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## Really Useful

### Technology For Students with Learning Disabilities

Students with learning disabilities often have difficulty with skills others take for granted, such as reading, listening, spelling, writing, or organizing information. Appropriate computer software and assistive technology can make those tasks easier and allow a student to feel a sense of accomplishment. Feeling successful with technology can greatly boost an individual's self-esteem and may even make necessary tasks enjoyable.

However, not all software or technology is appropriate or useful for students with learning disabilities. The more care parents and teachers take to fit the software to a student's specific need and learning style, the more useful the software or tool will be for that student.

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It may help to keep the following suggestions in mind when choosing software for students with learning disabilities:

- The software should address the skill the student needs to learn and have levels that allow the student to progress.
- Computer displays should not be cluttered. Students with learning disabilities usually concentrate better with few distractions.
- Instructions should be straightforward. Long, wordy directions at the beginning of the program are frustrating to most students with learning disabilities.
- It should be easy for the student to correct mistakes.
- The program should be easy to enter and exit. Ideally, the student should be able to operate the program independently.
- The software should be fun and motivating with topics of interest to the individual.
- It should be easy to save the work. Students with learning disabilities should be allowed as many sessions as necessary to complete the project.
- There should be guidance and assistance by a parent or teacher as needed, so the student does not become frustrated or bored with the software.

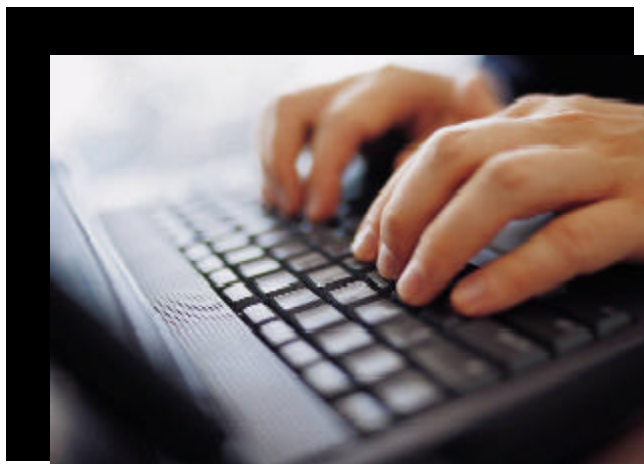
This handout contains brief descriptions of software and assistive technology devices that have been successfully used by students of all ages with learning disabilities. This list is not comprehensive but is a starting point for finding software that will be useful for your child or student. New products are always being developed, and existing products upgraded, which can provide even more useful support.

*Price and availability of listed items is subject to change.*

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## Table of Contents

Talking Word Processors and Writing Tools . . . . .	4
Online E-texts . . . . .	7
Phonics Software . . . . .	9
Word Prediction and Abbreviation Expansion . . . . .	12
Reference Software . . . . .	15
Assistive Technology . . . . .	16
Screen Reading Programs . . . . .	22
Web Sites Related to Learning Disabilities . . . . .	24
Minnesota Resources . . . . .	26
National Resources . . . . .	27



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## Talking Word Processors and Writing Tools

Talking word processors, sometimes called text-to-speech programs, will read aloud what the student has typed. Auditory feedback can be very useful for students with learning disabilities because they can listen to the text they have written and make sure the meaning is clear. Many programs offer a variety of voices that can be customized by pitch, speed, and volume. Some programs offer built-in spell checkers that have auditory spelling features so the student can correct his or her own work.

Writing tools may offer step-by-step tutorials that guide the student through the writing process, or templates and ideas for story development. Programs that assist the user with brainstorming, outlining, and revising can make the process of writing papers or doing homework much easier for students with learning disabilities.

### **eReader (Cast)**

(PC/Mac) \$200

A literacy program that adds spoken voice and visual highlighting to electronic text. Users can type in text or read, change, study, or note existing text from any source, including scanned text or text from a word processing file, CD-ROM, or the Internet.

*Telephone: 888-858-9994*

*E-mail: [ult@cast.org](mailto:ult@cast.org)*

*Web Site: [www.cast.org](http://www.cast.org)*

### **ReadPlease Plus 2002 (Money Tree Software)**

(PC) Free or \$25 trial version or \$40 for full version

A downloadable text-to-speech engine that will read any text file from the Internet or from any Windows application. It offers four realistic voices that can be customized with speed, pitch, and volume. Users can also enter their own text. It is easy to download and set up.

*Web Site: [www.readplease.com](http://www.readplease.com)*

### **HelpRead (Hawaii Education Literacy Project)**

(PC) Free

A downloadable program for Windows that uses a text-to-speech synthesizer and can read text files, Web pages, e-books, and text in the Windows clipboard. A variety of voices and characters are available.

*Web Site: [www.dyslexia.com/helpread.htm](http://www.dyslexia.com/helpread.htm)*

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### **Imagination Express (Edmark Corporation)**

(PC/Mac) \$25

A creative writing tool that presents interesting graphics with a variety of themes, such as the ocean, a neighborhood, history, and the rainforest. It can motivate reluctant writers to create stories using graphics, audio, and a playback feature.

*Telephone: 800-362-2890*

*E-mail: edmarkteam@edmark.com*

*Web Site: www.edmark.com*

### **IntelliTalk II (IntelliTools, Inc.)**

(PC/Mac) \$140

A talking word processor that allows the user to adjust the voice, pronunciation, text, and background colors. Speech options and auditory spell check reinforce letter and word recognition. Users can insert graphics from textbooks or other sources. Built-in scanning and automatic overlay generation provide IntelliKeys and switch access. Locked text allows students to use teacher-made worksheets that can't be edited or erased. Available in Spanish also.

