



The LATI News



LOUISIANA ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE

LATI Summer Institute 2011:

Contributed by Region 6

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

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This year's LATI Summer Institute was all a buzz with Assistive Technology (AT) ideas and programs. The event was held in Lake Charles, Louisiana at the Calcasieu Technology Center, June 21-23, 2011. The unexpected rain showers brought grandiose ideas that led to lovely technological bouquets of AT discussions between teachers, facilitators, administrators, as well as, state and school personnel.



The focus of this year's conference was Assistive Technology (AT), as it relates to Response To Intervention (RTI), and Differentiated Instruction (DI). The presences of these three components help to blossom into a wonderful Universal Design for Learning (UDL) for students in the daily classroom.

Total participants, including LATI presenters and invited guests, were approximately 185. The keynote speaker for the event was Dr. Dave Edyburn. Dr. Edyburn explored issues and recommended tools that can be used in everyday classroom situations to support academic performance. Currently, he teaches in the areas of mild disabilities and related learning and behavioral exceptionalities at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. This year's closing session was conducted by Donna Nola-Ganey. Ms. Nola-Ganey is serving as the assistant superintendent of the Louisiana Department of Education's Office of Federal Programs Support. Her focus was on the progress that was being made in the area of Special Populations in Louisiana. With the exception of a handful of districts, Louisiana is no longer one of the nine states that have been in corrective action for more than 4 consecutive years. However, some districts in Louisiana are still requiring some assistance in becoming compliant with state and federal regulations.

The video and photo contest winners were honored and the recipients will be featured in the next issue of the LATI newsletter.

**Dr. Edyburn shared e-text modification and other UDL web resources via 2 links as follows:

<https://pantherfile.uwm.edu/edyburn/www/june23keynote.html>

<https://pantherfile.uwm.edu/edyburn/www/june23.html>



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QUICK TIPS USING THE "SIMPLE ENGLISH" SETTING IN WIKIPEDIA

Contributed by Region 4



Some students may have difficulty understanding the complex language used by the [English Wikipedia](#). They may need a simpler version, which is easier to understand and which should still give them the information they need. The Simple English Wikipedia is an encyclopedia to help make this happen, to give students and learners of English with a simple, free resource.

(http://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Schools/Teachers%27_Guide)

Go to: www.simple.wikipedia.org
This site will do a simple search for your topic.

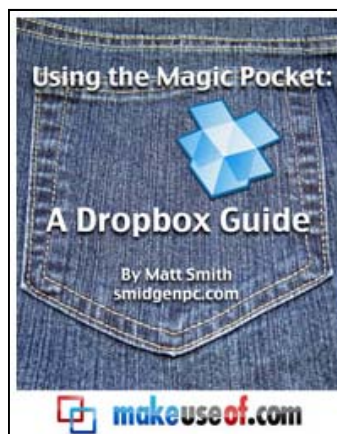
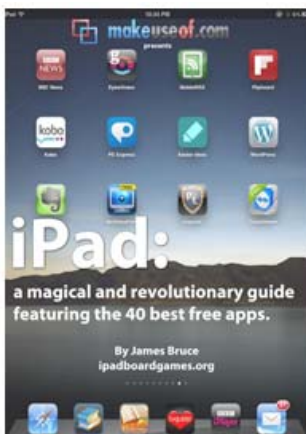
Or go to: www.wikipedia.org
Search for "bears"
You will get many pages of information.
On the left hand side under the "Languages" tab click on [Simple English](#)
This will convert your search results to more simplified version of text.

Whoa! Free Manuals Here

Contributed by Region 2

Need a how-to manual for your iPhone, iPad, PC, MS Word, and other Geeky Tech stuff. Sign up for emails but use the link below to download .pdf manual files.

