



The LATI News



LOUISIANA ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE

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LOUISIANA AIM UPDATE

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Does your district need help determining eligibility for AIM? Does your district need help determining what type of AIM best serves the need of the student? The Center for Applied Special Technologies (CAST) has developed two tools for exactly those purposes.

The AIM Explorer simulates various reading difficulties to help determine what modifications would be beneficial for the struggling student. It also saves the student's choices and provides a report with the findings in order to document the need for AIM. This application has to be installed on your computer. Directions for installation can be found on our AIM website at the following link:
<http://www.atanswers.com/aim/downloads.html>

Once the need for AIM has been established, the IEP team can then take advantage of another tool offered by CAST, the AIM Navigator. This interactive tool offers guiding questions that focus on four major decisions: 1) determination of need, 2) selection of format, 3) acquisition of format, and 4) selection of supports for use. All decisions and supporting information is saved to a Student Summary that can be edited, saved, and printed.

Both of these tools can be found at the CAST website under the "Experience" tab.
<http://aim.cast.org/>

As always, the regional AT centers can be a valuable resource to help you create and/or implement your district's AIM policies and procedures. Please call them or contact Charlotte Ducote at 337-234-7187 for any of your AIM related questions.



Contacts

LA Department of Education

Dr. Jackie Bobbett

Donna Broussard

225-342-3730

Region 6 LATI Center

Charlotte Ducote

337-234-7187

AIM FORUM 2011

The Department of Education will provide a forum for AIM Competent Authority, AIM Contacts and District Textbook Coordinators who oversee the AIM procedures and process for the district. This forum will be designed to provide feedback from the districts to the state about the implementation of AIM, wonderments and issues on specific topics.

THIS IS NOT A TRAINING ON AIM.

Registration will be approved by the Louisiana Department of Education.

If you are a part of AIM in your district, you may register at this link-<http://www.solutionwhere.com/ldoe/cw/showcourse.asp?2854>

2011 LATI SUMMER INSTITUTE

Grab Your Camera and Get Shooting

It's time to start taking your photos and videos for the 7th Annual LATI Summer Institute contests

The deadline for submissions is **March 18, 2011**. All submissions this year need to be **MAILED** and be **post-marked** by **March 18, 2011** in order to be accepted. No entries will be accepted by email.

Visit www.lati3.com/contests.htm for complete rules and entry forms. If you have any questions, email me at Kristie.Stapler@apsb.org.

The 2011 LATI Summer Institute will be June 21 – 23, 2011 in Lake Charles at the Calcasieu Parish Technology Training Center. The Awards Ceremony will be held on June 23. Participants of the contests are not required to attend the institute. Registration information for the Institute will be coming soon.

Theme
AT²(RTI + DI)
= ACCESS

Dates
JUNE 21 - 23,
2011

Where
LAKE
CHARLES, LA

Registration
MARCH 1,
2011



AT STRAIGHT OFF THE SHELF

NEW!!!! Off the Shelf
AT
Text to Speech for all (3-7 Years of age)



V. Reader from VTech, is similar to a Kindle for kids ages 3-7.

The V. Reader will read out loud along with highlighting. Stories are read by a real human voice as opposed to a synthesized voice. There are three menus when using a book cartridge, "Watch the Story", "Story Dictionary" and "Games".

The "Watch the Story" mode allows for students to start and stop the reading just by touching anywhere on the screen. Students can also touch individual words to hear them read. Characters in the story will also come to life when touched. In the "Story Dictionary" mode students learn story vocabulary. There are eight reading games on each cartridge that allow students to play and learn.

The device uses four AA batteries or you can purchase an AV wall adapter for about \$19.99. The V.Reader comes with one book cartridge entitled "What's that Noise" and six free downloadable books. The device also has an earphone jack.

The "Learning Lodge Navigator" is the free software that can be downloaded from the internet to keep track of your child's progress and download new books. Parents or teachers can print out reports of the child's progress and the software will also suggest other book topics the child may benefit from.

Additional book cartridges can be purchased for \$19.00. Titles include, "Toy Story 3", "Dora", "Fairies", "Mickey Mouse Clubhouse", "Princess", "Olivia", "Shrek's Vacation" and many more.

E-Books can be downloaded from the internet through the computer and saved to the VReader though a USB connection. You must insert a SD memory card into the slot located in the battery compartment to save downloaded books. These downloadable books run about \$2.99 to \$4.99 per book.