*Telephone: 800-899-6687*

*E-mail: info@intellitools.com*

*Web Site: www.intellitools.com*

### **PlainTalk (Apple Inc.)**

Comes Free with Macintosh OS

Apple's speech recognition and speech synthesis technologies now give speech-savvy applications the power to carry out your voice commands and even speak back to you in English or Spanish.

*Telephone: 800-MYAPPLE*

*Web Site: www.apple.com/macOS/speech/*

### **Read & Write Version 6 (TextHELP!)**

(PC) \$250

This is a fully comprehensive application toolbar that offers literacy support in any Windows application. It includes high-quality speech output, a talking spell checker, word prediction, homophone support, dictionary, simple scientific calculator, and a word wizard.

*Telephone: 877-631-5991*

*E-mail: info@texthelp.com*

*Web Site: www.texthelp.com*

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### **Read & Write Gold Version 6 (TextHELP! Systems)**

(PC) \$645

The Gold version of Read & Write contains all the same features as the standard Read & Write, with the addition of several other useful tools. Additional features include a scientific calculator, a pronunciation tutor, a fact folder, and a fact finder. Users can use the built-in scanning feature to have their text scanned and read aloud by the program.

*Telephone: 877-631-5991*

*E-mail: [info@texthelp.com](mailto:info@texthelp.com)*

*Web Site: [www.texthelp.com](http://www.texthelp.com)*

### **Wordsmith (TextHELP! Systems)**

(PC) \$495

This program provides an additional toolbar for Word 97/2000/XP. It combines the functionality of Word with several tools for literacy support. Wordsmith contains many of the same features as Read & Write. It includes high-quality speech output, a talking spell checker, word prediction, homophone support, thesaurus, word wizard, pronunciation help, and a browse-aloud Internet-reading feature. It also includes a scanning function.

### **Write:Outloud (Don Johnston, Inc.)**

(PC/Mac) \$99

An easy-to-use talking word processor with a talking spell checker and talking dictionary. It can be set up to speak letters, words, sentences, or paragraphs in a variety of voices. Users listen to what has been typed to choose the right word and revise word choices, spellings, and sequence. The spell checker even catches phonetic misspellings.

*Telephone: 800-999-4660*

*E-mail: [info@donjohnston.com](mailto:info@donjohnston.com)*

*Web Site: [www.donjohnston.com](http://www.donjohnston.com)*

### **WriteAway 2000 (Institute on Applied Technology)**

(PC) \$99

A writing tool that provides the student with a series of “tools,” functions, and facilities that encourage creativity in the writing process while catering to the individual needs of each student. The tool kit includes word prediction, using base and subject specific word lists, text-to-speech read back for spelling and pronunciation reinforcement, abbreviation expansion, and multiple access modes including switch-access scanning arrays.

*Telephone: 888-492-4925*

*E-mail: [sales@is-inc.com](mailto:sales@is-inc.com)*

*Web Site: [www.is-inc.com](http://www.is-inc.com)*

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### **WordQ (QuillSoft)**

(PC) \$144

This is a simple and easy-to-use writing tool that provides spelling, grammar, and punctuation assistance. It uses advanced word prediction to suggest words for the student to use and provides text-to-speech feedback. It can be used with word processing and other programs. A free downloadable demo is available at the Web site.

*Telephone: 1-866-62WORDQ*

*E-mail: sales@quillsoft.com*

*Web Site: www.wordq.com*

### **Online E-Texts**

Electronic books called e-texts may provide an alternative to traditional printed texts for many readers with learning disabilities. E-texts are books in electronic form that can be downloaded from the Internet onto a computer and read out loud to the user using text-to-speech software (see previous listings). Below is a list of some e-texts sites currently available on the Internet.

#### **Alex Catalog of Electronic Texts**

Contains a collection of public domain documents from American and English literature as well as Western philosophy.

*Web Site: www.infomotions.com/alex/*

#### **Online Books Page**

A directory of books that can be browsed by author, subject, and title.

*Web Site: <http://digital.library.upenn.edu/books/>*

#### **Books Online**

Offers hundreds of books online—mostly classics and popular fiction for teens and adults.

*Web Site: <http://admin1.athens.tec.ga.us/authors.html>*

#### **Modern English Collection**

Collection of modern classics that can be downloaded or read on-line.

*Web Site: [www.hti.umich.edu/english/pd-modeng/bibl.html](http://www.hti.umich.edu/english/pd-modeng/bibl.html)*

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### **Project Gutenberg**

The original e-text site contains hundreds of selections.

*Web Site: [www.gutenberg.net](http://www.gutenberg.net)*

### **ERIC Clearinghouse on Reading, English and Communication**

Contains extensive information about literacy as well as selections for children and teens.

*Web Site: [www.indiana.edu/~eric\\_rec/](http://www.indiana.edu/~eric_rec/)*

### **Contemporary Writing for Children and Young Adults**

Contains classics and brand-new stories designed for teenagers and young adults.

*Web Site: [www.ucalgary.ca/~dkbrown/storcont.html](http://www.ucalgary.ca/~dkbrown/storcont.html)*

### **Assistive Media**

A nonprofit organization that produces on-line audio recordings of works for computer users with text-reading access barriers. This service is free of charge.

*Web Site: [www.assistivemedia.org](http://www.assistivemedia.org)*

### **e-Text Directory**

Huge list of links to other e-text sites that include links to libraries of online books, plays, and classic literature.

*Web Site: [www4.gvsu.edu/create/Tech/etextarc.htm](http://www4.gvsu.edu/create/Tech/etextarc.htm)*

### **Story Hour at the Internet Public Library**

Stories are presented in a variety of forms, including plain text, text with graphics and audio, and self-running programs.

*Web Site: [www.ipl.org/youth/StoryHour/](http://www.ipl.org/youth/StoryHour/)*

### **Bookshare**

An online community that shares scanned books. Users must supply proof of disability and pay a \$25 sign-up fee plus \$50 for an annual subscription.