<http://www.makeuseof.com/pages/downloads#openbooks>



*****and more

UPCOMING PD OPPORTUNITIES

Compiled by Region 3

**Bridging the Gap: Universal Design for Learning** (6 week online course)**Date:** July 11 – August 23, 2011**Time:** Online**Location:** Online**Register:** <http://www.solutionwhere.com/ldoe/cw/showcourse.asp?366>**Visual Phonics: Multisensory Decoding Skills****Date:** July 11 – 12, 2011**Time:** 8:30AM-4:00PM**Location:** Special Program Center, Shreveport**Register:** <http://www.solutionwhere.com/ldoe/cw/showcourse.asp?145>**New Orleans Autism/Asperger's Syn. Conference****Date:** July 14-15, 2011**Location:** Hilton New Orleans Airport, New Orleans**Register:** <http://www.fhautism.com/Conferences/NewOrleansAutismAspergersSynSuperConference/tabid/288/Default.aspx>**Visual Phonics: Multisensory Decoding Skills****Date:** July 14 – 15, 2011**Time:** 8:30AM-4:00PM**Location:** Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Building, Baton Rouge**Register:** <http://www.solutionwhere.com/ldoe/cw/showcourse.asp?145>**Accessibility Awareness Week****Date:** September 6 – 9, 2011**Location:** Check with LATI Centers for activities**LATI AT Exhibitors' Showcase for North and Middle LA****Date:** September 7, 2011**Time:** 8:30 AM—2:30 PM**Location:** Louisiana Special Education Center, Alexandria**Register:** <http://www.solutionwhere.com/ldoe/cw/showcourse.asp?3248>**LATI and EBR AT Exhibitors' Showcase for South****Date:** September 8, 2011**Time:** 8:30 AM—2:00 PM**Location:** East Baton Rouge Professional Development Center**Register:** <http://www.solutionwhere.com/ldoe/cw/showcourse.asp?3265>**Closing the Gap Conference****Date:** Pre-Conference: October 10 - 11, 2011 Conference: October 12 – 14, 2011**Location:** Minneapolis, MN**Register:** <http://www.closingthegap.com/store/registration/>

AT STRAIGHT OFF THE SHELF

Contributed by Region 8



The **Kensington Orbit Optical Trackball** is often easier for a student with a motor disability to operate and requires less arm movement than a conventional mouse. Some students could use a trackball mouse in conjunction with a head wand or mouth stick. It is relatively easy to manipulate a trackball with these devices and much harder to manipulate a standard mouse. Someone with tremors in the hands may also find this kind of mouse more useful because once the person moves the mouse cursor to the right location, they are less likely to accidentally move the cursor while trying to click on the mouse button. A person with tremors in the hands could also manipulate the trackball mouse with a foot, if there is enough motor control in the feet. This trackball has 2 programmable buttons with a scroll wheel. It doesn't take up a lot of space so it could easily be secured on a desk, wheelchair tray or on a table.

\$29.99 at Office Depot or Best Buy.

Ten One Design Fling Game Controller - Ninja

Contributed by Region 2



Fling is a tactile game controller for the iPad. It gives added dexterity control over any App game that has an on-screen joystick.

From amazon.com—about \$16.00



Contributed by Region 5



HOW THE iPad CAN HELP STUDENTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES

The iPad has numerous apps to help students with learning disabilities compensate for their particular disability. Students with learning disabilities may have problems with reading, math, reasoning and recall. But given the appropriate tools, students with learning disabilities, too, can achieve academic success. This blog article from *Tech & Learning* by guest blogger Vicki Windman shares several apps for the iPad to help students with learning disabilities.

Dyscalculia Apps, for students who struggle with math concepts:

[Telling Time](#) goes one step beyond Jungle Time. It has three levels allowing students to advance their skills. It compares the analog clock to the digital clock.

[Coin Math](#) begins with identification of coins, counting coins, making change, and shopping. It allows users to advance levels.

[Multiplication](#) is a visual app that uses skip counting and is particularly good for those students who have difficulty with memorizing facts.

Dyslexia and other reading disability Apps:

[Reading Machine](#) helps students pronounce words they cannot read. It has two keyboards - a color-coded alphabetical and a QWERTY for older students.

[American Wordspeller](#) is a phonetic dictionary. A student can type a word, and the dictionary will figure out the word: i.e. foto - photo. Turn on the Voice Accessibility and it reads the word aloud.

[Reading for Details](#) contains level-based reading comprehension exercises. Users determine how many questions to answer.

Memory Apps

[Noteshelf](#) is a writing tool. Some students prefer writing over typing to help them remember. Inserting a picture adds emphasis for visual learners.