The V.Reader is a great durable inexpensive device that can help kids fall in love with learning. It is about \$60.00 and can be purchased at the following locations: Target, Wal-Mart, Barnes-N-Noble, and other department stores.

UPCOMING PD OPPORTUNITIES



1. LACEC Super Conference 30

Final information about conference sessions is not yet available.

WHEN: January 24 - 25, 2011

WHERE: Cajun Dome in Lafayette, LA

REGISTRATION: www.lacec.org

2. 2011 Preschool and Kindergarten Conference

This LDE sponsored conference will feature Dr. Caroline Musselwhite and Dr. Vicky Roy who will present sessions pertaining to literacy for preschool/ kindergarten students with disabilities.

WHEN: January 25—26, 2011

WHERE: Baton Rouge

REGISTRATION: www.solutionwhere.com/ldoe/cw/showconference.asp?2698

3. Quality Indicators: Access to Literacy for Students with Significant Disabilities

This workshop, presented by Dr. Caroline Musselwhite, will provide an overview of the Quality Indicators in their draft form, with a primary focus on the areas of assessment and instruction.

WHEN: January 27, 2011

WHERE: First Baptist Church, Baton Rouge

REGISTRATION: www.solutionwhere.com/ldoe/cw/showcourse.asp?2848

4. Write On, Write Now: Emergent Writing

This workshop, presented by Dr. Caroline Musselwhite, will cover emergent writing for students who use symbols, words, or developmental spelling approaches. This workshop supports beginning writers of all ages.

WHEN: January 27, 2011

WHERE: LA Wildlife & Fisheries Building, Baton Rouge

REGISTRATION: www.solutionwhere.com/ldoe/cw/showcourse.asp?2847

5. Spring Into AT

This Assistive Technology conference is sponsored by the Center for Rehab Engineering Science and Technology at LA. Tech.

When: February 24-25, 2011

Where: Louisiana Tech University, CREST

Registration Information: kcarter@latech.edu

6. Learning Disabilities Conference

When: March 26, 2011

Where: Redemptorist Elementary, Baton Rouge

Registration by email -
ladyslexia@yahoo.com



QUICK TIPS

INDIVIDUALIZING THE “TEST READ ALOUD” ACCOMMODATION

It seems as though as the days pass by, more and more students have “Test Read Aloud” as an accommodation on their IEP. When multiple students are taking the same test they are often times read the test in a group. This means every student gets the test read at the same rate at the same time. This becomes a problem because not all students comprehend at the same rate. They often don’t ask to have the question repeated because of the fear of other students knowing their weaknesses. This problem can be solved using a FREE program called Audacity.

Audacity is an audio recording program that will allow the teacher to read the test one time into the microphone then transfer the saved file to an MP3 player. Once the file is on the device, the student has the capability of controlling his/her testing. The question can be played and replayed as many times as that student needs which allows for a more individualized approach to the accommodation of “Test Read Aloud” without taking more time from the teacher and other students.



FREE RESOURCE WEBSITES



Parent's Guide to AT

[http://www.disabilityrightsca.org/pubs/Assistive Technology Parents Guide.pdf](http://www.disabilityrightsca.org/pubs/Assistive%20Technology%20Parents%20Guide.pdf)

“Our E-ssential Guide to Assistive Technology explains the purpose and potential of technology to help individuals with learning disabilities. This collection of articles and a worksheet will start you on the path to finding assistive technology (AT) tools to help your child bypass learning difficulties while playing to her strengths. You’ll also find a list of suggested resources on this topic.”

Amazing-Incredible Handwriting Worksheet Maker

<http://www.handwritingworksheets.com/>

This free website will allow you to create customized handwriting worksheets in seconds! You can choose to create worksheets in basic print, d’nealian, or cursive. Teachers can also print out blank handwriting paper to use with their students.

Teacher LED Interactive White Board Activities

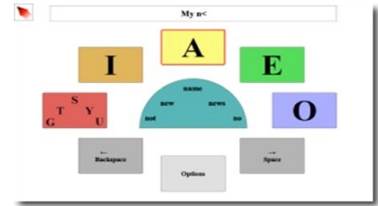


<http://www.teacherled.com>

TeacherLED.com is a site that provides resources to be used with interactive white boards. This site contains activities for math, geography, and language that can be used in conjunction with any interactive white board. Each resource has an explanation of the activity and how it can be used in the classroom. Some resources have instructions and printable resources as well.