*E-mail: [info@bookshare.org](mailto:info@bookshare.org)*

*Web Site: [www.bookshare.org](http://www.bookshare.org)*



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## **Phonics Software**

Many students who have difficulties learning to read and spell can improve literacy skills with phonics instruction. These software programs provide structured practice in phonics concepts such as phonological awareness, letter-sound correspondence, decoding words, and spelling.

### **Early Reading (Lexia Learning Systems)**

(PC/Mac) \$96

This program is designed for ages 4-6 and systematically addresses the core phonological awareness skills of rhyming, first and last sound identification, segmentation, and blending. Each activity is designed with increasing levels of complexity that allow the student to analyze, practice, and manipulate sounds within these skills. Students who need additional practice branch into highly structured and modeled practice activities. A free demo is available for download from the Web site.

*Telephone: 800-435-3942*

*E-mail: [info@lexialearning.com](mailto:info@lexialearning.com)*

*Web Site: [www.lexialearning.com](http://www.lexialearning.com)*

### **Omti Reading Program (Omti)**

(PC/Mac) \$95

This program helps build the association between symbols and sounds in the English language through self-paced repetition and incremental accumulation of written language knowledge. It helps students improve their language skills, whether they are nonreaders or below-average readers.

*Telephone: (832) 203-6083*

*E-mail: [info@omti.com](mailto:info@omti.com)*

*Web Site: [www.fourpointsmedia.com/reading/reading.htm](http://www.fourpointsmedia.com/reading/reading.htm)*

### **Phonics Based Reading (Lexia Learning Systems)**

(PC/Mac) \$119

This is an interactive reading skills development system based on solid research and the Orton Gillingham system and designed for ages 5-8. The program introduces over 2,000 words in hundreds of exercises that ease the acquisition of reading skills typically taught in grades 1-3. A free demo is available for download from the Web site.

*Telephone: 800-435-3942*

*E-mail: [info@lexialearning.com](mailto:info@lexialearning.com)*

*Web Site: [www.lexialearning.com](http://www.lexialearning.com)*

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**Reading S.O.S. (Strategies for Older Students)**  
**(Lexia Learning Systems)**

(PC/Mac) \$159

This is an interactive reading skills development system designed specifically for students aged 9-adult, who are not yet proficient readers. Students work independently as voice prompts lead them through each activity.

Reading S.O.S. is based on solid research and the Orton Gillingham system. The program introduces over 4,000 words in hundreds of exercises that ease the acquisition of reading skills typically taught in grades 1-7. A free demo is available for download from the Web site.

*Telephone: 800-435-3942*

*E-mail: info@lexialearning.com*

*Web Site: www.lexialearning.com*

**Simon Sounds It Out (Don Johnston)**

(Mac) \$59

This program provides the vital practice and repetition students need to overcome the letter-to-sound barrier. It includes printable worksheets, displays pictures, automatically increases difficulty, tracks progress, and prints detailed reports. Sold separately or as skills pack with Simon Spells.

*Telephone: 800-999-4660*

*E-mail: info@donjohnston.com*

*Web Site: www.donjohnston.com/catalog/simskls.htm*

**Simon Spells (Don Johnston)**

(Mac) \$59

This is a friendly on-screen spelling tutor that includes Dolch vocabulary words and 500 of the words most frequently used in reading and writing. Words are presented phonetically and in the context of sentences.

*Telephone: 800-999-4660*

*E-mail: info@donjohnston.com*

*Web Site: www.donjohnston.com/catalog/catalog.htm*

**Spelling Rules (Optimum Resource)**

(Mac/PC) \$45

This program is designed to help students in grades 3-9 improve spelling accuracy and master the fundamentals including forming plurals (adding s, adding es, f, fe, and ves) and compound words, the “i” before “e” rule, capitalization, and many others. It may be used in self-paced or test form and has multiple levels, and it can also be customized by teachers.

*Telephone: 888-784-2592*

*E-mail: stickyb@stickybear.com*

*Web Site: www.stickybear.com*

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### **Spelling Test Generator (Optimum Resource)**

(PC) \$100

Using more than 3,000 of the most commonly encountered words in the English language, the *Spelling Test Generator, Volume 1* prepares spelling lists on the basis of difficulty, grade level, vowels, diphthongs, word origins, and starting or ending letters or sounds.

*Telephone: 888-784-2592*

*E-mail: stickyb@stickybear.com*

*Web Site: www.stickybear.com*

### **Stickybear Phonics: Volume 1,2,3**

**(Optimum Resource)**

(PC/Mac) \$45 each volume

These programs combine video, sound, and animation to engage students as they learn to link letters and sounds and begin the adventure of reading!

These programs are designed to build knowledge by teaching the student to sound out words, consonant and vowel blends, prefixes, suffixes, and compound words. The self-paced lessons are reinforced through delightful animations and on-screen interactive activities. Review and practice are stressed in the video segments.

*Telephone: 888-784-2592*

*E-mail: stickyb@stickybear.com*

*Web Site: www.stickybear.com*

### **Stickybear Spelling (Optimum Resource)**

The program teaches students more than 2,000 recorded words and teachers can customize which words are taught. Levels may be set to allow students of different ages or abilities to compete effectively. Several activities are presented in a format that engages students while they get the repetition they need for spelling success.

*Telephone: 888-784-2592*

*E-mail: stickyb@stickybear.com*

*Web Site: www.stickybear.com*

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### **UltraPhonics Tutor (Prolexia)**

(PC) \$199

This program introduces, teaches, and reinforces written language skills in a carefully sequenced and structured format. The program strongly emphasizes handwriting and spelling via intensive use of multisensory techniques and computer handwriting recognition. Sound or symbol associations, linguistic concepts, and spelling rules are introduced according to Orton-Gillingham teaching principles and are automatically tailored to each individual's learning rate.

