



# Region 3 AT Center

A PROJECT OF THE LOUISIANA ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE

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## GET SETT FOR ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY WITH JOY ZABALA

The Louisiana Department of Education is offering training on the SETT (Student, Environment, Task and Tools) strategy for determining assistive technology needs for students with disabilities. The two-day training will be hosted by the Region 3 Assistive Technology Facilitators at the Terrebonne Parish Public Library on February 8-9, 2006. The SETT framework is one of the leading models for consideration, screening and assessment of assistive technology.

Joy Zabala is an Assistive Technology Specialist who has worked in the field since the early 90's. She has presented at numerous national conferences and written articles for journals

such as the *Journal of Special Education Technology*. She is one of the pioneers of the QIAT (Quality Indicators of Assistive Technology) Consortium, a cohort of assistive technology experts who provide

Joy Zabala, developer of the SETT Framework.



information on assistive technology programs and best practices. The training is designed for special education teachers, regular education teachers, therapists, assistive technology facilitators, and other members of IEP

teams who make assistive technology considerations, conduct screenings, or evaluate students with disabilities. Parents, paraprofessionals, instructional technology specialists and administrators are welcome.

Register online at [www.solutionwhere.com/ldoe/cw/showcourse.asp?426](http://www.solutionwhere.com/ldoe/cw/showcourse.asp?426). Registration is **free**.

**Date**  
February 8 and 9, 2006 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**Location**  
Terrebonne Parish Public Library - Main Library  
151 Civic Center Blvd.  
Houma, LA 70360

For more information, contact Region 3 AT Center.

## LATI OFFERS EQUIPMENT LENDING LIBRARIES

LATI is offering a short-term loan program to assist school systems in conducting AT assessments and allowing students an opportunity to try the technology before it is purchased for his/her use. The lending period is limited to 4 weeks. This program is not

designed for long term loans. Computers are not available through the loan program. A list of items available for loan will be listed (soon) on our website. For more information on this program, contact Region 3 AT Center.

## SAMPLES OF LENDING LIBRARY INVENTORY

- AlphaTalker II 32 location voice output device
- Freestyle System
- LightWriter
- SAM Trackball for Mac
- 17" Touch Window (Mac & PC)
- HeadMouse
- Accessible Software for Mac & PC
- Various switches and mounts

## ADAM WING PRESENTS THE ATLAS TOOLKIT



On August 18, 2005, Adam Wing of Laureate Learning Systems provided a training on the ATLAS Toolkit to the AT contacts in Region 3. The ATLAS Toolkit is an easy-to-use and affordable assistive technology and language assessment solution that uses low-

tech and high-tech tools to conduct quick, easy and accurate assessments. Six of the seven districts participated in the training. Each district that participated received one ATLAS Toolkit. Three additional Toolkits were given away as door prizes. The participants were very excited to learn that the toolkit provides the materials necessary to administer language and assistive technology assessments. When the

assessment is complete, the Toolkit recommends Laureate software to provide instruction at the student's level. The Laureate Sterling Edition comes with a student performance data management system that can be used for progress monitoring.

For more information on the ATLAS Toolkit or Laureate Software, contact us @ 225-621-2538.

Families receive  
50% off all  
software...

Laureate offers parents and families a 50% discount on all of their software for learning at home. This 50% discount is only available to parents and families; it is not applicable to schools, hospitals, institutions, or other organizations.

## AT REIMBURSEMENT

The Louisiana Department of Education, Division of Special Populations, is once again providing reimbursements for assistive technology purchases. This year the program has an allotment of \$200,000 of IDEA Part B funds. This is down from last year because districts have not been taking advantage of this reimbursement. This program is part of an initiative to assist districts in providing needed assistive technology equipment/

devices to students with disabilities.

A "system" of assistive technology is eligible for reimbursement if the total cost is \$1,000 or more. Individual items do not need to reach the \$1,000 limit as long as the items are related and are integral to the purpose and operation of the "system".

Reimbursements are claimed bi-annually. Purchases made

between July–December 2005 should be requested by January 31, 2006 and purchases between January–May, 2006 should be requested by June 1, 2006.

For more information go to [www.doe.state.la.us/ide/specialp/1538.html](http://www.doe.state.la.us/ide/specialp/1538.html).



## EXPEDITED AT REIMBURSEMENT FOR DISPLACED STUDENTS OF HURRICANE

The Louisiana Department of Education, Division of Special Populations, is responding to the devastation that Hurricane Katrina has caused in our state by expediting AT

reimbursements for displaced students. By providing this reimbursement for AT equipment purchases, districts can provide assistive technology devices

or equipment that was lost or damaged.

For more information go to [www.doe.state.la.us/ide/specialp/1538.html](http://www.doe.state.la.us/ide/specialp/1538.html).

## THE DANA TALKS!!



Did you know that the Dana by AlphaSmart can talk? Don Johnston and AlphaSmart have teamed up to offer a complete writing solution with a new portable "Talking Word

Processor". The Dana, combined with Write OutLoud to Go, and the new VoiceCard provides auditory support to struggling writers. As a result of this collaboration, it allows students to have a affordable solution to evaluate the content of their writing and improve the mechanics of writing.

This adapted Dana paired with external speakers can also be used as a relatively inexpensive text-based communication device designed for literate users who need to talk.

### COST

**Dana** (bundle from Don Johnston) = \$589.00

Lightweight Portable **Speakers** = \$40.00

Cost of a lightweight, portable talking word processor/communication device = **PRICELESS**

*The Dana bundles can be purchased through Don Johnston or AlphaSmart. The speakers are not sold by either company.*

## USING AUTOTEXT TO CREATE PICTURE TOOLBARS

*From Judith Sweeney*

*Save time with pictures that you use over and over again in picture schedules, language lessons, and curriculum materials.*

### **Quick Start**

- Open a blank Word document.
- Go to the Insert Menu ⇒ Picture ⇒ From File.... Find the picture on your hard drive and click ok to insert it.
- When it shows up on screen with the selection points around it, adjust the size of image so it is as big as you generally want it to be when you use it.

