



DIRECTIONS

Technology in Special Education

Vol. 8 , No. 5

January 2002

Youth and technology: What could be more natural?

By Jeni Mundl

Source: Closing the Gap, October/November 2001, Volume 20, Number 4

Assistive technology - AT. It's everywhere. We all use gadgets to help us do things: Think of that pencil you use to write. People with disabilities are learning to use AT - sophisticated gadgetry - in remarkably inventive ways. From voice-activated to computer-controlled devices, the latest AT developments are getting smarter and offering greater capabilities to their users.

"That's exactly why Courage Center is building a 'Center of Excellence' in Assistive Technology," said Peggy Locke, Ph.D., Director of Assistive Technology at Courage. "Advances in assistive technologies are offering people with disabilities unprecedented opportunities to live independently, work in the community and attend school. AT is ever-changing and interest is increasing. Assistive technologies turn possibilities into realities."

In an effort to give consumers - especially teenagers - exposure to a wide range of technologies, Courage has integrated opportunities to learn about computers and technology with its Courage Camps programs. It runs three camp programs focusing on teens and technology; a fourth program welcomes all ages.

It's like sports camps for people interested in computers and technology. Why the emphasis on adolescents? "Because their world is one of transitions; from kid to teen, from family focus to friend focus, even from peach fuzz to whiskers," explained Bob Polland, Director of camping. "It's tough to be different at this age, and, if you have a disability, it may be even more challenging."

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ACCESSIBLE LEARNING

by Lorianne Hoenninger

When creating communication boards and picture schedules for students benefiting from photographs, setup is easy when you use one of the "Picture This" products from (\$49.95-\$89.95) phone:845- 462-8714. The Picture This products contain 2700 high-resolution photos shot against a plain background, in 30 different categories. Each photo can be used as clip art and inserted into most paint and word processing software or formatted into various size flash cards and lotto boards, using the simple graphic program included. Words or sentences can be added in several different languages, to customize the cards for student's needs. "Picture This V3.0" is the original version which contains the basic program and 2400 photos. "Picture This Pro" has 300 additional photos, and a more powerful formatting program which enables the printing of any size card. "Picture This Functional Living Skills and Behavioral Rules Edition" is a new add-on collection which can either be used by itself or combined with "Picture This Pro".

While the "Picture This Series" appeals to the creative in many of us, the operant word is "many". In response, Silverlining has designed a new product for the time and creativity challenged. "The Great Action Adventure" (\$69.95) is an interactive program designed to teach visual learners about verbs and sign language. It contains over 140 full-motion videos of verbs and associated signs. The quiz and play areas can be customized to meet the needs of a wide variety of students,

and are available for receptive noun and verb matching, sign language, word matching, and verb tenses. Adults can choose which words are tested, control how they are presented, and how the student is reinforced and prompted. Individual student progress is tracked and distractors are eliminated to ensure that students focus on learning.

For those students transitioning from photos to pictorial symbols, "Teach Me to Talk" from KidTech (\$99.00) phone:1-877-763-8868, contains 148 photographs that morph into Mayer-Johnson symbols upon the click of a mouse. This speech stimulation program is recommended for students with autism, and/or cognitive and speech delays, as it helps students to associate verbally spoken language with the matching photo and Mayer-Johnson symbol. Combinations of music, movement and text can be enabled to engage and motivate each student. The program also includes easy to solve puzzles and rhyming stories. Alternative access modalities include IntelliKeys, mouse, scanning, two-switch scanning and touch screen options.

As always, I hope you find these programs as fun and useful as I do. If you have questions, do not hesitate to mail me at accessiblelearning@erols.com, or write c/o: Accessible Learning Technology Alternatives, P.O. Box 597, Shirley NY, 11967.§

DIRECTIONS

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Vendors - We welcome product news. Please include pricing and contact name with press releases.

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About One Hand Typing and Keyboarding

By Lilly Walters

Source: *One Hand Typing and Keyboarding E-news*

ONE HANDED MAGIC

Book review: One Handed Magic!! Do an Internet search, for Rene Lavand. You will find hundreds of articles about a GREAT magician, renowned and respected for his amazing craft. Loved and admired for his great skill ... oh, yeah, and he happened to have lost a hand as a child ... Losing that hand is just a tiny side bar to a skilled a great performer. It usually has a very short sentence, a brief sentence. After all, it has so little to do with his greatness.

