



Edition 45

Editor's Desk

Dear friends,

As the year ends and we look back at the year gone, this quote makes sense to me -

Some people **want it** to happen,

Some **wish it** would happen,

Others **make it** happen

- Michael Jordan

Wishing you all a very Happy New Year !!

Happy Reading!!

Regards,

Bhavna Botta

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Kobi Helps Your Child to Read!

Originally published at Access and Inclusion Through Technology News

<https://www.closingthegap.com/kobi-helps-your-child/>

Kobi is a dyslexia friendly iOS / Android app, designed to help your child learn to read faster. It is carefully crafted for children who experience reading difficulties.

Why Kobi

Kobi is here to help with the decoding. Personalized reading form with coloured letters instantly improves readability, resulting in a better reading rate and accuracy. Success motivates children to read more and more, which leads to fluent reading and better comprehension.

Reading is not easy. Children who experience reading difficulties like Dyslexia end up being frustrated and stressed. And this is exactly why we created Kobi, an app that helps children to read.

Why Colour helps

In order to read, a child needs to recognise letter shapes instantly and accurately.

Perfect formatting

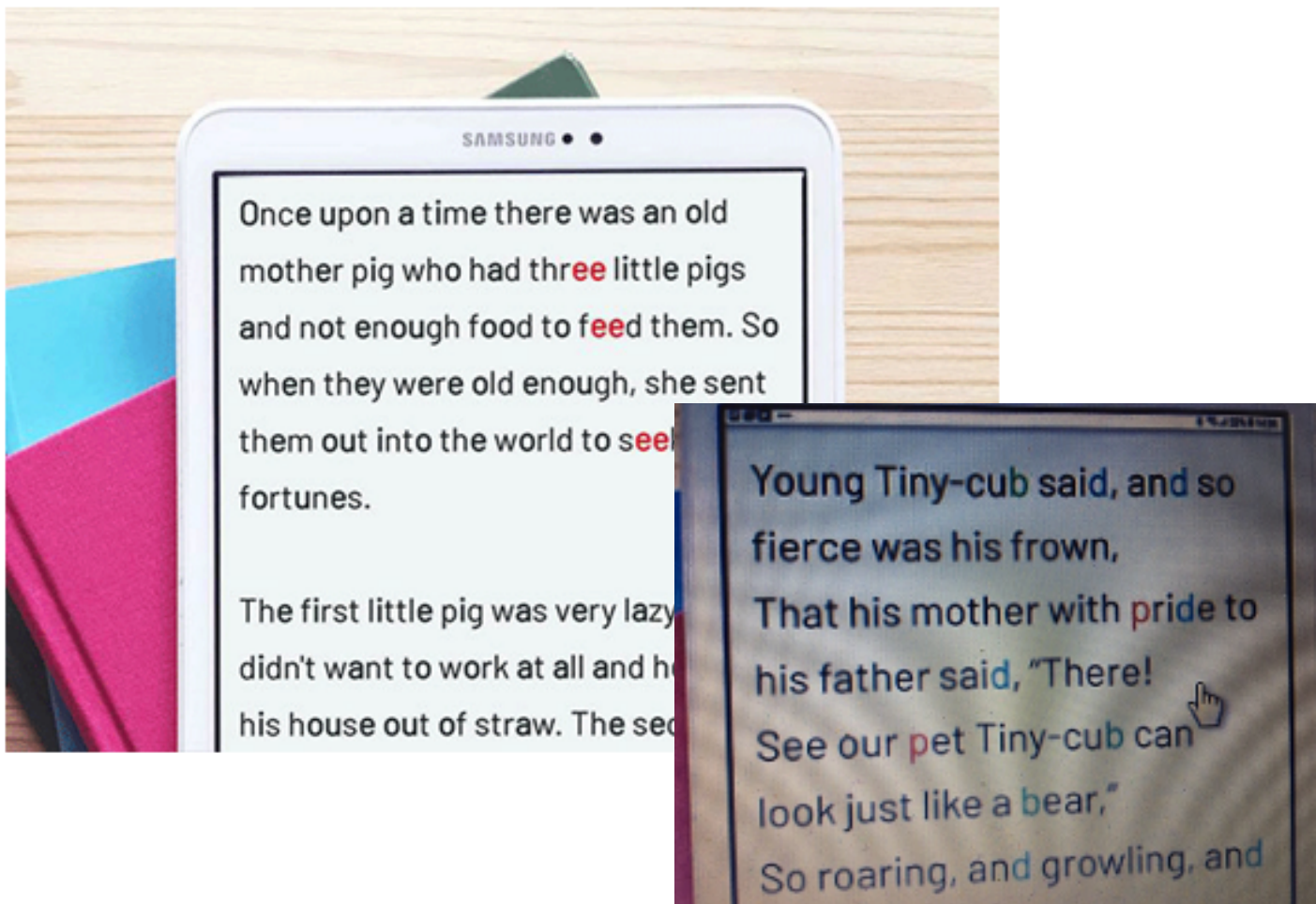
Many children have great difficulty automating the correct recognition of similar shapes. Colour helps the brain to distinguish letters faster and the child is able to progress