- Copy it to the clipboard. (Command C for Mac; Control C for PC)
- Go to the Autotext Toolbar and click on New...
- An asterisk will show in the entry box. Rename picture with a short or abbreviated title. Click Ok.
- Go to Tools Menu ⇒ Customize.
- Click on Toolbars tab at the top. Click on New at the right side of the screen.
- Name the toolbar. You will see a small toolbar appear.
- Click on the Commands tab at the top of the screen.
- Find the Autotext title you created. Click on the title and drag it to the toolbar. When you see a vertical line on your toolbar, let go of your mouse button and there will be a button with the title of that autotext.
- If you want the picture to appear on the toolbar, right click on the new button. (This can only be done when the customize dialog box is open).
- Click on the blank button in the upper left hand corner of the Command Properties box. Click on the down arrow and choose Paste Button Image.

- Use the drop down menu at the top of the screen to determine whether you want just the picture or the title and the picture.
- Click ok to close the Customize box.

### Uses:

- ◆ Creating picture schedules that change.
- ◆ Using pictures in text boxes.
- ◆ Using pictures in tables.
- ◆ Creating a project with pictures and the students do not have to go looking for them.



## FREEBIES

### VIRTUAL KEYBOARDS/MICE

- ◆ **Sue Center:**
  - ◆ Onscreen keyboard, word prediction, speech, dwell selection only, abbreviation expansion.
  - ◆ [www.icogitate.com/~perl/sue/index.html](http://www.icogitate.com/~perl/sue/index.html)
- ◆ **Click-N-Type:**
  - ◆ Onscreen keyboard, word prediction, dwell selection
  - ◆ [www.lakefolks.org/cnt](http://www.lakefolks.org/cnt)
- ◆ **Point-N-Click:**
  - ◆ [www.polital.com/pnc](http://www.polital.com/pnc)

### SCREEN MAGNIFICATION

- ◆ **iZoom**
  - ◆ Full screen, line, and lens style magnifiers with up to 16x magnification
  - ◆ [www.issist.com](http://www.issist.com)

### TEXT-TO-SPEECH

- ◆ **Read Please**
  - ◆ Intuitive controls, copy and paste to read.
  - ◆ [Readplease.com](http://Readplease.com)
- ◆ **Natural Reader**
  - ◆ Save text to audio file, read from any application
  - ◆ [www.naturalreaders.com/download.htm](http://www.naturalreaders.com/download.htm)

# AT Tips

## SINGLE SWITCH PERFORMANCE TEST SOFTWARE (SSPT)

SSPT was developed to measure the average time required to activate or release the switch (following visual and/or audio prompts). It can also measure the speed of repetitive activations. This program is distributed **free of charge** and was developed by computer science students at Millersville University of Pennsylvania under the supervision of Blaise Liffick, Ph.D. To download this free software go to [www.aacoinstitute.org](http://www.aacoinstitute.org) and click on Single Switch Performance Test under the Products and Services menu (orange section).



## THE NEW SWITCH FROM INTELLITOOLS

Intellitools, in cooperation with Madentec, have developed a wireless switch interface called the IntelliSwitch. The IntelliSwitch is active when the receiver is plugged into the computer's USB port. This allows the user to be at least 20 feet away from the computer and still be able to activate it. It has 5 switch ports and 2 built-in switches. There are 25 switch presets that are available with the IntelliSwitch. It will be available in December 2005. Introductory pricing of \$249 (Normally \$299) until December 23, 2005.



### REGION III ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY CENTER

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#### AT Facilitators

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Check us out on the web!  
[www.apsb.org/schools/lss/AsstTech/home.htm](http://www.apsb.org/schools/lss/AsstTech/home.htm)



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| January 26-28, 2006                    | TRLD: Technology, Reading, & Learning Difficulties Conference, San Francisco, CA<br><a href="http://www.trld.com">www.trld.com</a>  |
| February 8-9, 2006<br><b>**FREE **</b> | Joy Zabala: Get SETT for Assistive Technology<br>Terrebonne Parish Public Library<br><a href="http://www.solutionwhere.com/ldoe/cw/showcourse.asp?426">www.solutionwhere.com/ldoe/cw/showcourse.asp?426</a> |
| February 13–15, 2006                   | LACUE: Louisiana Computer Using Educators<br>Baton Rouge River Center<br><a href="http://www.lacue.org">www.lacue.org</a>   |
| March 20–25, 2006                      | CSUN: California State University Northridge<br>Los Angeles, CA<br><a href="http://www.csun.edu/cod/conf/index.htm">www.csun.edu/cod/conf/index.htm</a>   |
| May 3-5, 2006                          | Solutions for AT Conference<br>Baton Rouge<br><a href="http://www.adaptive-sol.com/conference.htm">www.adaptive-sol.com/conference.htm</a>  |
| June 2006 (TBA)<br><b>**FREE **</b>    | LATI 2nd Annual Summer Institute<br>Baton Rouge<br><a href="http://www.doe.state.la.us/ldoe/specialp/1538.html">www.doe.state.la.us/ldoe/specialp/1538.html</a>   |
| July 5-7, 2006                         | NECC: National Educational Computing Conference<br>San Diego, CA<br><a href="http://center.uoregon.edu/ISTE/NECC2006/">center.uoregon.edu/ISTE/NECC2006/</a>  |