Following by Tom Ogden, comedian and magician

There are two books available in magic shops, on ebay, and other used book stores on-line. They are by the famed one handed magician Ren  e Lavand. "Magic from the Soul" by Ren  e Lavand and "The Mysteries of My Life," written by Richard Kaufman and Ren  e Lavand, published by Richard Kaufman.

The first is how to do magic. Interesting in that Ren  e lost a hand. The second has less tricks and more autobiography — more than half autobiography.

Before losing his hand, he only knew one card trick. When he got more interested, after the accident, he had a double difficulty: Not only did he have to do effects that other magicians do with one hand, but he lost his right hand, and almost all instructions in

magic books and videos are written for right-handed people. (I only skimmed the book, so I'm unsure whether he was right-handed before the accident.) He also discusses how he was always athletic, so there were certain sports he had to drop out of, but he became proficient at jai alai, Ping-Pong and fencing.

Ed. Note: I found the following review of one the books mentioned above

DON'T CRY FOR ME, ARGENTINA

The latest and one of the best recent volumes from Richard Kaufman is *The Mysteries of My Life*, by Richard and by the book's legendary subject, Rene Lavand. The book contains two sections, "My Mysteries: The Act," Richard's description of a completely routined and tightly integrated act by Mr. Lavand (12 items); and "My Life: Shuffling Memories," a remarkable series of essays on memories, philosophy, travelogue, and patter and presentation. Despite Richard's excellent technical descriptions, I predict no one will perform these effects as written, as Mr. Lavand's skills and constraints are so unique. Rather, the reader will learn devastating presentations for "Triumph," "Oil and Water," "Follow the Leader," "Card to Pocket," and the rest. The section by Mr. Lavand (translated by Tina Lenert) is riveting, especially his visits to the Cali drug

cartel, Japan, and the Magic Castle. \$40 pp from Richard Kaufman, 4200

Wisconsin Ave. NW, Suite 106-292, Washington, DC 20016. Seen at http://littleegyptmagic.com/magic_jan99.html (Note on this same page Tom Ogden is talked about) For more on Rene, http://www.magicalmike.com/think/html/rene_lavand.html

CARRIERS FOR THOSE WITH DISABILITIES

As reported in *HalfthePlanet Today* - November 2001 newsletter JFK CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS ANNOUNCES A NEW FREE LISTSERV - CAREERS IN THE ARTS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES! Join the JFK Center for the Performing Arts - Careers in the Arts for People with Disabilities free listserv. Career in the Arts listserv members will receive periodic announcements about jobs, funding opportunities, and information about training programs across the nation. In addition, listserv members will receive a quarterly newsletter specializing in Careers in the Arts for People with Disabilities.

Subscribe now at http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/user_guide/commcent/listservs.html. (for more on Half the Plant: Please send an email to: info@halftheplanet.org.)

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HalfthePlanet News

HALFTHEPLANET TODAY - The Monthly Update for Disability Resources Online

HalfthePlanet is pleased to bring you a monthly newsletter with disability-related news from HalfthePlanet and its partners. Please pass this along to your friends and family or anyone you think might be interested. Also, please continue to visit the HalfthePlanet web site at <http://www.halftheplanet.org> for disability-related news and resources that are added on an ongoing basis and our online community bulletin board discussions.

LOOK AT WHAT'S NEW THIS MONTH AT HALFTHEPLANET!

Two bikers take their life passion of biking and make it wheelchair friendly. Check out "Hitting the Road Their Own Way: Two Paralyzed Veterans Put their Mark on the World of Motorbikes" at: http://www.halftheplanet.org/departments/new_content/hitting_the_road.html

BRIAN INJURY ASSOCIATION THANKS YOU!

Brain Injury Association thanks all who ordered Brian Injury Awareness kits. To date, nearly 6,000 kits have been sent—brain injury awareness needs to happen all year long!

If you would still like a complimentary awareness kit, please contact Amy Sills, Communications Coordinator for the Brain Injury Association at (703) 236-6000, ext. 106 or asills@biausa.org.

