



The LATI News



LOUISIANA ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE

LATI Summer Institute: Update

AT² (RTI + DI) = ACCESS
"A Formula for Success"

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The LATI Summer institute is being held in Lake Charles, LA at the Calcasieu parish Technology Center located at 1724 Kirkman street. If you have registered and your plans have changed we ask that you visit CourseWhere and unregister yourself at the following link: <http://www.solutionwhere.com/ldoe/cw/showcourse.asp?3024>.

This will provide an opportunity for others who are on the waiting list to attend this year's event. Once you have logged onto the site please follow the directions to remove your name from the registrant list.

To help you with travel arrangements, meal accommodations and local attractions please visit the following website <http://bb.lati.cpsb.org/>. Here you will find parking arrangements, driving instructions and a copy of the planned sessions. We are looking forward to an exciting conference and can't wait to reunite with old friends and make new acquaintances. See you there! June 21-23, 2011

Note: ***Although the LATI Summer Institute does not charge registration fees; you will need to seek reimbursement from your district for travel expenses.***

For more information you can contact Kay Bolen or Alta Andrews at 337-217-4120 ext. 1036 or ext. 1023.



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Part Two: A Balanced Literacy Program

By DeWayne LaCaze, Region 6/4 A T Facilitator

The previous article addressed the following components of a Balanced Literacy Program: Modeled reading/writing, Shared reading/writing, and Guided reading/writing. This article will examine the remaining elements of a Balance Literacy Program that includes Independent Reading and Writing, Literature Study, and Investigation or Writing to Learn.

Independent Reading/Writing Independent reading provides students opportunities to read self-selected books to improve their reading proficiency. Students are in charge of their own reading by choosing their own books and reading alone with and without reading supports. Chorale or group reading does have its purposes, as well as, reading with family in friends. But we also need to encourage independent reading. Independent writing provides the student with opportunities to write without teacher intervention or evaluation. The student takes responsibility for working out the challenges in the writing process. There should be many opportunities for independent writing. Students should be encourage to express their thoughts and feelings about a particular topic or event. This can be a tedious process that will allow for many errors and much teacher feedback.

Literature Study Literature study provides students the opportunities to develop a deeper appreciation and understanding of literary texts and to develop personal responses. Students should be encouraged to engage in in-depth discussion about assigned text they have read or heard during assigned meeting times. Students can take turns facilitating, however an adult is usually present in the group. This is also an interesting way for teachers to start "blogging" in a classroom setting or wiki page.

(Continued on page 2)

Continued: A Balanced Literacy Program

Investigation/Writing to learn Writing to learn teaches students to use reading and writing skills as tools for learning. These skills need to be talk along with reading and not treated as an isolated skill. All of the three components are essential for language development. Students learn research skills like note taking and scientific observations. Students can organize information in various ways for clear communication. A student journal is an excellent way to keep track of their writing. From investigations, students can present what they have learned in a range of genres (reports, memoirs, narratives, and hypertext presentations). The journaling process can also be in a digital format for those students who have motor issues or other print related disabilities. Graphic organizers are an excellent way for students to brainstorm about what they are going to write about and also help the students remained focused on the chosen topic.



QUICK TIPS



The 10 most useful typing shortcuts for your Apple iDevice



Tip #1: If you want to type special characters with accent marks (like the letter à or è), simply tap and hold the corresponding alphabet key for a while and it will pop-up a list of related accented characters for you to choose from. Don't release the key before making a selection else the choice will disappear.

Tip #2: If you are typing a line of text in, say, an email message, simple tap the space bar on the keyboard twice and it will automatically insert a dot (or period) followed by a space. The next alphabet that you type will be written in uppercase without you having to press the Shift key.



Tip #3: The iPhone keyboard is pretty smart at adding apostrophes. For instance, if you need to type "doesn't", just forget the apostrophe and quickly type "doesnt" – the keyboard will automatically insert the apostrophe at the appropriate place.

Tip #4: The numeric keyboard shows the dollar (\$) symbol by default. However, if you need to type the Pound or the Euro currency symbol, just hold the \$ key and you'll see a list of alternative symbols in a pop-up.



Tip #5: There are two ways in which you can insert the degree symbol in your text. Either switch to the numeric keyboard and hold the '0' key or, if you using the regular ABC keyboard, hold the 'O' key (that's the alphabet O).

Tip #6: If you want to change the style of quotation marks or if you need to use a longer dash punctuation mark instead of the default hyphen, hold the corresponding key as show in the above screenshot.

