



ASSISTIVE TECH CONNECTIONS



JANUARY 2010

YOUR OWN TALKING BOOKS

USE POWERPOINT TO MAKE YOUR OWN TALKING BOOKS. BE CREATIVE! TAKE PICTURES WHEN YOU DO ACTIVITIES AS A GROUP. HIGHLIGHT EACH STUDENT DOING SOMETHING FOR WHICH HE/SHE CAN BE PROUD. MAKE SIMPLE SENTENCES TO GO WITH EACH PICTURE. HAVE FUN AND ADD NOISES, MUSIC, NARRATION TO YOUR PICTURES. NOW MAKE IT AVAILABLE TO BE READ TO ALL STUDENTS USING A FREE PROGRAM CALLED [POWERTALK](#). POWERTALK WILL READ ANY POWERPOINT SLIDES. YOU CAN ALSO ADD VOICE-OVER NARRATION BY YOU AND YOUR STUDENTS FROM WITHIN POWERPOINT ITSELF. DON'T FORGET TO MAKE SEVERAL PRINT VERSIONS SO THAT STUDENTS CAN READ THEM OFF-LINE!

LIFE SITE OF THE MONTH

[HTTP://TARHEELREADER.ORG](http://tarheelreader.org)

TAR HEEL READER IS A COLLECTION OF FREE, EASY-TO-READ, AND ACCESSIBLE BOOKS ON A WIDE RANGE OF TOPICS. THE BOOKS MAY BE DOWNLOADED AS SLIDE SHOWS IN POWERPOINT, IMPRESS, OR FLASH FORMAT. EACH BOOK CAN BE SPEECH ENABLED AND ACCESSED USING MULTIPLE INTERFACES, INCLUDING TOUCH SCREENS, THE INTELLIKEYS WITH CUSTOM OVERLAYS, AND 1 TO 3 SWITCHES. BE SURE TO PREVIEW THE BOOKS BEFORE YOU USE THEM WITH STUDENTS. SOME ARE APPROPRIATE FOR

OLDER STUDENTS OR ADULTS. THEY WELCOME SUBMISSIONS BY OTHERS AND WILL CHECK THEM OUT BEFORE ADDING THEM TO THE LIBRARY.

RESOURCE AND INCLUSION SITE OF THE MONTH

[HTTP://WWW.CAST.ORG/LEARNINGTOOLS/INDEX.HTML](http://www.cast.org/learningtools/index.html)

THIS SITE IS DESIGNED FOR USE BY MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN **WRITING SCIENCE REPORTS**. INCLUDED IN THE PROGRAM ARE TOOLS SUCH TEXT-TO-SPEECH SUPPORT, A DICTIONARY, A TRANSLATION TOOL, SENTENCE STARTERS, AND OTHER ONSCREEN ASSISTANCE. CHECK IT OUT!!

HERE'S ANOTHER LINK TO ASSIST WITH **SCIENCE CONCEPTS AND INSTRUCTION**.

[HTTP://WWW.CITED.ORG/INDEX.ASPX?PAGE_ID=148](http://www.cited.org/index.aspx?page_id=148)



THIS NEWSLETTER IS BEING PRODUCED AS A MEANS TO DISSEMINATE SOME OF THE COOL THINGS THAT ARE HAPPENING IN THE FIELD OF ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY. PLEASE FEEL FREE TO SHARE YOUR FAVORITE SITES AND TIPS BY EMAILING THEM TO NANCY YOUNG AT IISD SPECIAL EDUCATION. (NAYOUNG@IRVINGISD.NET)