[Popplet](#), a new favorite, is a mind-mapping app that allows users to record thoughts, explore ideas, and collaborate with peers.

Vicki Windman is a special education teacher at [Clarkstown High School South](#) in New York. To see the article online, go to <http://www.techlearning.com/blogs/39034>.

Cool Stuff

Contributed by Region 1 and 2

Microsoft Accessibility Checker



The **Key** to successful learning is the degree to which instructional content is accessible to students. A plethora of tools and emerging technologies, while providing abundant choices from which to choose, frequently complicate the decision making process for school districts who serve students with special needs. If controlled choice is what you are looking for, consider Microsoft Office 2010 and its Accessibility Checker, a tool designed to help users create accessible instructional content. This is a terrific support for the teacher's effort in creating accessible instructional content.

<http://www.microsoft.com/enable/products/office2010/>

Microsoft Office 2010 is required.

Get your free trial at: <http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/products/>



RE:Minder iPad or iPhone App

Re: Minder is a FREE App that can be set to remind students to turn in work, take meds and do To-Do lists to help promote being organized. But sometimes, it's not just about organization. Sometimes, it's about getting something done **on time**. Upgrade to the Pro version and get rid of the ads for \$3.99.

iPad Keyguards (about \$40.00+)

<http://www.laseredpics.biz/servlet/the-Adaptive-Technologies-Supplies-cln-Keyguards-cln-Proloquo2go/Categories>

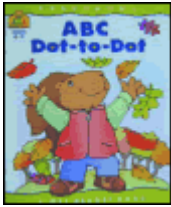
Keyguards can be customized to fit most Proloquo2Go location setups.



AT Tools

Contributed by Region 7

Low Tech



ABC Dot to Dot is a fun 8 ½ x 11-inch preschool workbook filled with 30 dot-to-dot exercises. The dots are joined in alphabetical order to complete adorable pictures featuring animals engaged in everyday childhood activities. These quality, high interest pictures in color and black will also generate an abundance of language opportunities. Illustrations depict the four seasons and become more complicated as they move from “A-J”, “A-O”, “A-T” and finally “A-Z”. Place sheets under a clear acetate or Plexiglas cover to reuse. Great for building letter recognition and visual motor coordination. \$2.95

<http://shoponline.pfot.com/writingclassroom-ss3.htm>

Mid Tech



A **Traffic Light Timer** is a visual and sound timer that changes colors to alert you as time elapses. It has extra large numerals for easy reading. It can be timed up to 100 minutes, including second increments. It comes with inclined base and rear magnets for easy viewing when on table or wall mounted. \$15.50

<http://www.onionmountaintech.com/item.php?id=1243>

High Tech



The **EyeMax System** is appropriate for students who make selections using their eyes to increase the speed and effectiveness of communication, want to access the Vmax+ with their eyes, have the ability to focus on an object for a brief period of time, use contact lenses or glasses, have a degree of controlled head movement, or no head movement at all, and need access to a variety of ConnectIT mounting options. Contact your state vendor for a quote.

<http://www.dynavoxtech.com/products/eyemax/>

Contributed by Region 2

How-To

How to Create App Folders On The iPhone or iPad



http://www.ehow.com/how_6220490_create-app-folders-iphone-ipad.html

Did you know that on an iPad or iPhone with OS 4.0 or later, you can create App folders to store and categorize your Apps?

This long awaited functionality will allow you to hold over 2000 Apps on your device, whereas previously it was limited to 180 Apps.

Not only can you store more Apps, but folders makes it far easier to organize your iPad or iPhone.

Follow these simple instructions to learn how to create App folders.

Instructions

First, in order to create App folders you need to be sure your iPad or iPhone is updated to iPhone OS 4.0 or later. Consult the manual or internet if you are unfamiliar with how to do this.

1. Next, press your finger on an App and hold until the App icons start to shake. This is the same process (up to this point) that you would do in order to rearrange Apps.
2. Next, drag one App on top of another to create a new folder containing both those Apps. A new folder icon will appear when you do this.
3. Continue to drag and drop more App icons to that folder if you wish to add them to that particular folder. That's all there is to it.
4. Folders will automatically be named based on the Apple App Store category the included Apps are from. The folders can also be renamed to something more descriptive by tapping the Name field.

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