better.

Visual support

Deconstructing long strings of letters is a difficult job. By actually seeing accentuated vocals, your child understands where to hold the voice. In this way he or she intuitively recognises the syllables and can adjust the rhythm of reading to a comfortable pace.

Read any book in any language with KOBI. Simply import your own PDF, TXT or EPUB files and get started reading right away, Kobi is Powered by Google OCR



From The Heart

Meet Mrs. Simy TA ,Head of Department of Physiotherapy, Vidya Sagar who has returned from a three week International Visitors Leadership Program .

Simi, tell us about this program

The Bureau of the Educational and Cultural Affairs fosters mutual understanding between the United States and the other countries through International educational, professional and Cultural exchanges. This promotes personal, professional and institutional ties between private citizens and organisations in the United States and abroad, and presents US history, society, art and culture in all of its diversity to the audience. This program organised by the United States Department of State is the International Visitors Leadership Program. This was administered by a non profit organization, Meridian International Centre , which is dedicated towards promoting the exchange of people, ideas and the arts.

The US consulate in Chennai invites application from different individuals and organisations towards this program and I had applied through Vidya Sagar. The theme for this visit was " Disability Rights- Equal Access for All" and was conducted from 16 November 2019.

Interesting and congratulations for getting selected ,who were the others who got selected .

There were total of 6 participants, two from India, two from Nepal and one each from Bangladesh and Pakistan. The other participant from India was Mr. Saheb Sharma, who is a person with Visual Impairment and he is the founder Director of Internet Radio Bong O Net, which is 6 years old and is run by team who are visually impaired. Ms. Ashrafun Nahar, from Bangladesh, is the founder- Director of Women with Disability, with focus on education, employment and empowerment of women with disability in Bangladesh. Ms. Samridhi from Nepal was an inclusion specialist, working for the inclusion of ageing population, and Mr. Bimal Pou del is the Project coordinator for the National Federation of the disabled. Mr. Amin Amir Ali, from Pakistan, External Engagement Manager of NOWPDP.

Wow ,what a team ! You must have had a great time .

The whole program was conducted in four different states- Washington DC, Florida, Boston and Denver. In Washington DC, the program started with a city tour, visiting Washington's monuments and points of political, historical and Cultural interest. Places included Lincoln memorial, Roosevelt memorial, Pillar of Despair, White House building. We attended an opening plenary session of the American University Centers on Disabilities annual conference, where speakers were Haben girma, Maria Hernandez and Maria Town.

There was an introductory session with the program officers of the US Department of State and Meridian International. Following days, meetings were arranged with President of the Smart Growth Leadership Institute, US Access Board, Director of Advocacy and Government Affairs at the American Council of the Blind, Department of Justice, Department of Labor, US Department of the State.