Tip #7: Typing everything in all caps is often considered rude but there can be instances where you may have to type two or more consecutive characters in uppercase (e.g., UNESCO or QWERTY).

In the default setting, you'll have to tap the Shift key after typing every single character or you can "Enable Caps Lock" under Settings -> General -> Keyboard and then double-tap the shift key to turn it into a Caps lock key. They will stay blue until you press one of them again.



Tip #8: When you are typing a website URL in the address bar of the Safari browser, there's a special ".com" key in the keyboard that you can tap to quickly complete the web address.



However, if the website that you are trying to reach doesn't end with a .com, you can still use that key. Just hold it for a while and it will give you an option to choose other popular TLDs including .edu, .org and .net.

Tip #9: Just like the .com key in Safari lets you type domain URLs quickly, there's something similar in the Mail program of the iPhone /iPad that will help you complete email addresses quickly.

When typing an email address in the To: or CC / BCC field of the Mail program, press and hold the dot (.) key and you'll get a list of domain shortcuts in a pop-up to auto-complete the email address (you'll essentially save 3 key strokes).



Tip #10: This is another useful but undocumented keyboard trick that will help you quickly switch between numerical and alphabetical keyboards.

Let's say you are typing a document and need to insert an email address in your text. Now the "@" symbol is not available on the default "ABC" keyboard so you'll first have to switch to the numeric keyboard (?123), tap "@" and then again switch to ABC mode.

That's like making three keystrokes for typing one key. To simplify, just press the ?123 key, slide the finger to reach the "@" key and then lift the finger up to release the key.

U P C O M I N G P D O P P O R T U N I T I E S



- 1. **Differentiated Instruction Institute**
Date: May 31th, June 1st & 2nd
Location: Lafayette
To register go to:
<https://www.solutionwhere.com/ldoe/cw/showconference.asp?3100>
- 2. **RTI Institute**
Date: June 14th & 15th
Time: 8:45am-4:15pm
Location: TBD
To register go to:
<https://www.solutionwhere.com/ldoe/cw/showconference.asp?3101>
- 3. **Learning to Lead 2nd Annual State Conference**
Date: June 24th, 25th, & 26th
Location: Astor Crown Plaza
 739 Canal Street
 New Orleans, LA
To register go to:
<http://www.laeyc.com/>
- 4. **LATI Summer Institute**
Date: June 21st, 22nd, & 23rd
Location: Calcasieu Technology Center
This Professional Development is Full.

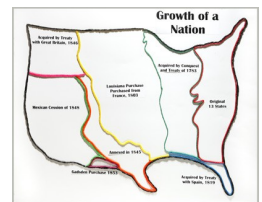
- 5. **Bridging the Gap: Universal Design for Learning**
Date: Beginning July 11, 2011
 (6 week on-line course)
Location: On-line To Register go to: <http://www.solutionwhere.com/ldoe/cw/showcourse.asp?366>
- 6. **Visual Phonics: Multisensory Decoding Skills**
Date: July 11-12
Location: Caddo Special Program Center
 3004 Knight Street Building # 6
 Shreveport, LA 71105To
Register go to:
<http://www.solutionwhere.com/ldoe/cw/showcourse.asp?145>
- 7. **Accessibility Awareness Exhibitor Showcase- North/Central LA**
Date: September 7
Location: Louisiana Special Education Center
 5400 Coliseum Blvd.
 Alexandria, LA
To Register go to: Registration information coming soon.
- 8. **Accessibility Awareness Exhibitor Showcase- South LA**
Date: September 8
Location: TBA
To Register go to: Registration information coming soon



A T S T R A I G H T O F F T H E S H E L F



Wikki Stix are nontoxic wax covered strings of yarn that “stick” to a variety of surfaces. This product is widely available at local toy and/or educational retailers as well as online. Because this product does not contain gluten, latex or nut oils and byproducts, it is safe for all to use. Prices and packaging vary.



As assistive technology, **Wikki Stix** can be used to in many ways to provide students with access to information, skills, and independence. **Wikki Stix** can be used to stabilize student materials and define work space areas, mark boundaries visually and tactilely, create tactile graphics to enhance meaning, facilitate fine motor skill development, assist discrimination of visual and tactile information, support self-help skills, and more. Additional information regarding uses can be found at the following website address.. http://www.wikkistix.com/occupational_therapy.php



Low Tech

WICO WRITING PEN

This pen is designed to fit on any one finger to aid the individuals who have grasping and fine motor problems thus eliminating the need to grip the pen.

