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N A T I V E S



Bi - Weekly Resources for  
Reaching & Teaching  
"Digital Natives"  
Volume 8, N 3  
for 3/15/08-3/30/08

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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### QUOTES OF THE WEEK:

'I've learned that whenever I decide something with an open heart, I usually make the right decision.' Maya Angelou

### 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://laptop.org/>  
One Laptop Per Child

<http://www.google.com/mobile/sms>  
Send text message for Google search to 466453 (spells Google on your keypad), and within a second or two it replies back to you with the information you need. You can type in a person's name, city, state and get their contact information, or text "sushi 78745" and find all the sushi places in that zip code, or text "weather (name of city)," along with sports scores, stock quotes, definitions, movie listings, and driving directions. This service is no-cost except your own text messaging rates will apply via your provider. (Lorie Marrero)

<http://www.sciaccess.net/en/InfyReader/index.html>

OCR program for math. It costs around \$900 and requires high quality input files to work well. You can use it free of charge for a 30-day trial period if you want to try it out. (Steve Noble)

<http://www.visuwords.com/fullsize.php> Online graphical dictionary

<http://www.assistivetech.ning.com> Ning is a free social networking tool that is like a list serve on steroids.

### AAC ALTERNATIVES:

<http://www.als-communication.dk/>  
An instructional video online that teaches about AAC and ALS (from Donn Hilker)

<http://www.youtube.com/alscommunication>  
Movies of clients using different kinds of AAC

<http://callcentre.education.ed.ac.uk/downloads/>  
Sally Millar (who wrote 'Why use Boardmaker?' article) has written a detailed comparison of symbol systems.

<http://teaching.prentrom.com/>  
PRC is happy to announce THE "Teaching Materials Exchanges," a place where users may download innovative ways to teach language at a variety of age levels, from preschool to adult. The ideas are contributed by speech-language-pathologists and educators who specialize in augmentative communication. We also welcome contributions from parents and caregivers who have created unique materials for teaching. You

may browse and download materials by using a side navigation menu which is organized by device, materials, age, language, and importable files. All materials are provided in .zip compression format.

To use the site, create a member account. Members can browse the categories and download teaching materials. You may also create an Author account. Authors have the same access as members, and may also upload teaching materials.

### **ACCESS ALTERNATIVES:**

<http://www.assistiveware.com/keystrokes.php>  
Keystrokes – design your own virtual keyboard

<http://atpodcasts.com>  
"Users in Control: A Fresh Perspective on Accessibility". This new audio and PDF podcast series offers an insightful look at how people with disabilities are empowered through Mac OS X, while shattering preconceptions on disability and assistive technology (AT). Created by Mac users with physical, speech, or vision impairments, it seeks to inform, inspire, and provide a platform for new ideas.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE ALTERNATIVES:**

<http://projectforum.org/docs/DiplomaOptionsforSWD-SynthesisoftheNCEODocument.pdf>  
This In-Brief Policy Analysis is a synthesis of a National Center on Educational Outcomes study on state graduation policies that also compared the results to three similar, prior NCEO studies. Results are described in the areas of graduation requirements for youth with and without disabilities, diploma options available, state use of exit exams and consequences of graduation requirements and diploma options. Trends and recommendations in light of the survey findings and trends are given.

<http://www.templetons.com/brad/copymyths.html>  
Here is an article called the Big 10 Myths of Copyrights Explained.  
(Jeannette Van Houten, M.ED, ATP)

### **ART ALTERNATIVES:**

Drawing Programs for Students (from Glenda Hampton Anderson)

<http://www.cricksoft.com>  
Clicker Paint

<http://www.artsconnected.org/toolkit/index.html>  
The Artists Toolkit: Explore the tools that artists use like line, color and balance to build works of art.

<http://www.jacksonpollock.org>  
Paint Freely: Just start moving your mouse and have fun. Click every once and a while and new colors will appear. Anyone can do this and have great fun while exploring the simplicity of this unique site.

<http://www.happytulip.com/>  
Offers a great little coloring book where you can choose the pictures you want to include and color them in/print them out. A very simple program.

<http://www.permadi.com/java/spaint/spaint.html>  
Kaleidoscope Painter: Simple program of making a kaleidoscope with the drag of a mouse.

<http://www.cs.uu.nl/~markov/kids/draw.html>  
Drawing for Children

<http://www.adders.org/freeware/doodlepad.html>  
Doodle 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.