*Telephone: 888-776-5394*

*E-mail: [info@prolexia.com](mailto:info@prolexia.com)*

*Web Site: [www.prolexia.com](http://www.prolexia.com)*

### **Word Prediction and Abbreviation Expansion**

Word prediction software can assist writers with learning disabilities by reducing the time spent typing and by helping to prevent misspelled words. The user simply types the first letter or letters of a word, and a list of possible words starting with those letters appears on the screen. The user can select the appropriate word from the list by clicking a mouse, pressing a switch, or by selecting the word's corresponding number. Then the word prediction program pastes the selected word (or phrase) into the word processing application.

With word prediction, often users do not need to type the whole word. Predictions are based on the letter(s) typed, personal preference, and frequently used words.

Users of word prediction may be able to increase their vocabulary by choosing new and more complex words.

Word prediction helps students with spelling difficulties because misspelled words are not offered as a choice. However spelling difficulties may hinder the use of word prediction if the user enters incorrect letters.

Abbreviation expansion can assist users by speeding up typing of repetitive information. Abbreviation expansion software utilities allow users to type just two or three letters which then expand into preset

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words, phrases, or even full sentences. The abbreviations can represent data, commonly used phrases, a person's name and address, or any other text.

The Trace Research and Development Center's Web site at <http://trace.wisc.edu/docs/wordpredprog/ctgwp.htm> contains a comparison of word prediction programs.

**SoothSayer (Applied Human Factors)**

(PC) \$99

A word prediction program with abbreviation expansion and sentence completion. This program also functions as a text-to-speech program. An extensive dictionary and shortcut functions are also included.

*Telephone: 210-408-0098*

*E-mail: sales@ahf-net.com*

*Web Site: www.ahf-net.com*

**Read & Write (TextHELP! Systems)**

(PC) \$250

See section in Text-To-Speech

**Aurora Prediction (Aurora Systems, Inc.)**

(PC) \$400

A word prediction program that features a dictionary and grammar and spell checker. The program learns and predicts phrases as well as individual words, and can be used with a single finger. It can be used with speech output software called *Aurora Talk* or *Aurora Echo*.

*Telephone: 800-361-8255*

*E-mail: aurorasw@direct.ca*

*Web Site: www.djtech.com/*

**Co:Writer (Don Johnston, Inc.)**

(PC/Mac) \$290

A word prediction program that helps students build and write complete sentences. As the student writes, the program prompts the student with words that fit into the sentence. There are three dictionaries to choose from: 2,000 words for beginning writers, and 10,000 words and 40,000 words for students of higher ability levels. As well, many topic dictionaries are available.

*Telephone: 800-999-4660*

*E-mail: info@donjohnston.com*

*Web Site: www.donjohnston.com*

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**KeyREP (Prentke Romich, Inc.)**

(PC) \$250

A word prediction and abbreviation expansion software package that works with any application running under Windows. It can also be used with *WiVox*, a text-to-speech program.

*Telephone: 800-262-1984*

*E-mail: info@prentrom.com*

*Web Site: www.prentrom.com*

**ShortKeys (Insight Software Solutions)**

(PC) Free trial, Full version is \$20, Lite version is free

An abbreviation expansion program that replaces a word with a sentence, paragraph, or several paragraphs. Users simply choose a word and associate it with the replacement text. Users can create an unlimited number of ShortKeys per file and can include symbols and dates in text replacements.

A spell checker is built in.

*Telephone: 801-927-5009*

*E-mail: info@wintools.com*

*Web Site: www.shortkeys.com*

**Telepathic 2000 (Madentec Communications)**

(PC/Mac) \$255

A word prediction program that can be used with any application. It also includes abbreviation expansion and Hot Keys, which allow the user to set one keystroke to do simple functions such as picking a word from a list. It also acts as a text-to-speech program.

*Telephone: 877-623-3682*

*E-mail: sales@madentec.com*

*Web Site: www.madentec.com*

**TypeIt4Me (TypeIt4Me)**

(Mac) Free

A shareware abbreviation expansion program that works with all applications including word processing and e-mail. Also available in French, Dutch, and Italian.

*Web Site: http://members.aol.com/rettore/AboutTypeIt4Me.html*

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## Reference Software

Encyclopedias, dictionaries, and other research software programs can help students with learning disabilities to complete essays and other written work independently. Many of these reference programs offer speech support so users can listen to the information. Some programs have built-in study tools such as outlines and note cards.

### **Encarta Reference Suite (Microsoft)**

(PC) \$75

This suite combines a multimedia encyclopedia, a detailed world atlas, a source of African-American history and culture called *Encarta Africana*, and an English dictionary created for the Internet age. Users can search the Web using Encarta, a built-in research tool that helps collect information, and a Homework Center that provides schoolwork tools. Many of the sections are read aloud to the user.

*Web Site: [www.microsoft.com](http://www.microsoft.com)*

### **DraftBuilder (Don Johnston Inc.)**

(PC/Mac) \$149

This is an organizational tool that helps students organize notes for writing, learn the writing process, and create high-quality first drafts. The program offers students a framework for organizing their thoughts and information so they can more easily develop detailed first drafts that are ready for editing and revising. Features text-to-speech output, a talking spell checker, and a variety of templates.

*E-mail: [info@donjohnston.com](mailto:info@donjohnston.com)*

*Web Site: [www.donjohnston.com](http://www.donjohnston.com)*

### **Inspiration (Inspiration Software)**

(PC/Mac) \$69

A powerful visual learning tool that inspires students to develop ideas and organize their thoughts. It contains over 1,250 symbols and many templates to help the user start. Inspiration's integrated diagramming and outlining view work together to help students comprehend concepts and information. The diagram view makes creating and modifying concept maps and other graphical organizers easy. Using the outline view, students can quickly prioritize and rearrange ideas, helping them create clean and concise essays, reports, and more. Contains a spell checker and voice output.

