



Region III LATI News

Volume 1, Issue 3

August-September 2005



AT Playground

Inside this issue:

AT Playground	1
Upcoming Trainings	1
Joy Zabala	2
Summer Workshops	2
Customize a Training	2
Velcro Ideas	3
Great Websites	3
Letter Cueing Chart	4
Sequential Devices	4

The Region III AT center is developing a traveling AT playground as a way to promote awareness of AT and to keep teachers, therapists and educators up to date on what AT tools, materials and devices are out there. The AT playground will consist of various no tech, low tech and high tech tools, devices and software for participants to “play” with. The AT playground can be customized for your needs from a formal in-service directed playground to an informal playground where participants can come and go during the day.

If you would like more information on arranging an AT playground for your district or school please call Kristie or Sharon at 225-621-2538.



AT Playground participant is using a switch to activate a computer.



2005- 2006 Conferences

- 9/22-23**
SPALS, Alexandria (AT Playground)
- 10/18-22**
Closing the Gap, Minneapolis, MN
- 11/30—12/2**
LACUE, Baton Rouge
- 3/20-25**
CSUN, Los Angeles, CA
- 5/3-5**
Solutions for AT, Baton Rouge

UPCOMING TRAININGS

ATLAS Training	8:30-3:30	August 18, 2005
Making Books Accessible to All	9:00-3:00	October 12, 2005
Written Assessment	9:00-3:00	October 13-14, 2005
Does Your Word Processor Talk	9:00-3:00	November 9, 2005
Using Functional Overlays with Boardmaker	9:00-3:00	January, 18, 2006
SETTING the Stage for Student Achievement	8:30-3:30	February 8-9, 2006
Functional Overlays with Speaking Dynamically	8:00-3:00	February 22, 2006
Classroom Suite	8:00-3:00	March 15, 2006

Contact 225-621-2538 for more information on the scheduled trainings, to request specific trainings or to schedule an AT Playground to visit your location.

Look Who's Coming!

Dr. Joy Zabala Comes to Louisiana

In order to meet our own high expectations for student learning and the assessment standards of No Child Left Behind, we at the school and classroom levels, are committed to continuous improvement in our instructional practices. We give highest priority to developing and sustaining instructional practices that enable ALL of our students to make progress toward meeting high achievement expectations. We acknowledge that some students require technology to participate in and benefit from curricular and extracurricular activities. We believe that schools and families must work together to achieve our mutual goal of

high achievement for EVERY student.

Do you say this? Believe this? But find yourself wondering how you can actually make it happen on a day-to-day basis? If so, this session is for you!

Join us for two interactive and informative days exploring the SETT Framework with its developer, Dr. Joy Zabala. Learn about the four areas of the SETT Framework (Student, Environments, Tasks, and Tools) and how this collaborative tool provides a systemic approach to consideration, selection, development, and use of assistive technology devices and services that promote student

participation and achievement. Extensive handouts, demonstrations, illustrative stories, and guided practice with case studies and vignettes will enable participants to develop knowledge of the SETT Framework and build the skills needed to apply to all phases of assistive technology service delivery in your districts.

This two day training will be on February 8-9, 2006 at the Terrebonne Parish Public Library in Houma, LA. The training is FREE but limited to 99 participants. Registration will be available in November through the following website:

www.doe.state.la.us/ide/special/1538.html

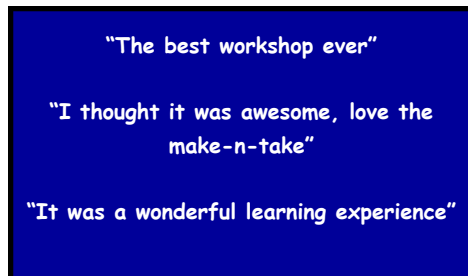
WOW!

Summer Workshops a Big Success

The Region III AT Center offered 7 different workshops throughout the summer: Writing Tools, Computer Access, Conducting an AAC Assessment, Accessible activities with Classroom Suite, Using AT/AAC All Day Long, Boardmaker and Beyond and AT Overview. There were a total of eighty-two participants who attended these workshops ranging in professions from educators, teachers, Speech Pathologists, Occupational Therapists, paraprofessionals and parents.

Missed one of these trainings? Check out the trainings scheduled for the fall and spring. If you would like to request a specific training please

call Kristie or Sharon at 225-621-2538.



Accessing a computer using scanning and a switch.

Writing Tools workshop presented by Missy Tatum



Customize a Training for Your Needs

Need a specific training for your school/parish? We at the Region III AT Center can help you. We have scheduled some trainings for this school year on topics we thought would be beneficial to our Region. The area of assistive technology is very broad and we would like to customize trainings specifically for your schools/parishes needs.