<http://www.kidsdomain.com/down/pc/rubadub.html>  
Rub a Dub. Good practice for using a head mouse. Beginning mousers sometimes have trouble with the "click and drag". Kids can color pictures by dragging the mouse over them. The rubbing reveals colorful surprises underneath the black and white features!

<http://www.tuxpaint.org>  
TuxPaint will work with windows or Mac, is free, and will remind you of KidPix.

## **ASSESSMENT ALTERNATIVES:**

[HTTP://closingthegap.com/home/detail\\_full.lasso](http://closingthegap.com/home/detail_full.lasso)

For an article on AT assessment: Do our assessment strategies provide needed info?

## **BLIND AND LOW VISION ALTERNATIVES:**

<http://www.afb.org/braillebug/readingclub.asp>

The Braillebug web site promotes Braille to students who could benefit from learning Braille. (Judi Piscitello)

## **CONSULTING ALTERNATIVES:**

[http://www.castleworldwide.com/tds\\_v5/asp/purchase\\_package.asp?userid=&package\\_id=185](http://www.castleworldwide.com/tds_v5/asp/purchase_package.asp?userid=&package_id=185)

Here's the link to the RESNA practice test, which costs \$75. (Kristen Russell--CP of New Jersey)

<http://phobos.apple.com/WebObjects/MZStore.woa/wa/viewPodcast?id=266093431>

This new audio and PDF podcast compliments the "Exploring the Frontiers of Assistive Technology" video podcast found at <http://www.frontiersofassistivetech.com>

## **COST SAVINGS ALTERNATIVES**

<http://www.giveawayoftheday.com>

Free programs.

<http://www.fxc.btinternet.co.uk/>

Accessible FX Software currently offers 11 free programs, many of which may be of use to people with low vision.

## **GIFTED ALTERNATIVES:**

<http://www.ed.sc.edu/edet/seibert/> **Twice Exceptional Students:** "Twice Exceptional, Dual Exceptional or Gifted Learning Disabled (GLD) are all terms that refer to students who have dramatic learning abilities in some areas and dramatic learning deficits in other areas. Gifted children who are 'difficult,' who act out, the class clowns and mischievous, and the gifted with disabilities may have their problems

diagnosed and may not be considered gifted at all. And students who have a wide spread of skills can have their high test scores canceled out by deficits."

## **LANGUAGE & LITERACY ALTERNATIVES:**

<http://www.handwritingworksheets.com>

The Amazing Handwriting Worksheet Maker - you can put in words and print off practice sheets.

## **MATH ALTERNATIVES:**

<http://www.dessci.com/en/products/mathtype/default.htm>

MathType, the academic price is \$57. There's also a free 30-day fully functional trial, so you (or the math teacher) could at least use it long enough to see if it makes life easier and/or could work to fix the current problem you have.

## **MUSIC ALTERNATIVES**

<http://www.tropicalglen.com>

If you are a musician, you would enjoy this.

## **PARENTING ALTERNATIVES**

<http://www.autismspeaks.org/whatisit/index.php>

Autism Speaks, one of the largest foundations dedicated to autism in the world, provides a set of video glossaries for parents and educators who work with kids who may have a spectrum disorder.

## **TEACHING ALTERNATIVES:**

<http://www.ablelinktech.com/handhelds/scheduleassistant.asp>

<http://www.ablelinktech.com/handhelds/visualassistant.asp>

<http://www.ablelinktech.com/handhelds/pocketcompass.asp>

Here are several PDA based programs that are designed specifically to address a student's need for better analyzing tasks. Schedule Assistant is

a reminder program that can be set to provide reminders throughout the day, and Visual Assistant and Pocket Compass are two other programs that can work with Schedule Assistant to provide step-by-step instructions using pictures and recorded audio messages for each step. (Daniel K. Davies"  
[dan@ABLELINKTECH.COM](mailto:dan@ABLELINKTECH.COM)

[http://www.free.ed.gov/resource.cfm?resource\\_id=2007](http://www.free.ed.gov/resource.cfm?resource_id=2007)

Teaching with Data Simulations - helps students visualize abstract statistical concepts and see dynamic processes behind the gathering, analysis, and interpretation of statistics. Each sample activity includes instructions, teaching tips, assessment ideas, and references. (SERC, National Science Foundation)

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

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

#### **CLOSING THE GAP:**

<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,  
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#### **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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