*Telephone: 800-877-4292*

*E-mail: [sales@inspiration.com](mailto:sales@inspiration.com)*

*Web Site: [www.inspiration.com](http://www.inspiration.com)*

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### **Kidspiration (Inspiration Software)**

(PC/Mac) \$69

A visual learning tool helps elementary students learn to organize information, understand concepts and connections, create stories, and express and share their thoughts. The picture view provides an easy way for children to represent ideas through symbols. The writing view integrates with picture view to help students connect their visual thoughts with written expression. Audio enables students to hear their work read aloud or record their own words. All menus, buttons, and other text are read aloud.

*Telephone: 800-877-4292*

*E-mail: sales@inspiration.com*

*Web Site: www.inspiration.com*

### **Webster's Internet Ready Dictionary & Thesaurus**

**(Exceller Corporation)**

(PC) \$30

A talking dictionary program that reads aloud both the word and definition. It allows the user to find the spelling and definition of any word, abbreviation or synonym, or even biographic and geographic information. It also contains practical supplements and reference tables that include *Guide for Writers*, *Avoiding Sexist Language*, *From Sounds to Spellings*, and more. It can be easily launched with other programs such as a word processor, e-mail, or Internet browsers.

*Telephone: 513-792-9555*

*E-mail: exceller@aol.com*

*Web Site: www.exceller.com*

### **Assistive Technology**

Assistive technology devices such as portable notetakers, hand-held spell checkers, and speaking dictionaries offer students with learning disabilities flexibility and assistance when they are away from a computer. Many devices do not require the user to have a computer at all. These options are often much more affordable for students who might otherwise consider using a laptop computer for note taking, typing homework, scheduling, calculating, and e-mail.

Some students may balk at these portable devices for fear of looking different if they use them, so professionals and parents may need to encourage the student to use the device for school or homework.



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Once the student finds the device useful, he or she may be more willing to use it. Some schools have sets of portable notetakers for whole classes, which makes it much easier for a student with a learning disability to feel like he or she fits in.

One drawback to using a portable notetaker is that the student needs to know how to type. To boost typing skills, the students can use one of the many enjoyable educational typing programs.

Many of these portable tools are powered by batteries, so keep a set of spare batteries with the devices at all times and make sure the student (or an aide) knows how to change the batteries when needed. Rechargeable batteries may be more affordable if the batteries need constant changing.

### **AlphaSmart 3000 (AlphaSmart, Inc.)**

(PC/Mac) \$199

A portable word processor that allows users to type, edit, electronically store text, and practice keyboarding. Text can be transferred to a Mac or Windows computer or directly to a printer. Applets are mini-software applications that can be downloaded to the AlphaSmart to extend its use to keyboarding, templates, e-mail, and more including a Co:Writer Applet that provides word prediction support. It stores approximately 100 pages of single-spaced text in eight files, includes cut/copy/paste features, two font sizes and a built-in spell checker. Also includes Sticky Keys and key repeat control to prevent unwanted keystrokes, as well as international character support for French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish, and Swedish.

*Telephone: 888-274-0680*

*E-mail: [info@alphasmart.com](mailto:info@alphasmart.com)*

*Web Site: [www.alphasmart.com](http://www.alphasmart.com)*

### **Auditory Tools (HearIt)**

\$500 and up

These are durable, lightweight battery-powered amplifiers with built-in microphones, which are connected to a headset worn by the user. Auditory tools can be used to reduce distractions and increase awareness of how words sound. These devices were designed for students in special education programs with learning disabilities such as ADD, ADHD, auditory processing disorders, and dyslexia.

*Telephone: 800-298-7184*

*E-mail: [hearitllc@hearitllc.com](mailto:hearitllc@hearitllc.com)*

*Web Site: [www.hearitllc.com](http://www.hearitllc.com)*

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### **CalcuScribe (CalcuScribe)**

(PC/Mac) \$240

A rugged, portable device with many useful features including a simple writing application and a built-in spell checker. Users can send their text to any application on Windows or Macintosh computers or directly to a printer. It contains an Interactive Calculator that lets users do math in a word processing-like environment. The work is auto-saved and can later be revised and printed. This device has a StickyKeys feature and AutoRepeat to prevent unwanted keystrokes. A large screen offers zoom and adjustable viewing angle. It contains a 50-page memory with an unlimited number of file names.

*Telephone: 415-923-1024*

*E-mail: [info@calcuscribe.com](mailto:info@calcuscribe.com)*

*Web Site: [www.calcuscribe.com](http://www.calcuscribe.com)*

### **DANA (AlphaSmart)**

(PC/Mac) \$399

The DANA is an alternative to a laptop computer. It runs with Palm OS, which gives the user access to more than 10,000 Palm applications. The DANA includes a full-size keyboard and a screen much wider than the typical handheld screen. Users can type or enter data using the keyboard or by writing with the DANA stylus directly onto the screen. Documents can be downloaded to a printer or a computer using a USB cable or an infrared option.

*Telephone: 888-274-0680*

*E-mail: [info@alphasmart.com](mailto:info@alphasmart.com)*

*Web Site: [www.alphasmart.com](http://www.alphasmart.com)*

### **Digital Notebook (Perfect Solutions)**

\$430

A complete desktop publishing laptop that can be used to create professional-looking documents, solve problems in a spreadsheet, create graphics, keep track of appointments, or browse the Web and send e-mail. Also contains a word processor, spell checker, address book, thesaurus, calculator, and calendar. A 3.5" disk drive is built in.