We can offer trainings at our

center or come to your school/parish. Some topics could include: law, consideration, screening, assessment, low tech strategies, adapting storybooks, using tangible systems to communicate,



vocabulary selection, software selection, Classroom Suite, text-to-speech software, computer access, Boardmaker, Speaking Dynamically, AT/AAC overview, creating accessible books, testing modifications / accommodations, seating and positioning, writing solutions, etc.

To customize a training for your needs contact Kristie or Sharon at 225-621-2538.

Velcro Ideas

Velcro® Apron: You can put pictures on this Apron by placing Velcro (hook-scratchy side) on the back of your pictures. These Aprons are portable, washable, durable and equipped with pockets for storage. Order from www.augresources.com.



Velcro® Choice Board: Augmentative Resources sells a two-sided Velcro friendly choice board designed for those who may become physically aggressive. Equipped with a pocket on top with a Velcro closure for picture storage and the thick foam board in center can be removed for washing. Order from: www.augresources.com.



Velcro® Props Bracelet: This bracelet is made of Tempo Loop fabric. It is used to hold props to accompany stories, songs, plays, etc. For example, when reading 'Jump Frog, Jump!' one student can press a switch to play the repeated line, while another makes the frog attached to her arm jump. For more info, see the small book, R.E.A.D. by Musselwhite & Hanser, from www.aacintervention.com.



Velcro® 'Necklace': This necklace is made of Tempo Loop fabric. It is used to hold symbol displays, storyboards, song boards, etc. Simply add hook (scratchy side) Velcro to the back of your symbols. Note: For guys, this can be called 'suspenders'!!



Veltex®: This fabric is: Washable, Velcro®-friendly ("Hook" or scratchy side of Velcro adheres to fabric), black in color, 60 Inches wide, great for ever changing & interactive (hands-on) bulletin board displays and it is sold by the yard. Order from www.augresources.com.



From www.aacintervention.com and www.augresources.com

Great Websites!

Often times teachers and educators have limited time to prepare and research new tools that can be used with their students. Here is a list of great websites for different AT ideas and downloads:

www.enablemart.com/default.aspx/store=10

<http://atto.buffalo.edu/>

www.lburkhart.com/

www.latan.org/

www.adaptivation.com/

www.ablenetinc.com/productIdeas.asp

www.mayer-johnson.com/TipsAndTricks.aspx

www.aacintervention.com/boardmaker.html

www.lynjan.com/boardmkr.htm

www.es.eocps.net/ATTeam.htm

www.angelfire.com/pa5/as/myprintables.html

www.speechfun.com/visuals.html

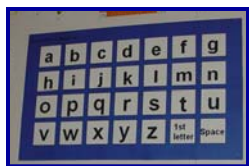
www.tinsnips.org/

www.do2learn.org/

www.ecasd.k12.wi.us/departments/special_ed/teacher_resources/assistive_technology/boardmaker/index.html



Initial Letter Cueing Chart



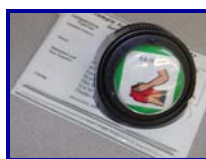
Letter cueing charts can be used as an augmentative communication system by students who's speech is difficult to

understand. The speaker would point to the first letter of each word spoken giving the listener an additional cue as to what the speaker is trying to say. This chart can be used for every communicative interaction or for selected situations where there is a communication breakdown. The size, spacing and location of the letters are dependent on the users physical abilities.

From www.aacintervention.com

Sequential Messaging Devices

Using sequential messaging devices such as the Step-by-Step (by AbleNet) or the Sequencer (by Adaptation) can be a powerful communication tool that can allow students to participate in turn-taking conversations. The devices are very easy to program and can come with levels allowing teachers to program various messages



Step-by-Step programmed with a joke.

for the lay.



Sequencer programmed to read a book.

10 Ideas

1. Tell the day's lunch menu
2. Give spelling words/quiz to class
3. Take attendance
4. Give recipe instructions
5. Give morning announcements
6. Deliver a message from school to home
7. Recite Pledge of Allegiance
8. Give directions to complete an activity
9. Order at a restaurant
10. Tell about a vacation or field trip

Ideas from www.adaptation.com

Region III Assistive Technology Center

611 N. Burnside
 Gonzales, LA 70737
 Phone: 225-621-2538
 Fax: 225-621-2525
 Email: edwardss@psb.org
staplerk@psb.org



Visit us on the web

<http://www.psb.org/schools/lss/AsstTech/home.htm>