ADAPTIVE ENVIRONMENTS URGES YOU TO GET INVOLVED

The New York City disability community lost two of its very few accessible subway and PATH (Port Authority Trans Hudson) stations due to the tragic events of September 11th. You can write to City of New York Public Advocate, Mark Green, strongly urging him to support Disabled in Action of Metropolitan New York's position on restoration of a degree of accessible underground transit in Manhattan. Contact Mark Green at mgreen@pubadvocate.nyc.gov or write to him at 1 Centre Street, 15th Floor North, New York, NY 10007.

Adaptive Environments E-mentoring kick-off event was a success. We are also planning for the next international conference: "Designing for the 21st Century III." For more information about these events, visit Adaptive Environments' web site at <http://www.adaptenv.org>.

THE CHRISTOPHER REEVE PARALYSIS FOUNDATION RESOURCE CENTER NEEDS YOUR HELP

Are you living with paralysis? Are you a caregiver for someone living with paralysis? If so, please help CRPF by telling them what you would like to see in the soon-to-be-launched Christopher and Dana Reeve Paralysis Resource Center. The survey is the first step in the creation of the Resource Center, which will provide educational materials, referral services, and self-help guidance to those living with paralysis, their families and their caregivers. For

more information or to participate, please go to <http://www.paralysis.org>. Or, if you prefer to receive a hard copy of the survey in the mail, please call (800) 225-0292. To read more about the Resource Center, go to <http://www.paralysis.org/news/releases.cfm?storyID=320>.

JFK CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS ANNOUNCES A NEW FREE LISTSERV - CAREERS IN THE ARTS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES!

Join JFK Center for the Performing Arts - Careers in the Arts for People with Disabilities free listserv. Career in the Arts listserv members will receive periodic announcements about jobs, funding opportunities, and information about training programs across the nation.

In addition, listserv members will receive a quarterly newsletter specializing in Careers in the Arts for People with Disabilities.

Subscribe now at http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/user_guide/commcent/listservs.html.

The HalfthePlanet Today E-Newsletter and the HalfthePlanet web site are programs of the HalfthePlanet Foundation. HalfthePlanet Foundation is a nonprofit organization that supports the applications of technology to promote the values of the Americans with Disabilities Act: independent living, social inclusion, equality of

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Technological Literacy News

A weekly newsletter for families and educators committed to building brighter futures for kids in a technology-rich society.

SPECIAL HOLIDAY LEGO OFFER FROM EDVENTURES!

LEGO materials are awesome tools for teaching design principles, a critical component to technological literacy for your students! PCS Edventures has two special curriculum areas in its huge course catalog that deal specifically with LEGO materials — Engineering and Architecture! Now, for a VERY limited time you can purchase an Edventures account AND receive an incredible LEGO kit, designed especially for education! For more information go to: <http://www.edventures.com/1/11/tlu5/index.html>

TRY THIS AT HOME OR IN YOUR CLASS!

Last week we talked about introducing engineering design concepts through fun, hands-on activities using technology that kids know and love — skateboards, roller blades, etc. This week, challenge your students to apply their own design skills to create something useful. A wonderful activity that can effectively tie together the standards related to abilities is the creation of a “recycling center.” Try this:

1) Challenge your students to design the perfect recycling center for classroom or home use. Have them take into account the cost of production, location, traffic flow, use levels, cleanliness, volume and weight

of the materials, moisture, and any other important design issues.

2) Have your students clearly identify the skills and actions necessary to maintain and use the system on a regular basis in an efficient fashion.

3) Challenge your students to clearly state the impact of this recycling system — both positive and negative. Does it take up more space than it is worth? Does it block a door and create a fire hazard? Does it save money, protect the environment, raise awareness of environmental issues? This is just one example of an extended design activity — use it as a springboard for others that may be more exciting or more appropriate for your particular group.

SEVEN DESIGN TECHNOLOGIES NEXT WEEK!

Only one more Technological Literacy Update left that will provide an overview of the final seven of the ITEA's 20 Standards for Technological Literacy. Our next series, beginning in two weeks, will evaluate, in more depth, the seven technologies of the design world.

We hope you have enjoyed TLU this week and that it proves useful to you and your students. Try to find a moment to integrate some of this information into your daily routine with your students or family this week. Together, we can build a brighter future for students around the world by preparing them to use technology as naturally as they use a pencil and paper!