In Florida, we spend three days in Orlando and three days in Jacksonville. We had meetings in National entrepreneur center, Light house central, Central Florida Disability Chamber of commerce all Non profit organization working in different aspects of people with Disability.

In Jacksonville, visited Jacksonville's Disabled Services Division which works on accessibility issues such as transportation, employment, housing, recreation and other areas. We had an opportunity to visit Florida Service Dogs inc. founded and directed by Veterans, which is also a non profit working on education, Advocacy, and professional training of service Animals. We also made a visit to Arc Village which is an independent living unit which has about 40 houses single and double bedrooms for people with physical and cognitive impairments.



The team with US Department officials

Oh ,lot of learning experiences I guess, hope you have some fun moments .

We were lucky to have had the wonderful experience in the magic kingdom in Disney world. Most of the rides were accessible for the wheelchair users as well as people with Visual Impairment. One day we went to Jacksonville beach, where accessible beach wheelchair was provided for wheelchair users and all the participants could enjoy playing in beach.

After Florida, the group moved to Boston. There we met with a non profit working with youth with Disability, that focuses mainly on peer mentorship program, executive office of health and human services to know how the government funds flow to different NGOs.A center for Independent living and Perkins School for the blind are other organizations in Boston that we visited. In Perkins we spend some time in the library looking at the audio books and brailers.

Next city we visited was Denver. The first meeting was with Colorado cross Disability coalition, where people with various Disabilities work and



The team at Perkins School, exploring the library for people with visual impairment

does lot of Advocacy trainings and empowerment. We went to Colorado University to look at the Assistive technology department where they showed us different assistive technology devices kept in the library. This included communication devices as well as devices for daily living. We got to see the seating clinic where people go for wheelchair Seating and Positioning assessment to get the adaptation designed for they seating device. They also had a research unit where rehab engineers work on their inventions.

We visited the Colorado Olympic and Paralympic training center and had a tour of the campus, and spend some time with Paralympic judo participants sharing their experiences in the training center as well as competitions. On the last day, we visited Adaptive Adventures, where they run lot of adapted adventure events like cycling, wall climbing, ice and water sports with variety of adapted equipments.

Our last meeting was with a theater group who works with cross Disability group on stage. All of their performers are persons with mild to severe impairments.

What was your personal learning and how do you want to take it forward

My personal experience, as a first timer in the United States, was that I found physical access to public spaces and buildings were awesome, the attitude people have towards Disability, the inclusion of PWDs, equal opportunity and all rules by the American Disability Act were strictly followed by the citizens.

The concepts of independent living and group homes, are similar to the concepts seen in our country. Many organizations are still working on Advocacy of PWDs, their empowerment and education. The issues of unemployment is quiet a big problem in the United States as well.

What about your experience with the team members

We had multiple discussions with the co participants and we shared our experience in the field that we work in. Other participants didn't know much about Cerebral palsy,so it was informative for them to know about our school and the kind of work we do.

India seemed to be at a little better position than Nepal and Bangladesh in the kind of work happening on the side of Advocacy,education, empowerment and medical rehabilitation aspects.

Augmentative and Alternative Communication and the assistive devices seemed new to the other participants, partly also because they do not personally work with the particular group of people who are in need of it.

Personally I feel we should look more at sports and adaptive adventures for persons with any type of Disability to participate and maintain their physical and emotional health intact.

Download the **FREE Whiteboard Wizard** app & your low vision students can magnify the **Whiteboard**

Originally published at Access and Inclusion Through Technology News

<https://yourdolphin.com/news?id=463>



Introducing the new Whiteboard Wizard – a free app that making screen sharing simple.

A free download for teachers and trainers, the Whiteboard Wizard makes screen sharing with your partially sighted students effortless. Importantly, it also makes withdrawing that access just as simple; so teachers can be confident that students don't see anything that they shouldn't!

Try the Whiteboard Wizard for:

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- Optional password security

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