What to look for in a quality literacy rich classroom. (Dr. Jeanne Beckman)

### **TECHIE ALTERNATIVES:**

mac converter to run Office 2007 docs:  
[http://www.microsoft.com/mac/downloads.aspx?pid=download&location=/mac/download/office2004/converterbeta\\_0\\_2.xml](http://www.microsoft.com/mac/downloads.aspx?pid=download&location=/mac/download/office2004/converterbeta_0_2.xml)

Here is the Windows Converter  
<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyId=941b3470-3ae9-4aee-8f43-c6bb74cd1466&displaylang=en>

### **VENDOR WEBSITES AND NEWS:**

<http://trecenter.org/vendors.htm>

<http://www.Axistive.com>

For an assistive technology news website

<http://www.cricksoft.com/us/accessibility/bundle>

[.asp](#) The AT Bundle includes everything you need to get up and running in minutes - and you save money too!

### **LINKS to CLOSING THE GAP:**

Solutions – Convenient and Easy to Use!

About Closing The Gap - 5 minutes

Solutions Demonstration - 10 minutes

<http://closingthegap.com/ctg2/solutions/youtube.lasso>

Request a DVD be mailed to you

<http://closingthegap.com/ctg2/requests/index.lasso>

Try the 14-day Free Trial Now

<http://closingthegap.com/ctg2/trial22/customerindex.lasso>

### **Order Now**

<http://closingthegap.com/ctg2/orders/indexSub.lasso>

### **Dear Friends and Colleagues:**

This biweekly, free email newsletter provides resources to people interested in the use of technology as a tool to help all students. If you have information to share that would be of value to members of our learning community, including job notices, please write and let us know. We'll be happy to share it here or at our web site. Contact, reprint, and subscription information is at the end of this document.

Thank you for your interest in the TRE Center and our work. We look forward to having you share your wisdom with the people on this list and with those you serve.

Sincerely,

David Grapka, ATP, ATS,  
Project Coordinator, T.R.E. Center  
Maywood School, 1979 Central Avenue,  
Albany, NY 12205.

Phone: 518-464-6348

Toll free in NY: 1-800-248-9873.

URL: <http://trecenter.org>

### **ABOUT ALTERNATIVES:**

\*Respond directly to the person posting an item.

\*To submit questions or items for consideration, send to: [Dgrapka@gw.neric.org](mailto:Dgrapka@gw.neric.org) If you know others who would like to receive ALTERNATIVES, please direct them to:

<http://www.trecenter.org/news.htm> for subscription information. To speak to a human about newsletter issues, please contact TRE toll free in NY 800-248-9873.

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