To find out more about our publication, email us at education@edventures.com §

Conferences

Date: January 16-19, 2002 ATIA 2002 Conference and Exhibition

Orlando, FL
Contact Information: Assistive Technology Industry Association, 526 Davis St., Ste 217, Evanston, IL 60201
Phone: 877-OUR-ATIA (877-687-2842)
Fax: 847-869-5689
E-mail: ATIA@northshore.net
Web site: www.ATIA.org

Date: January 24-26, 2002 Technology, Reading, and Learning Disabilities (TRL D) Conference

San Francisco, CA
Contact Information: Diane Frost, Educational Computer Conferences, Inc., 19 Calvert Ct, Piedmont, CA 94611
Phone: 888-594-1249
Fax: 570-594-1838
E-mail: program@trld.com
Web site: www.trld.com

Date: March 18-23, 2002 CSUN's 17th Annual International Conference: Technology and Persons with Disabilities

Los Angeles, CA
Contact Information: Center on Disabilities, California State University, Northridge, 18111 Nordhoff St., Bldg. 11, Ste 103, Northridge, CA 91330-8340
Phone: 818-677-2578
Fax: 818-677-4929
E-mail: ctrdis@csun.edu
Web site: www.csun.edu/cod/

Remember!!

The CEC Convention and Expo will be held on April 3-6, 2002 in NYC -- The Big Apple!
To get the latest information, visit their website at:
www.cec.sped.org

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College Preview Camp

Run in cooperation with the University of Washington's DO-IT program, Courage's College Preview Camp allows teens with disabilities to preview college life. Disabilities need not preclude anyone who has an interest in pursuing math, science or business-related fields in college from doing so. "Camp really opened my eyes to the many possibilities available to me - careers in technology from web page design to computing," said one recent camper. "I got to try a lot of technologies, like adaptive computer systems, and had fun, too."

In this camp program, campers learn and upgrade their Internet and computer skills. They also learn about college life, tour a local campus and visit with mentors - young people who have disabilities and who are currently in college. Their time is spent surrounded by people who encourage them to assume that college is in their future and that science and technology are fun. Campers use a variety of assistive technology, including voice recognition and voice output devices, large keyboards and trackballs. They also learn about other types of assistive technology, such as ways to control their environment using computer-controlled devices and remotes. No one would argue that assistive technology is important. However, giving purpose to technology is powerful and necessary. For many campers, this is their first opportunity to see what the future holds and what particular assistive or standard technology may increase their potential and opportunities. Assistive

technology not used in a purposeful way eventually will stay on the shelf unused.

Film School

Following College Preview Camp's large group programs in the morning, advanced campers may participate in Film School in the afternoons. Using modern digital video filming and editing techniques, the Film School campers work together to produce a film, then individually to produce their own unique films. Each film must be between three and five minutes in length, have a theme and incorporate a certain number of filming and editing techniques. The resulting films become part of the end-of-session festival, where awards are given.

While the tangible products of Film School are films and awards, the intangible result is the chance for teens to participate on a long-term project, manage time and resources, learn cooperation and practice working in an adult world. Many campers express an interest in pursuing a career in multimedia and filming after participating in this program.

Augmentative Communication Camp

Communication is extremely important in everyday living, work and school. When adolescents need to upgrade their skills with communication devices, this is the camp to attend. Summer camp counselors, speech pathologists and communication device technicians and consultants work with the campers to help them use their augmentative communication devices more effectively. Best of all, campers hone these skills while having

fun in a summer camp setting that is sensitive to their needs.

"My child learned more in one week at this camp than in two years at school" reported the parent of a recent camper. Barb Wollak, Director of the Augmentative Communication Camp, and a speech and language pathologist with St. Paul Schools, explained this outcome, "At camp, kids learn more than simply how to use augmentative communication devices; they also learn the power of communication. Campers become immersed in fun situations that encourage communication, like playing 'Who wants to be a millionaire?' and making a digital talking camp scrapbook. One parent told us that, following camp, her child no longer needs to be reminded to take his communication device with him; he now uses it without prompting in many situations."

