

Solutions for Assistive Technology Conference
Pre-Conference/Hands-On Training Sessions
Wednesday, April 30, 2008
8:30 am - 11:30 pm

PC 1 – Azalea

Level the Learning Field with Kurzweil 3000

Kurzweil 3000 is reading, writing, and learning software that can read aloud virtually any text whether it's in print, in electronic format, or on the Web. Because it's completely content-independent, it can provide struggling students with independent access to the same general curriculum materials as their peers. This hands-on session will provide participants with an opportunity to explore some of the powerful reading, writing, test taking, and study skills features of Kurzweil 3000.

Presenter: Missy Tatum, Kurzweil/Audio Optical

PC 2 – Magnolia

Evaluating Your students In Switch School!

Single switch scanning is often seen as the simplest and easiest method for accessing a computer but in reality, it takes keen timing, cognition and attention skills as well as the physical ability to activate a switch. Students with the most complex challenges often spend years hitting a switch randomly without understanding the selection method.

This computer lab will give the educator a logical step-by-step progression from single switch activation to two-switch step scanning. In addition they will learn to evaluate where the student is in the progression. The educator will learn how to bridge the gap between switch-activated devices and the computer screen. A variety of computer activities will be provided to help the student learn the skills needed to successfully use software currently on the market. The skills will be presented in small, discrete steps that can be practiced without confusing or frustrating the student.

Among others, these skills include pressing a switch for continuous activation, advancing an object to a target, learning to activate a second switch, learning to select a target using the second switch, learning to both advance an object and select an activity using two switches.

The software program developed to teach scanning skills will also advance from using a hand to point to objects while highlighting them and finally to using highlights only.

To teach auditory discrimination in scanning, the educator will have the option of instantly darkening the screen and relying only on voice output for selections. Conversely, the educator will also have the option of turning off the auditory portion of the scan to encourage students with low vision to select from the visual display.

The educator will receive a free piece of software designed specifically to support the teaching strategies outlined in the course. This software features activities using bright, bold graphics and animation along with music and sounds in an errorless learning format.

PC 3 – Camelia
Exploring Co:Writer SOLO Edition

How many struggling writers use the same words over and over? Co:Writer® removes the barriers that keep our students from expressing their thoughts, their feelings and their knowledge through writing. Experience linguistic word prediction and understand what it means for your students' composition, spelling, grammar, and sentence development.
Presenter: Jason Burke, Don Johnston, Inc.

PC 4 – Napoleon
The New Look and Feel of Class Suite 4 by Intellitools

Hands on workshop showing the new Classroom Suite Version 4. The most powerful version ever. No authoring required with the new ready made templates. Classroom Suite 4 is a unique intervention tool that combines direct instruction with a flexible tool environment to help students in grades Pre K through 5 achieve mastery in reading, writing and math.
Presenters: Suzanne Feit & Dee Garcia, Cambium Learning Technologies Co.

PC 5 – Lafourche
Creating Powerful Static Communication Page Sets with Overlay Designer

Create powerful static communication overlays using AMDi's free Overlay Designer software. During this hands on training participants will learn how to create effective communication overlays in a variety of formats including visual scenes. Participants will also learn how to program and use the overlays they create on AMDi's new Smart-Series of static display devices.
Presenters: Allison Yates, Vermilion Parish & Rob McPherson, AMDi

PC 6 – Feliciano
The Power and Promise of Current Events

Introducing a current events-driven product that works! We will demonstrate how News-2-You's weekly news-centered activities can create learning opportunities at all classroom levels. By applying differentiated learning techniques in both high and low tech environments, attendees will understand how these activities can be linked to national and state standards, alternate assessments and IEP objectives.
Presenter: Jacquie Clark, News-2-You

11:30 am – 12:45 Lunch on Your Own

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1:00 am - 4:00 pm

PC 7 – Azalea

Creating Interactive Teaching and Learning Activities with Clicker 5

In this hands-on workshop, learn how to create interactive teaching and learning activities using Clicker 5. Discover how easy it is to incorporate images, sound, and video into Clicker 5 electronic books, "hotspot" environments, and cause and effect activities to stimulate learning for all students, including learners using switch-access.

Presenter: Deborah Barrows, Crick Software

PC 8 – Magnolia

My Own Bookshelf: Digital books- Not just for the computer anymore!

"My Own Bookshelf" is a teacher and student friendly authoring software program by SoftTouch. Come and learn how easy it is for you and your students to make digital books. We will explore creating digital books, using digital images, collecting student data, and accessing digital and printed books with non-traditional methods.

Presenters: Curtistine Earnest & Melissa Weaver, Caddo Parish Schools

PC 9 – Camellia

Building Language & Communication Competence in Young AAC Users

Participants in this hands on session will learn how to use Laureate's Linguistic Hierarchy checklist to determine a beginning point for assessment. They will then learn how to use software to determine a student's language goals.

Presenter: Dr. Mary Sweig Wilson, Laureate Learning Systems

PC 10 – Napoleon

Creating and Using Visual Scene Displays

In this session participants will learn how visual theme displays can be used on the AAC devices from ATI which will include the Mercury, MiniMerc and LEO. Specifically, we will look at the theme displays contained within Functionally Speaking, a board set developed by Assistive Technology Inc and explore how to use them and how to modify them. Also, we will address the steps one needs to take to use digital images for visual theme displays. We will use digital capturing equipment such as digital cameras, photo CDs and images taken from the internet. Participants will learn how visual theme displays can be created using LEO software; Speaking Dynamically Pro Software and Viking Communicator Pro software.

Presenter: Betsy Walker, Assistive Technology Inc.

PC 11 – Lafourche
Successful Technology Integration to Accommodate Students with Severe/Multiple Impairments

Assistive technology can provide students with severe and multiple impairments greater independence in their learning environment. Why then is it so difficult to achieve successful technology integration? Why is there a high abandonment rate in assistive technology?

This session will explore assistive technology supports that assist students in the middle and high school academic. Strategies to overcome barriers to technology integration will be shared, as well as a planning process that increases success. This day will provide teachers, therapists, assistants with the foundation to build success for their students.

Presenters: Kelly Fonner, Fonner Consulting & Scott Marfilus, Assistive/Educational Technology Consultant

PC 12 – Feliciana
A Cajun Taste of WYNN and TestTalker

This presentation will provide just a taste of how WYNN is supporting student learning and participation whether the content is from a book or various online media. The spicy topic of test-taking will show how students can test independently using TestTalker, without human Readers or Scribes.

Presenter: Bonnie Hill, Freedom Scientific

Make sure to visit the exhibits
Salon 1 & 2
Thursday, May 1, Friday, May 2, 2008

The Solutions for AT Conference is sponsored and organized by Adaptive Solutions, Sherry Hollingsworth, Owner. 2127 Court Street, Port Allen, LA 70767, Tel: (225)387-0428, Fax: (225)387-6092, Web: www.adaptive-sol.com, Email: sherry@adaptive-sol.com

