News Notes

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

November 2018

InfoUse, in cooperation with **NASA,** presents:

PLANE Math

"An Internet-Based Curriculum on Math and Aeronautics for Children with Physical Disabilities" which was funded through a cooperative agreement with NASA. The genesis of this project is based around two issues. The first issue came from an awareness that, around the 4th grade, current mathematics curricula are highly reliant on students' ability to use manipulables such as paper and pencil, calculators, or three-dimensional geometric models. Children with disabilities that affect their ability to manipulate objects (cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, specific hand/arm conditions, etc.) and who therefore find it difficult or impossible to use such manipulables are clearly at an academic disadvantage. The second issue came from the realization that physically disabled children may not consider or be prepared for career possibilities in aeronautics or the importance of mathematics in pursuing these careers.

http://www.planemath.com/

READING BEAR

Reading Bear is a collection of **free**, well-made, multimedia phonics presentations. Your child can learn to **read** with **Reading** Bear.
www.readingbear.org/

The Free Reading Program

The Free Reading Program is a free online literacy program. The program serves children and improves literacy through fundamental skills reinforcement activities. Students can begin learning at any level and progress when they feel confident. We want students to gain the confidence and skills they need to be successful and motivated readers.

The Free Reading Program is a robust Kindergarten to Grade 6 online learning program. 266 learning units and over 3600 interactive learning activities are designed to engage young learners and instill confidence through a quiz and success based teaching approach.

Our curriculum was originally designed by literacy experts for use in schools. The activities are based on leading educational research and the most thoroughly proven and effective teaching practices. The original content and software was developed by Essential Skills Software to run on personal computers.

http://freereadingprogra ABC Fast Phonics - learn to read online. Fun for kids or adults.

ABC Fast Phonics

www.abcfastphonics.com/about.html

Engage and Interact

Choose engaging and interesting activities that give the AAC user motivation to communicate. Create opportunities for communication. Model on the AAC system during conversations and everyday interactions. Communication happens when we are engaged and interested.
https://www.assistiveware.com/learn-aac/engage-and-interact

Five Topics to Explore Using Google Earth's Voyager

Google recently unveiled an updated version of Google Earth with a feature called Voyager, which is a showcase of guided tours, intended to curate your experience with the platform.

Nature

You can look at habitats from around the world, including mountains, jungles, and their unique wildlife with Natural Treasures from BBC Earth. Jane Goodall hosts a tour in the Gombe National Park in Tanzania, where she talks about her team's chimpanzee research and conservation efforts, another great resource for educators studying biology, anthropology, ecology, and more.

Cultures

Interested in learning about indigenous cultures and their imprint on the earth? Sesame Street is participating with its Girl Muppets Around the World which includes such cultures as the Mayans. This is Home is a feature of Voyager that allows you to journey into traditional homes from cultures around the world and will be regularly updated.

Geography

Using Google Earth to investigate Earth's structures, formations, and land masses is easy, as nearly all locations are surveyed, mapped, and can even be searched with coordinates. Certain themes feature unique geographic locations. Earth View is a Voyager tour where you can explore a collection of the most striking and enigmatic landscapes available in Google Earth.

History

PBS Explorers offers a variety of Voyager tours for Google Earth, including Age of Encounter, which lets you follow six bold navigators as they open the globe to exploration and claim territory for European empires. Lost Civilizations from Above gives a bird's eye view of ruins and ancient structures that exist to this day. These themes feature historical information and images, and provide a virtual tour of where the history took place.
https://goo.gl/rG1Nkx

ALTERNATIVE AND AUGMENTATIVE COMMUNICATION

Presume competence

We should always presume competence for a person with communication difficulties. Presuming competence affects how we make choices around AAC, and how we provide opportunities and access to words, communication functions and the alphabet. Presuming competence also means that there are no prerequisite skills or age requirements to start using AAC. When you start your AAC journey, the first step is presuming competence.

https://www.assistiveware.com/learn-aac/presume-competence

WEBSITES AND RESOURCES
https://www.playworks.org
https://goo.gl/rRacW5
http://www.eds-resources.com/edexc.htm

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
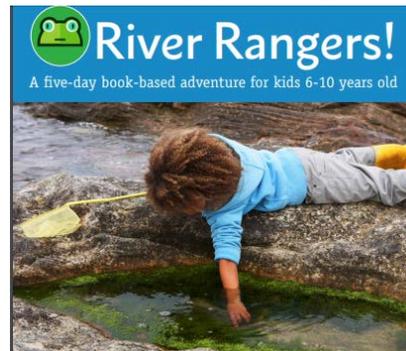Diagnostic Center, Southern California

11/6/2018 8:30-2:30
A-2 Evidence-Based Practices for Students with Moderate-Severe ASD *Presenter:* Margot Johnson
Downey/Montebello SELPA, RCC Region 11
Geri Townsend
(562) 461-8702
Townsend_Geri@lacoe.edu

Start with a Book Read. Talk. Explore!

River Rangers!
A five-day book-based adventure for kids 6-10 years old

River Rangers! A book-based science adventure

Explore, read, play, invent, build and learn — all about water and the rivers and streams in your community

River Rangers Toolkit: National Version
This version of River Rangers includes all of the topics, book recommendations, hands-on activities, STEM vocabulary, writing ideas, links to kid-friendly websites and apps, and appendix materials. https://goo.gl/65dowU