Dynamic Keyboard

<http://www.canassist.ca/EN/main/programs/free-downloads/dynamic-keyboard.html?sredir=1>



The Dynamic Keyboard is an on-screen keyboard which allows you to type using your computer and an input device such as a joystick, trackball, mouse, single switch, headmouse, etc. This on-screen keyboard features a large target area that makes it easier to access for those using devices such as a headmouse. The Dynamic Keyboard also features word prediction and text to speech for auditory support. This is a great tool for individuals with fine motor control issues who cannot access a regular keyboard.

Storybird

<http://storybird.com>

“Storybird is a service that uses collaborative storytelling to connect kids and families. Two (or more) people create a Storybird in a round robin fashion by writing their own text and inserting pictures. They then have the option of sharing their Storybird privately or publicly on the network. The final product can be printed, watched on screen, played with like a toy, or shared through a worldwide library. Storybird is also a simple publishing platform for writers and artists that allow them to experiment, publish their stories, and connect with their fans.”



Camera Mouse

<http://www.cameramouse.com/>

Camera Mouse is a free program that enables you to control the mouse pointer on your computer screen using a webcam and head movement. Keyboard.



Low Tech

CHUNKY BOOK

White Hardcover Blank Book 5x5 inches, 8 board book pages. Children can write or color on pages, teachers or parents can glue pictures to pages or create pages on the computer and print them on full page labels.



<http://www.onionmountaintech.com>
\$2.49

Mid Tech

LIVE SCRIBE ECHO

Livescribe Echo smartpen provides students with limitless access to teacher instruction plus the ability to utilize multiple modalities, engage in tactile experiences, and self-monitor by recording their own voice for fluency exams and oral reports. \$149



<http://www.livescribe.com>

High Tech

HIGH TECH: TOBII S32

The Tobii S32 is a sturdy and portable communication and environmental control device that is easily programmed and includes the SymbolMate desktop software for creating overlays. The Touch model is touch activated to play up to 60 hours of prerecorded messages. The Scan model accommodates switch users who rely on scanning. \$1400-1900

www.dynavotech.com/products/maestro/

Cool Stuff

REGION VI: GRANT PARISH ADDRESS LITERACY VIA DOLLY PARTON

A few short years ago, Grant parish decided to address the problems associated with literacy. What better way to accomplish this than with an early intervention. Either by accident or divine intercession the Imagination Library came into existence for those lucky children in Grant parish. The Imagination Library Project is a part of the Dollywood Foundation start by the multi-faceted Dolly Parton in 1996.

Mr. David Smith, Grant parish's Technology Coordinator and AT contact for Region 6, began the daunting task of bringing together the library plan and its resources to make the Imagination Library a growing project in Grant parish. Under his guidance and help from individuals who shared his vision, they began implementing fund raisers and finding grant monies to help raise the necessary funds for the project. The project began to take shape with the support of teachers, local citizens, students, and businesses. This literacy project is in operation in many states, the United Kingdom, and Canada.

The Imagination library serves approximately 200+ students aged 0-5 in Grant parish. According to Smith, the students are coming into the school system with an appreciation for books, knowing how to properly turn the pages, and the students are very excited if a featured classroom book is also a book in their own personal library. The first book that children receive is "The Little Engine that Could," each month children will receive an additional book chosen by the Dollywood foundation. These deliveries will continue until the child reaches 5 years of age. The last book is entitled, "Look out Kindergarten Here I Come. Kudos and cheers go to the people in Grant parish and their efforts to make the parish a part of a much larger Global learning community. Only through education do we empower our children.

Smith also realized that the project had to remain in the minds of people so that continual support for the Imagination Library would not falter. He enlisted a group of students from the junior high and high schools to serve as the ambassadors for the Imagination Library. These ambassadors are responsible for an informational booth at many of the local events that take place in Colfax and the surrounding communities. They provide literature about the library, as well as, an opportunity to donate funds and enroll students in the library's program.

-It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men.