*Telephone: 800-726-7086*

*E-mail: [perfect@gate.net](mailto:perfect@gate.net)*

*Web Site: [www.perfectsolutions.com](http://www.perfectsolutions.com)*

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### **Dream Writer (Brainium Technologies)**

(PC/Mac) \$175 to \$400

These portable devices are available in three styles for beginning students, intermediate students, and mature writers. Some of the features of these devices include: a full-featured word processor with a laptop design, a backlit screen that toggles between 8- or 16-line display, a built-in floppy disk drive, 128 uniquely named file capacity, *Typin's Cool* keyboarding software, math software (on the beginner's device), a calculator and world clock, direct printing, and infrared file transfer to Macintosh and Windows computers. More expensive devices include access to the Internet.

*Telephone: 800-663-7163*

*E-mail: support@brainium.com*

*Web Site: www.brainium.com*

### **FUNDamental Dictionary**

(Franklin Electronic Publishers)

\$200

A hand-held talking dictionary with spelling corrections and animated graphics. It also comes with word games for language practice. There are other options and "books" to expand the use of the unit. A dictionary-thesaurus and a portable spell checker are also available.

*Telephone: 800-525-9673*

*E-mail: service@franklin.com*

*Web Site: www.franklin.com*

### **Laser PC (Perfect Solutions)**

(PC/Mac) \$290

A portable note taker with a word processor and spell checker, typing tutor, homework calendar, spreadsheet, databases, and calculator. An optional text-to-speech card can be added that will read word-processing files, the spell checker, or each letter and word as the user types. It can store up to 100 pages of text and has two font sizes. The files can be uploaded wirelessly to a Macintosh or Windows computer or sent directly to a printer. It also has the ability to send and retrieve e-mail.

*Telephone: 800-726-7086*

*E-mail: perfect@gate.net*

*Web Site: www.perfectsolutions.com*

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### **Reading Pen II (WizCom Technologies)**

\$279

A portable pen-shaped dictionary that assists users by providing a definition of any scanned word or line of text. It also reads both the words and definition aloud using its miniaturized text-to-speech technology. Individual words are enlarged on the display, and words may be spelled out or broken into syllables. Data can also be entered manually.

*Telephone: 888-777-0552*

*E-mail: usa.sales@wizcomtech.com*

*Web Site: www.wizcomtech.com*

### **QuickLink Pen (WizCom Technologies)**

\$179

A pen-shaped electronic highlighter that lets the user copy, clip, and store printed text, Internet links, and tables and charts from newspaper articles, books, and documents. A user can then transfer the data to a computer or text-enabled cell phone. Users can scan information directly into any application real-time, or store up to 1,000 pages and transfer it through the serial port, infrared, or optional USB adapter.

*Telephone: 888-777-0552*

*E-mail: usa.sales@wizcomtech.com*

*Web Site: www.wizcomtech.com*

### **QuickPAD (QuickPAD Technology Corporation)**

(PC/Mac) \$199

A simple, durable word processor that can hold up to 250 individually named files in 10 separate folders. All text is automatically saved and files are easily transferred into any writing application on a Macintosh or Windows computer or sent directly to a printer using infrared. A built-in typing program teaches proper keyboarding techniques in a fun, user-friendly format. It also contains a calculator and a 70,000-word spell checker and dictionary.

*Telephone: 800-373-8181*

*E-mail: sales@quickpad.com*

*Web Site: www.quickpad.com*

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### **Quicktionary II (WizCom Technologies)**

\$189

A pen-shaped scanner that can be used anywhere. This device's built-in voice offers immediate word-for-word pronunciation. It recognizes over 300,000 words and expressions. It reads a wide range of printed fonts and sizes including inverted and hyphenated text. Users can enter graphics that can't be scanned, such as street signs. Available in several languages.

*Telephone: 888-777-0552*

*E-mail: usa.sales@wizcomtech.com*

*Web Site: www.wizcomtech.com*

### **Speaking Language Master (Franklin Electronic Publishers)**

\$450

A tool that allows users to check and correct spelling, hear words read and spelled aloud; find definitions, synonyms, grammar; help save words and messages for communication purposes; and play 10 educational games. Headphones are included for private listening, along with an AC adapter, press-on locator dots, a large print reference card, and instructions in print and cassette.

*Telephone: 800-525-9673*

*E-mail: service@franklin.com*

*Web Site: www.franklin.com*

### **Speaking Homework Wiz (Franklin Electronic Publishers)**

\$50

A device that pronounces words and definitions and allows users to type in a word the way it sounds and receive a correction list. It also shows the user how to write an assigned word, providing an instant penmanship lesson on any letter or word in manuscript or cursive styles. It also includes four built-in word games, a user list for homework assignments, and automatic shut-off to save battery life.

*Telephone: 800-525-9673*

*E-mail: service@franklin.com*

*Web Site: www.franklin.com*

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## Screen Reading Programs

Screen reading programs allow individuals who have difficulty reading to scan in books, magazines, or any other text document and have the computer read the text aloud. Some programs require a powerful computer and a scanner with Optical Character Recognition (OCR) to work. Other programs can be purchased with a scanner and OCR software as part of a complete package.

A scanner purchased separately, needs to be supported by the software program. A fast scanner is necessary or scanning a whole chapter of a textbook can be frustrating. In some cases, scanning is faster and easier if the book is cut apart and one page is scanned at a time, rather than trying to balance a split book on the scanner screen.

Headphones may be useful for lessening distractions from outside and preventing disturbances to others.

Each user can determine the appropriate reading speed and voice pitch for the program. Voice quality is also important for screen readers because students are more likely to enjoy listening to a realistic voice. Voice quality depends on the platform of the computer and the quality of speakers, sound card, and the built-in voices. The settings can be saved so they are available each time the user logs on.

Many software companies offer free demonstrations of their programs by request or download. Consumers can try the demonstration software to ensure that the program will meet their needs. Also make sure that the computer is compatible with the software. For best results, make sure your computer meets the minimum system requirements needed to run each program.

