

News Notes

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



March 2019

Tactual Book Kit Directions

In order to foster literacy learning for students who are blind or who are deaf-blind, they need to have access to a changing assortment of accessible books. The books described below have been brailled and adapted with tactuals and are currently being used by students with deaf-blindness in North Carolina model classrooms. All directions contain a materials shopping list and page-by-page directions that includes photographs. The books themselves need to be purchased separately.

All downloadable handouts reference the North Carolina Extensions from the Standard Course of Study addressed within each activity. The below books are appropriate for all students, but have been specifically adapted for students with the most significant disabilities, including deaf-blindness.

Plants-Science & Surroundings Kit

- [Let's Do Plants](#)
- [A Person or a Plant?](#)
- [Shop Til You Drop](#)

Life Cycles-Birth & Beyond Kit

- [The Life Cycle of a Butterfly](#)
- [I Made a Frog](#)

Recycling-Cash in the Trash Kit

- [Snowballs in the Desert](#)
- [Down in the Dumps](#)
- [Can It!](#)

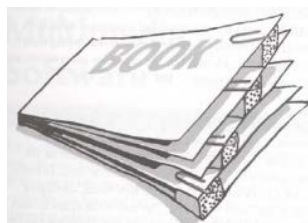
<https://goo.gl/PiFQKo>



Ways to Fluff Pages in a Book

Page fluffers are simple adaptations made to books or other reading material that make pages more accessible to turn. A “fluffer” is glued, taped, or clipped to the corner of each page. The “fluffer” puts spaces between each page allowing those with limited fine motor skills to get their fingers between each page. Pages fluffers are helpful in fostering independent literacy skills.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Beads | 16. Packing popcorn |
| 2. Carpet padding | 17. Paper clip |
| 3. Corks | 18. Pipe cleaner |
| 4. Cosmetic sponge wedges | 19. Plastic washers |
| 5. Ethafoam | 20. Poker chips |
| 6. Foam curler | 21. Pom poms |
| 7. Foam sheets | 22. Puffy paint dots |
| 8. Hot glue drop | 23. Rubber faucet washers |
| 9. Kitchen scrubber | 24. Rubber stoppers |
| 10. Large buttons | 25. Shoe liner |
| 11. Legos | 26. Small eraser |
| 12. Magnet | 27. Sponge pieces |
| 13. Marble | 28. Suction darts |
| 14. Miniature koosh ball cut in half | 29. Tiles |
| 15. Non skid liner | 30. Velcro dots |
| | 31. Washer |
| | 32. Water bottle cap |



An example of a book that has been modified with page fluffers made from paper clips, tag board and foam. Taken from Purcell & Grant (2004).



Page fluffers are placed on the top of the first page, a little bit lower on the second page, lower on the third page and so on. When you reach the bottom of the page you start over at the top of the next page.

<https://www.unr.edu/ndsip/tipsheets/pagefluffers.pdf>

FEATURED IDEA OF THE MONTH



Inflatable Clever Catch Ball Toss 'n Talk-Farm Animal Sounds

Farm Animal Sounds Clever Catch  Toss 'n Talk  Toss 'n Talk is a favorite among math students!

The children toss the 24" ball (no latex) around in a circle and the jolt of catching the ball, signals a voice module to call out an animal sound..... The sounds heard on the farm are: Dog, Cat, Chicken, Rooster, Pig, Cow, Turkey, Horse, Donkey, Sheep, Duck and the Farmer!Children then look for one of 12 animals to match the sound! How fun is this for early learners!..... Simple watch battery is included and is replaceable at your local retail store.

Hiyah Free Software Listing

The programs are completely free and easily installed / uninstalled. The Download versions are made to run on Microsoft Windows compatible operating systems. The Play Online version works on Macs or PCs.



Free Software for Children who want to use the computer but can't yet use a mouse

The programs are based on high interest subjects, such as nursery rhymes, holidays, and birthday themes. The software keeps children engaged and actively learning. And for children with limited language skills, my programs can help give meaning to words and concepts. Holidays, birthdays, going to the doctor, dentist, or getting a haircut, are all broken down into sequential steps to thoroughly explain the event.

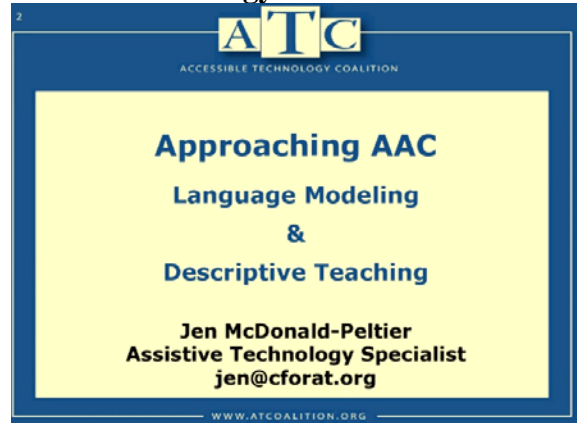
This educational software is made for children 18 months to 6 years of age (or higher for children struggling with language delays due to autism or other causes).

Download vs. Play Online: If you are using a PC running MS-Windows and you are on a computer that you are allowed to download to, Download is clearly the best option. The program will have a much higher resolution, the speed and animations will be better, and the program is on your own PC to use whenever you wish. If you are on a school computer that does not allow downloads or you are using a Mac, the Play Online option is the best alternative for you. It will have a much lower resolution and the animations are somewhat distorted. Download and Play online are BOTH FREE.

<http://www.hiyah.net/software.html>

ALTERNATIVE AND AUGMENTATIVE COMMUNICATION

Free Assistive Technology Webinars



<https://goo.gl/Eo4zew>

WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

<https://goo.gl/LDZ3rj>

<https://goo.gl/rgm4Pq>

<https://goo.gl/y4upeK>



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

11 CSUN (California State University at Northridge Conference)
MAR

34th CSUN Conference

March 11 to March 15, 2019

Anaheim Marriott
Anaheim, CA 92802

<https://goo.gl/tZjfjV>

13 A Guide to IEPs and the Special Education Process – English
MAR

Molina Health Care

550 East Hospitality Lane, Suite 100, San Bernardino, CA
Presented in Spanish 9-11am; English 12-2pm
Please RSVP: 909-890-1259

Virtual Conference

Mar. 12-14

Register for 30+ Free Sessions. Earn Credit.

<https://goo.gl/xkYZY8>



WHAT ARE VISUAL SPATIAL RELATIONS AND WHY ARE THEY IMPORTANT?

The ability to determine spatial relationships is important in everyday tasks at school and at home. You need to interpret what it means to stand first in a line”, “sit in front of Johnny” or “put the pencil on top of the paper”. If you have difficulty perceiving spatial relationships it can affect your motor skills, body awareness, problem solving, activities of daily living and your overall performance in school. <https://goo.gl/ZJiyXR>