Technology for Students with Dyslexia

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Dyslexia

Dyslexia is a combination of abilities and difficulties that affect the learning process in one or more of reading, spelling and writing.

Students with dyslexia have variable and complex needs.
Points to remember

- Technology is not a “magic answer”
- Student’s specific needs are crucial
- Technology must support curriculum
- Standard solutions may work
- “solutions” must be implementable
- Needs may change
- No simple category match
Benefits of Technology

- structured practice
- supported writing
- practice reading skills
- speech output / input
- self-esteem
- use strengths & supports weaknesses
- different learning styles
Educational Technology

- No/low tech, middle tech & high tech
No/Low Tech Options

- Pencil grips & chunky Pens
- Reading stands
- Document holders
- Marker boards + Magnetic Boards
- Colour paper
- Post-Its
- Highlighters
- Colour Overlays
Writing Support
Medium Tech Options

- Usually Battery Operated & Portable
- Simple Hand Held Devices i.e. Calculators, spellers, timers
- Tape recorders & CD players
Examples
High Tech Options

- Word Processors
- Desktop Computer
- Laptop Computer
- Interactive Whiteboards
Word Processor

Devices from Alphasmart

Very large font offers easiest text readability.
Interactive Whiteboards
Computer Peripherals

- Modified keyboards
- Alternative mice
- Printers
Mice Options
Other Devices

- Printer
- Scanner
- Speakers
- Graphics tablet
- Tape recorder
- DVD Player
- MP3 Players
- Mobile Phone
More Devices

- Memory Sticks
- Card Readers
- Microphone
- Digital Camera
- Camcorders
- Data projector
- Interactive White Boards
- Photocopier
- Laminator
- Binder

as needed
Windows Accessibility Options include

- Slow down pointer speed on screen
- Slow down double click speed
- Make pointer larger
- Put trail on pointer
- Filter Keys to prevent repeat key strokes

Access from Settings - Control Panel within Windows
Other options as needed for individuals
See www.microsoft.com - see details for different operating systems
Educational Software
Categories

- **Content-rich**

- **Content-free** - WP, DTP, planning, presentation, prediction, word banks

- **Drill & Practice/Reinforcement** - typing, spelling, computation, word games

- **Interactive Books** - talking books

- **Reference/Information** - encyclopedias, e-books, internet

- **Fun** - painting, drawing, activities, games
Software Category

Examples

- Typing & Keyboard Skills
- Supportive Word Processing
- Prediction
- Scan & Screen Read
- Information
- Spelling
- Talking Books
- Phonics & Reading
- Information
- Curricular programs
Writing Software 1

- Structured consistent approach
- Computer to supplement handwriting

Keyboard Familiarisation

- First Keys 2 - Widgit: kboard + literacy

Typing - examples include

- Touch Type - Iota
- Type to Learn - Sunburst
- UltraKey4 - Inclusive
- Mavis Beacon
Writing Software 2

Word Processing

- **Clicker 5** - picture, speech & word grid support
- **Write Online** - speech & word grid/bank support
- **Textease - Softease**
- **Microsoft Word** - customised to suit student needs
- **Microsoft Powerpoint**
- **Microsoft Publisher**
Writing Software 2

Prediction
- Co:Writer - Don Johnston
- Penfriend

Specialist Support - Scan & Screen Read
- Kurzweil 3000
- Texthelp Read & Write
- Claro Read

Voice Recognition
- Dragon Dictate Naturally Speaking - care!
Other Options

- MS Powerpoint
- Ms Publisher
- Writer Workshop - Granada
- Storywriter - Oxford
Other Options

Organisation/Planning
- Kidspiration
- Inspiration
- Draft Builder

Concept can be used on paper - exams

Spelling
- Starspell 2.4
- Superspell
Primary Level Software

Literacy

- Word Shark 4
- Lexia Reading Scheme
- Lexion
- Talking Books
- Computer Classroom - PrimEd
- Reading for Literacy - PrimEd
- Sounds to Words - Irish phonics program
- Interactive encyclopaedias
Post Primary Software

Literacy

- Issues in English 1 & 2
- Talking Books - Fact & Fiction
- Encyclopaedias e.g. Encarta
- Word Shark 4
- Lexia Reading Scheme
- Lexion
- Reading for Literacy
- Wordswork
- Inspiration
Talking Books

Talking Books Options include
- Oxford Reading Tree
- Clicker Books incl Find Out & Write About
- Wellington Square
- Spinout Stories
- Start to Finish series - Don Johnston

Make your own using Clicker, Powerpoint, etc
Standard Software -
for students & staff

- Microsoft Office programs
- Data Processing
- DTP - Publisher, Print Artist, Greetings Workshop
- Planning - IEP Writer
- Art & Drawing programs
- Calculator
- Internet & Email
Freeware

Some options

- www.talk.org.uk - text reader
- www.adobe.com - text reader for PDF
- www.screenreader.com - screen reader
- www.openoffice.org - alternative to MS Office
- www.mozilla.com - free internet and email
Further Issues

- Study Skills
- Note-taking
- Special Accommodations
- Exam Skills & Practice
- Homework
Resources

- www.ncte.ie
- www.scoilnet.ie
- www.inclusive.co.uk
- www.becta.org.uk
- www.dyslexia.ie
- www.bdadyslexia.org.uk
- www.dyslexic.com
- www.rainboweducation.com
Thank You

With the Compliments of

Ann Jackson