

News Notes

A Newsletter for Teachers of Students with Significant
Cognitive Disabilities
Educational Equity for All



February 2016

Sensory Activities: Experiences to Improve Communication and Literacy

Perkins eLearning Webinar Series

A webcast featuring the expertise of Faye Gonzalez, a Teacher of the Visually Impaired as well as a Certified Orientation & Mobility Specialist. She explains the importance of pairing sensory activities and communication skills for more effective learning for children with visual and multiple disabilities.

<http://www.perkinselearning.org/scout/curriculum-students-multiple-disabilities>



Children with physical, developmental, and learning disabilities may be more susceptible to on- and offline risks, such as abduction, sexual exploitation, online predation, and cyberbullying. NetSmartz Workshop educates children ages 5-17 about these risks and teaches them effective strategies for protecting themselves. While NetSmartz resources were not created specifically for children with special needs, many of its materials employ the same teaching methods used with special needs children, such as role-playing, rhyme, and repetition.

<http://www.netsmartz.org/SpecialNeeds>

Safety Pledges using SymbolStix™

Teach the Internet and real-world safety rules with these modified NetSmartz safety pledges, developed with the help of the National Autism Association.

NetSmartz offers free, multimedia Internet safety presentations tailored for specific audiences — parents and communities, tweens, teens, and younger children. Our innovative presentations utilize the latest statistics, online resources, videos, and expert tips to educate, engage, and empower children and adults to be safer on- and offline

Abilities EXPO | The event for the disability community



Bay Area

November 18-20, 2016

Imagine everything you need, all under one roof! For more than 30 years, Abilities Expo has been the go-to source for the Community of people with disabilities, their families, seniors, veterans and healthcare professionals. Every event opens your eyes to new technologies, new possibilities, new solutions and new opportunities to change your life. Where else can you discover ability-enhancing products and services, play a few adaptive sports, learn new dance moves, attend informative workshops and only scratch the surface of what Abilities Expo has to offer? Register for free today.

<http://www.abilities.com/losangeles/>



Flocabulary For a limited time,
your school can get free access for all teachers
and staff for 60 days. That's twice as long as
our normal trial!

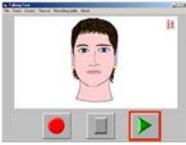
Flocabulary is a library of educational hip-hop videos, interactive activities and online assessments for students in grades K-12. Flocabulary songs, videos and exercises will help you meet Common Core objectives in ELA and math. And our engaging material for social studies and science supports interdisciplinary literacy practice.

<https://www.flocabulary.com/how-it-works/>

**EDUCATIONAL
EQUITY FOR ALL**
..... Giving kids what they need to succeed.

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FEATURED IDEA OF THE MONTH



Talking Faces

Another **free**, switch accessible program from Inclusive Technology.

Record your voice and hear it played back while a face animates! Whilst this has been done before in other contexts, we have made this stand-alone program freely available with the following features: 1) Choose from seven faces: Alien, Female, Male, Robot, Simple, Clown, Santa Claus. 2) One or two switch scanning, mouse or touchscreen and keyboard shortcuts. 3) Save the sound file to disc. 4) Set an automatic recording time out

<http://www.inclusive.co.uk/downloads/downloads.shtml#senswitcher>



Personal Safety Skills Empower and Protect People With Special Needs

Educational resources available

Our Child Protection books are inclusive of young people of all abilities and contain inspiring stories, clear examples, and step-by-step directions in how to use Kidpower's advocacy, intervention, and personal safety strategies and skills for both the general public and professionals:

- *The Kidpower Book for Caring Adults*, the most comprehensive guide available about personal safety self-protection, confidence, and advocacy for young people
- *How to Teach Self-Protection and Confidence Skills to Young People: Kidpower Introductory Guide for Parents and Teachers* – in English and in Spanish
- *Earliest Teachable Moment: Personal Safety for Babies, Toddlers, and Preschoolers*
- *Bullying: What Adults Need to Know and Do to Keep Kids Safe*
- *Relationship Safety Skills Handbook* to teach teens and adults how to be safe from interpersonal, dating, and domestic violence
- *Kidpower Child Protection Advocates Training Workbook*

<https://www.kidpower.org/who-we-serve/special-needs>

ALTERNATIVE AND AUGMENTATIVE COMMUNICATION

Benefits of AAC systems for children with autism spectrum disorder

These systems can help children with ASD and their families in the following ways:

- They can be **an effective way for children to learn early words** because they put a spoken word together with a picture or gesture that represents that word – for example, saying 'apple' and holding a picture of an apple.
- They can **improve children's understanding of words**. This is because speech on its own can be very quick, whereas a visual image is more lasting.
- Using a visual prompt can **encourage children to make eye contact** by gaining their attention. Eye contact is a key part of communication and often needs to be taught to children with ASD.

http://raisingchildren.net.au/articles/asd_augmentative_communication.html

WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

<http://www.havefunteaching.com/>

<http://www.talktools.net/>

<http://www.ddssafety.net>



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



ASCD myTeachSource

[ASCD myTeachSource™](http://myteachsource.ascd.org/Default.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2f) is a new online professional learning platform that is organized around classroom-focused topic packs designed to help teachers find quick solutions to issues that interest them. Start your free trial today.

<http://myteachsource.ascd.org/Default.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2f>



GoNoodle's short desk-side physical activities help teachers manage their classroom and improve student performance.

Channel kid energy and stimulate learning Without leaving the classroom, students participate in a variety of purposeful movement designed to get the wiggles out and refocus the classroom — all in five minutes or less. <https://www.gonoodle.com>