<http://www.wicopen.com>

Price: \$7.99



Mid Tech

iADAPTER

The iAdapter is rubberized protective case for the iPad. It is equipped with a handle, shoulder strap and rechargeable speakers to make it completely portable. It also has a small slide cover that blocks the "HOME" button from being accidentally activated.

Dimensions: 10 1/4" x 10 3/4" x 1 1/4", weight is 1 lb.

<http://www.amdi.net/store/iadapter.html>

Price: \$198.00



High Tech

iZOOM USB MAGNIFIER/ READER

iZoom is a portable screen magnifier and reader. There is no installation necessary. Magnification levels are as little as 1.5X up to 36X. SmartAlign technology re-aligns the entire paragraph so that it fits on the screen without having to scroll left and right.

<http://www.issist1.com>

Price: \$399



Cool Stuff

DAISYtoEPUB Software Converts DAISY Files into EPUB Format

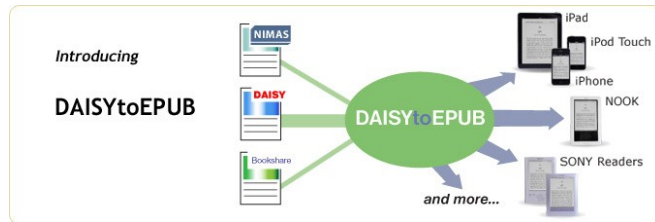
It's really simple...your NIMAS, DAISY, and Bookshare files won't work on any of the popular portable book readers like the iPad, Nook, Sony Reader or the Android devices. Like the name implies, DAISYtoEPUB converts your files into ePub format—the most popular format for mainstream eBook readers. **It even converts the images.**

It's as easy as 1.2.3...

Select the DAISY, NIMAS, or Bookshare file and choose a location where you'd like to save the converted file

Click convert

Transfer the file to your device(s).



The DAISYtoEPUB software will benefit students and individuals with reading disabilities who want to read their accessible DAISY books on one of the new portable devices.

The DAISYtoEPUB software works on Mac 10.4+ and Windows XP, Vista, and 7. A license for a single hard drive installation is \$99 with an additional range of Unlimited District Licenses.

Resource Links:

Learn more about DaisytoEPUB

<http://www.donjohnston.com/products/daisytoepub/index.html>

By: Region 8

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Free Services:
Professional Development
Consultations
Technical Assistance

UPCOMING TRAININGS

JUNE

- 1, 2, 3 AT Boot Camp Region 7
- 1 Low and Mid Tech Tools for AT Assessments Region 8
- 2 Fun with Foldables Region 8
- 2 Get Your Game On! Region 3
- 2 Go Write with Animation Region 5
- 3 Free Internet Resources Region 4
- 7 iPods/iPads in the Classroom Region 3
- 8 Promethean Interactive Boards in the Classroom Region 6
- 8 Reaching All Students with MovieMaker Region 5
- 8, 9 AT for Math Module Region 8
- 15, 16 AT Solutions for Reading Success Module Region 8
- 15 Differentiate with APPS Region 2
- 28 WebCan: Using WebCameras Region 5
- 28 Fun with Foldables & PocketMods Region 6
- 29 Get Apped Up Region 5
- 30 AT Visual Supports Region 1
- 30 Promethean Boards in the Classroom Region 4
- 30 Web Freebies/AT Resources Region 5

JULY

- 5 Reaching All Students with MovieMaker Region 5
- 7 Web Freebies/AT Resources Region 5
- 12 Interactive White Boards in the Elem. Class Region 6
- 12 AT Apps for the iPad/iPod Region 7
- 14 Boardmaker 6.0 Region 4
- 14 PowerPoint: More than just a presentation Region 7
- 19, 20, 21 AT Assessment for Communication Module Region 1
- 19 What's in an AT Assessment Kit? Region 8
- 21 Boardmaker, News-2-You and Unique Learning Region 8
- 26 Co-Teaching Region 2
- 26 News-2-You/ Unique Learning Region 6
- 27 Quick Pics Free Picture Authoring Software Region 1
- 28 E-Book Make-N-Take Region 4
- 28 Go Write with Animation Region 5

AUGUST

- 3 AT Resources Region 5
- 3 Visual Supports Strategies Region 4
- 4 Promethean Basics Region 6
- 16 Fluency Intervention Training Region 6
- 18 AT Free Resources Region 2
- 18 Introduction to Kurzweil Region 4
- 23,24,25 Math & Literacy Module Region 1
- 25 AIM and Bookshare Region 2
- 25 AT and Statewide Assessment Region 7

Click on the title to register.