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**eReader (CAST)**

(PC/Mac) \$200

See list under Text-To-Speech

**Kurzweil 3000 (Kurzweil Educational Systems)**

(PC/Mac) Kurzweil 3000 Scan/Read in color for Windows is \$1895, for Macintosh \$1095

A screen reading program that highlights words as they are spoken in one of several languages. A word processor with word prediction allows students to fill out forms and tests within the program. Users can also enter voice or written notes and highlight and extract text to another document. A dictionary and thesaurus are available. It can also be used to read the Internet. The program requires a scanner with Optical Character Recognition.

*Telephone: 800-894-5374*

*E-mail: info@kurzweiledu.com*

*Web Site: www.kurzweiledu.com*

**Read & Write (TextHELP! Systems)**

(PC) \$250

See list under Text-To-Speech

**WYNN (What You Need Now) (Freedom Scientific)**

(PC) WYNN Wizard (with OCR) \$995,

WYNN Reader (without OCR) \$399

Scan in a text document on a flatbed scanner, or open a file and WYNN will read it aloud. Users can edit the document by adding text or making corrections. It includes highlighting, a dictionary, a thesaurus, bookmarks, masking, a ruler guide, and text and voice annotations. The latest version offers word prediction, a customizable toolbar, and e-mail and Internet reading support.

*Telephone: 888-223-3344*

*E-mail: wynn@freedomscientific.com*

*Web Site: www.freedomscientific.com*

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## **Web Sites Related to Learning Disabilities**

Many Web sites address the needs of individuals with learning disabilities, their families, and the professionals that work with them. Some sites are dedicated to specific learning disabilities, such as dyslexia or ADHD. Other sites offer a child or teen's perspective of having a learning disability. This is not a comprehensive list—there are hundreds of sites related in some way to learning disabilities. Many of these sites offer links to other sites. Don't forget to bookmark your favorites!

### **ADD Resource [www.addresource.com](http://www.addresource.com)**

Search the Web for ADHD and LD information with this free search engine and directory. Contains games, music, personal pages, news, professional services contacts, studies, research, and support groups.

### **NLD On The Web [www.nldontheweb.org](http://www.nldontheweb.org)**

This site contains a wealth of information about non-verbal learning disabilities. NLD contains information about assessment, advocacy, intervention, and resources.

### **NLDLine [www.nldline.com](http://www.nldline.com)**

A comprehensive site with many practical resources about non-verbal learning disabilities. NLD includes articles, books, camps, IEPs, diagnosis, and much more.

### **All Kinds of Minds [www.allkindsofminds.org](http://www.allkindsofminds.org)**

The Schwab Foundation For Learning's site offers a wide range of services for parents and educators to provide information, support, and resources to improve the lives of students with learning differences. Includes articles, discussion groups, a bulletin board, and Web links.

### **Central Auditory Processing Page**

<http://pages.cthome.net/cbristol/capd.html>

The Resources for Parents of Children with Central Auditory Processing Disorders site includes links to other sites related to CAPD.



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**CHADD** [www.chadd.org](http://www.chadd.org)

The Children and Adults with Attention Deficit Disorder Web site provides support and education to people affected by ADD and ADHD. Includes FAQs, legal rights, and legislative information on school discipline.

**Great As Gold** [www.people.memphis.edu/~cbburr/gold/](http://www.people.memphis.edu/~cbburr/gold/)

Information about the lives of successful people with dyslexia. Read about Ennis Cosby, Cher, Lindsay Wagner, Thomas Edison, Paul Wellstone, and others.

**International Dyslexia Organization** <http://interdys.org>

This site provides a wealth of information about dyslexia, including useful technology resources, conferences, bulletin boards, and legal assistance.

**LD Online** [www.ldonline.com](http://www.ldonline.com)

**Kids Zone** [www.ldonline.org/kidzone/kidzone.html](http://www.ldonline.org/kidzone/kidzone.html)

This comprehensive site offers many useful features, including a newsletter, where to find help, information about specific learning disabilities, assistive technology and discussions on a variety of topics related to learning disabilities. Also has a fun site that includes an art gallery, student writing, and more just for children.

**LD Resources** [www.ldresources.com](http://www.ldresources.com)

Richard Wanderman's site contains a wealth of learning disability information, including a newsletter, information about LD culture, intelligence, articles and essays, writing processes, computers, colleges, quotations, electronic books, and useful links.

**LD Pride** [www.ldpride.net](http://www.ldpride.net)

Focused on bringing together the learning disability community and encouraging pride in those with LD. Contains LD/ADHD information, learning styles, bulletin boards, chat rooms, and information about LD colleges and schools. Users can also download HelpRead, a free Web reader at this site.

**Learning Disability Association of America**

[www.ldanat1.org](http://www.ldanat1.org)

The LDA's site has information about self-advocacy, books and other resources, IEPs, early education, transition, home schooling, inclusion, and information for parents.

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### **National Center for Learning Disabilities**

[www.nclld.org](http://www.nclld.org)

Contains a variety of resources about learning disabilities and includes tips, testing issues, college resources, legal issues, and home schooling.

### **Teens Helping Teens [www.ldteens.org](http://www.ldteens.org)**

Designed by LD teens to help other teens, this site includes coping techniques, study help, information about famous people with learning disabilities and a place for art, poetry, and stories.

### **The World of Dyslexia [www.worldofdyslexia.org](http://www.worldofdyslexia.org)**

For everyone with an interest in dyslexia, dyslexia testing and assessment, teaching, advice for parents, coping techniques for dyslexic adults, free magazine articles, and research.

## **Minnesota Resources**

There are organizations in Minnesota that offer support, assistance, advocacy, and testing services to individuals who have or are suspected of having a learning disability. Parents, families, and educators may find these Minnesota resources a useful starting place for finding information specific to their child or student.