[Frederick Douglass](#)

Dolly's Imagination Library: More Information

For more information concerning this excellent opportunity for children and to promote literacy in your area visit: <http://www.dollysimaginationlibrary.com/howworks.php>

REGIONAL ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY CENTERS

REGION 1

Renee Spratt
rspratt@ppsb.org
Katherine Shea
kshea@ppsb.org
<http://R1ATCenter.eboard.com>

8342 Hwy 23
Belle Chasse, LA 70037
504-595-6071
(fax) 504-394-1431

REGION 2

Anita Lee
anitalee@ipsb.net
Danna Bouey
dannabouey@ipsb.net
www.region2at.org

58060 Plaquemine Street
Plaquemine, LA 70764
225-687-5400 ext. 183
(fax) 225-687-7390

REGION 3

Sharon Edwards
sharon.edwards@apsb.org
Kristie Stapler
kristie.stapler@apsb.org
www.lati3.com

611 N. Burnside Ave.
Gonzales, LA 70737
225-391-7278
225-391-7279
225-621-2525 (fax)

REGION 4

Charlotte Ducote
charlotte@atanswers.com
Tammy Dupre
tammy@atanswers.com
www.atanswers.com

N. P. Moss Annex
801 Mudd Ave.
Lafayette, LA 70501
337-234-7187
(fax) 337-234-7188

REGION 5

Kay Bolen
kay.bolen@cpsb.org
Anissa Fontenot
anissa.fontenot@cpsb.org
<http://bb.lati.cpsb.org>

1724 Kirkman St.
Lake Charles, LA 70601
337-217-4120 ext. 1023
(fax) 337-217-4121

REGION 6

Charlotte Ducote
charlotte@atanswers.com
DeWayne LaCaze
dewayne@atanswers.com
www.atanswers.com

LA Special Education Center
5400 Coliseum Blvd.
Alexandria, LA 71306
318-487-5488
(fax) 318-487-5511

REGION 7

Kristie Harvill
kristie.harvill@bossierschools.org
Karrie Bennett
karrie.bennett@bossierschools.org
www.region7atc.com

2500 Viking Drive
Bossier City, LA 71111
318-549-6113
318-549-6163
(fax) 318-549-6126

REGION 8

Amanda Tull
amanda.tull@r8at.com
Jessica Wingard
jessica.wingard@r8at.com
www.r8at.com

1206 Marion Hwy.
Farmerville, LA 71241
888-368-9727
318-368-9727
(fax) 318-368-9774



Free Services:
Professional Development
Consultations
Technical Assistance

UPCOMING TRAININGS

JANUARY

5	Intellikeys Keyboard	Region 4
10/18/19	AT Math Module	Region 5
11	Intellitools Classroom Suite	Region 5
11/12/13	Organization and Study Skills 3-Day Module	Region 6
11	Accessing the Access Guide	Region 7
12	Spectrum Kids Technology	Region 2
13	Classroom Suite	Region 4
13	Using News 2 You and Unique in the Classroom	Region 8
13	AT for Specific Learning Disabilities: Dyslexia, Dysgraphia & Dyscalculia	Region 1
14	Verizon Thinkfinity	Region 2
14	AT for High Incidence Disabilities	Region 1
18	Thinkfinity: Free Resources at your Fingertips	Region 1
19	UDL Module - 3 Day Module	Region 4
20	SymWriter	Region 5
20	AT @ A Glance and Communication Device Training	Region 1
26	Clicker 5	Region 6

FEBRUARY

2	Using Technology Pocket Tools	Region 2
3	Fun with Foldables	Region 4
8	Boardmaker	Region 5
8	Flip Cameras in the Classroom	Region 6
8/15	AT for Reading Success (must attend both days)	Region 7
9	Free Internet Resources	Region 3
10	Reaching All Students with Moviemaker	Region 5
14	Kurzweil	Region 5
15	Low Tech Supports to Access the Curriculum	Region 1
15	PRAL101: Introduction to ActivInspire	Region 5
15	Digital Camera Basics	Region 6
16	Help Me "Read" Anytime—Anywhere	Region 2
22-24	AT for Academics 3-Day Module	Region 1
22	Introduction to AT	Region 5
24	PowerPoints: Not Just for Presentations	Region 3
24	Unique Learning System	Region 4
24	Access Guide: Adapting Lessons for Sig. Disabilities	Region 8
25	Kurzweil	Region 8

MARCH

2	Web Freebies	Region 5
3	Unique Learning	Region 4
3	AT for Spelling and Writing	Region 7
4	Low Tech Tools	Region 6
10	AT for Spelling and Writing	Region 7
11	Boardmaker	Region 3
15	Boardmaker	Region 5
15	Microsoft Accessibility Options	Region 1
16	Convert Insert Design	Region 2
17	WebCan	Region 5
18	AT-2-U	Region 2

To register for trainings go to: www.solutionswhere.com/ldoe/cw
To register for Region 5 trainings go to <http://bb.lati.cpsb.org>