HANDI-HAMS

Not just for teens, HANDI-HAMS is open to people of all ages. This program features two one-week camps in California and Minnesota where people who have physical and/or sensory impairments receive instruction that helps them get their amateur radio license. The program also provides a variety of instructional opportunities on other recreational technology, such as beginning or upgrading Internet skills.

Camps combine learning, fun, community

"All of these programs use technology to create a temporary community of friends, mentors and supporters," said Polland. "Fun is central to the campers' experiences, yet helping

young people grow up is woven into the fibers of these programs.”

Added Locke, “Exposure to technology through these camp experiences empowers these kids and adults to decide for themselves what technology they might wish to harness on their road to independent living and pursuit of their dreams.”

Act on it

Courage Camps programs run mostly during the summer. They’re available to people across the United States who meet eligibility guidelines on a first-come basis. For more information consult the Courage Camps Web site at <www.couragecamps.org> or phone 763-520-0504.

Courage Center is a nonprofit United Way organization that provides rehabilitation, enrichment, vocational, independent living and educational

services. Its mission is to empower people with physical disabilities to reach for their full potential in every aspect of life.

For more information, contact Courage Center, 3915 Golden Valley Road, Minneapolis, MN 55422; Phone 763-520-0520 or 888-8INTAKE; Fax 763-520-0577; Web site <www.courage.org>. §

A Note from RJ Cooper

I’m very excited about re-selling the TrackIR, a new head-tracking device...for only \$300! I’ve used this very successfully (and surprisingly) 4 times in the last month. I now can present this as a possibility whereas before, the other reflective head-tracking systems, costing app. \$2000, put a damper on recommending this

type of technology (no offense to anyone ;-).

I had thought I’d only run into a few people a year for whom this technology would be appropriate. I was surprised.

Bottom line: I *used* TrackIR *with* people, and...it works. And it works very nicely. Put it with our OnScreen, and wow! It’s very cool. Go to: <http://www.rjcooper.com/trackir> to check it out.

We’ll be doing the Mac software for them, which will (fingers crossed) be available early next year. Right now, it’s PC only.

RJ Cooper & Associates
Special Needs Technology Specialists
<http://www.rjcooper.com>
info@rjcooper.com
1-800-RJCooper §

DIRECTIONS on CD

A Comprehensive Assistive Technology Resource

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only
\$34.99

This month, we'd like to extend an extra special thank you to.....

*The Spurlino Foundation
Raytheon Systems' Repro Dept*

*Without their help this publication
wouldn't exist!*

God Bless...

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Past issues of their newsletter are available at <http://www.halftheplanet.org/departments/newsletter/index.html>

ONE ONE TIP

“Looking for a quick way to try out a negative-tilt keyboard? Just use rubber doorstops at the front of your keyboard to tilt it downward (away from you). This tilt tends to match the natural finger positions and reduces the effort needed to constantly lift them up. This works great with keyboards, number pads, trackballs, calculators, etc.

Don't forget, you'll probably need a taller wrist rest - or just use two on top of each other!

Dave Lafever, Rehabilitation Engineer
davelafever@engineer.com”

NEW BOOK

The One Handed Office Professional!

Tips on productivity, working with people, time management, goal setting and conquering those office machines, and thriving in the business world.

WITH ONE HAND!

By Lilly Walters

Speakers Bureau Executive, best selling author of seven books and One Handed Typist! Also the author of the One Hand Typing and Keyboarding Manual: With Personal Motivational Messages From Others Who Have Overcome! (Royal Publishing, 2000)

\$19.95, email us back if you would like to know more.

For the past issues for One Hand Typing and Keyboarding e-news, <http://www.aboutonehandtyping.com/eneews.html>

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opportunity, economic self-sufficiency and empowerment.

Your tax-deductible donation—no matter what amount—will substantially enhance our ability to maintain these programs! Please take a moment to fill out our online contribution form to pay by credit card. If you prefer to pay by check or money order, please forward your check to: HalfthePlanet Foundation, 1875 Eye Street, NW, 12th Floor, Washington, DC 20006. Thank you most sincerely for any support you can provide!

Past issues of this newsletter are available at <http://www.halftheplanet.org/departments/newsletter/index.html>.

We welcome comments and suggestions. To subscribe to this newsletter go to <http://www.halftheplanet.org> and enter your name and email address in the box on the lower-left side of the page. §



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