### **Family Service**

166 E. 4th St., Suite 200  
St. Paul, MN 55101  
*Telephone: 651-222-0311*  
*E-mail: [family.service@familyinc.org](mailto:family.service@familyinc.org)*  
*Web Site: [familyinc.org](http://familyinc.org)*

### **Learning Center**

4301 Hwy 7, Suite 16  
Minneapolis, MN 55416  
*Telephone: 952-922-8374*  
*E-mail: [kc@ldlearningcenter.com](mailto:kc@ldlearningcenter.com)*

### **Minnesota Literacy Council**

756 Transfer Road  
St. Paul, MN 55114  
*E-mail: [gheinrich@themlc.org](mailto:gheinrich@themlc.org)*

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**Minnesota Life College**

7501 Logan Avenue S., Suite 2A  
Richfield, MN 55423  
*E-mail: [info@minnesotalifecollege.com](mailto:info@minnesotalifecollege.com)*  
*Web Site: [www.minnesotalifecollege.com](http://www.minnesotalifecollege.com)*

**PACER Center**

8161 Normandale Blvd.  
Minneapolis, MN 55437-1044  
*Telephone: 952-838-9000*  
*E-mail: [pacer@pacer.org](mailto:pacer@pacer.org)*  
*Web Site: [www.pacer.org](http://www.pacer.org)*

**National Resources**

There are many national organizations that offer information, support, assistance, advocacy, testing, and training for individuals with learning disabilities, parents, and educators.

**American Hyperlexia Organization**

479 Spring Road  
Elmhurst, IL 60126  
*Telephone: 708-530-8551*  
*E-mail: [info@hyperlexia.org](mailto:info@hyperlexia.org)*  
*Web Site: [www.hyperlexia.org](http://www.hyperlexia.org)*

**Attention Deficit Disorder Association (ADDA)**

P.O. Box 972  
Mentor, OH 44601  
*Telephone: 800-487-2282*  
*E-mail: [natladda@aol.com](mailto:natladda@aol.com)*  
*Web Site: [www.add.org](http://www.add.org)*

**Children and Adults with Attention Deficit Disorder  
(CHADD)**

8181 Professional Place, Suite 201  
Landover, MD 20785  
*Telephone: 800-233-4050*  
*E-mail: [mail@add.org](mailto:mail@add.org)*  
*Web Site: [www.chadd.org](http://www.chadd.org)*

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**Council for Exceptional Children (CEC),  
Division for Learning Disabilities (DLD)**

1920 Association Drive  
Reston, VA 22091-1589  
*Telephone: 800-328-0272*  
*E-mail: [service@cec.sped.org](mailto:service@cec.sped.org)*  
*Web Site: [www.cec.sped.org](http://www.cec.sped.org)*

**Council for Learning Disabilities (CLD)**

P.O Box 40303  
Overland Park, KS 66204  
*Telephone: 913-492-8755*  
*Web Site: [www.cldinternational.org](http://www.cldinternational.org)*

**International Dyslexia Association (IDA)  
*Formerly the Orton Dyslexia Society***

8600 LaSalle Road  
Chester Bldg., Suite 382  
Baltimore, MD 21286-2044  
*Telephone: 800-ABC-D123*  
*E-mail: [info@interdys.org](mailto:info@interdys.org)*  
*Web Site: [www.interdys.org](http://www.interdys.org)*

**LD Resources**

Anne & Richard Wanderman  
202 Lake Road  
New Preston, CT 06777  
*Telephone: 860-868-3214*  
*E-mail: [Richard@ldresources.com](mailto:Richard@ldresources.com)*  
*Web Site: [www.ldresources.com](http://www.ldresources.com)*

**Learning Disabilities Association of America (LDA)**

4156 Library Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15234  
*Telephone: 888-300-6710*  
*E-mail: [info@ldaamerica.org](mailto:info@ldaamerica.org)*  
*Web Site: [www.ldanatl.org](http://www.ldanatl.org)*

**National Center for Law and Learning Disabilities  
(NCLLD)**

P.O. Box 368  
Cabin John, MD 20818  
*Telephone: 301-469-8308*

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**National Adult Literacy and Learning Disabilities  
Center**

C/O Academy for Educational Development  
1875 Connecticut Avenue NW Suite 800  
Washington, D.C. 20009-1202  
*Telephone: 800-953-2553*  
*E-mail: [info@nalldc.ead.org](mailto:info@nalldc.ead.org)*  
*Web Site: <http://novel.nifl.gov/nalldtop.htm>*

**National Center for Learning Disabilities (NCLD)**

381 Park Avenue South, Suite 1401  
New York, NY 10016  
*Telephone: 888-575-7373*  
*Web Site: [palgazi@nclld.org](mailto:palgazi@nclld.org)*

**National Information Center for Children and  
Youth with Disabilities (NICHCY)**

P.O. Box 1492  
Washington, D.C. 20013-1492  
*Telephone: 800-695-0285*  
*E-mail: [nichcy@aed.org](mailto:nichcy@aed.org)*  
*Web Site: [www.nichcy.org](http://www.nichcy.org)*

**Parents of Gifted/LD Children Inc.**

2420 Eccleston Street  
Silver Spring, MD 20902  
*Telephone: 301-986-1422*  
*E-mail: [jilmeyers@aol.com](mailto:jilmeyers@aol.com)*  
*Web Site: [www.geocities.com/athens/1105/gtld.html](http://www.geocities.com/athens/1105/gtld.html)*

**Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic (RFBD)**

20 Roszel Road  
Princeton, NJ 08540  
*Telephone: 800-221-4792*  
*E-mail: [custserv@rfd.org](mailto:custserv@rfd.org)*  
*Web Site: [www.rfd.org](http://www.rfd.org)*

**Schwab Foundation for Learning**

1650 S. Amphlett Blvd. #300  
San Mateo, CA 94402  
*Telephone: 800-230-0988*  
*E-mail: [outreach@schwablearning.org](mailto:outreach@schwablearning.org)*  
*Web Site: [www.schwablearning.org](http://www.schwablearning.org)*

