

AT / FYI . . . ©

**Volume 17, Issue 7 MN Regions 5 & 7 Assistive Technology Committee
March 2015**

Region AT Representatives

Sponsored by MN Regions 5 & 7

Benton-Stearns—Kelly Peterson

Buffalo—Shannon Steffens

Elk River—No representative

Freshwater—Eric Weber

Little Falls—Jeannie McKee

MAWSECO—Shawna Moe

Mid-State—Ashley Thompson

Group Facilitator & Editor—Barb Lhotka

Paul Bunyan—Margaret Knebel

Regional Low Incidence Facilitator—Mary
Ruprecht

Rum River—Jenny Groess

St Cloud—Barbara Commers/Pamela Moening

SCRED—Connie Sim

Sherburne-Northern Wright—Joran Swedzinski

West Central—Cindy Ostrander

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Calendar of Events

2014-2015 REGIONAL MEETINGS

Benton-Stearns Ed District Office, Sartell MN

9:00 A.M. – 11:30 P.M.

September 16—Models of Service for AT; Components of an AT Program

October 7—AT in Due Process—Consideration/Assessment/IEP

November 5—Accessibility: Word, PPT, PDF; Switches and Bluetooth

December 3—Resource Lists: Website/Apps; Tools Used in AT

January 7—Resource Lists: Website/Apps; Tools Used in AT

February 4—Resource Lists: Website/Apps; Tools Used in AT

March 4—Resource Lists: Website/Apps; Tools Used in AT; Planning for 2015-16

April 1—Resource Lists: Website/Apps; Tools Used in AT

May 6—Google, Chrome, Dropbox, Wiki

32nd ANNUAL CLOSING THE GAP CONFERENCE

Minneapolis MN

Pre-Conference Sessions: October 13-14, 2014

Conference Sessions: October 15-17, 2014

CHARTING THE CS CONFERENCE

Arrowwood, Alexandria, MN

Pre-Conference Sessions: April 25-26, 2015

Conference Sessions: April 27-28, 2015

AT Information: Listservs

AT Listserv

The AT Listserv is a wonderful resource for educators who work with students who use technology for learning. Members ask questions, share information, and discuss topics that are relevant to our day-to-day work with students ages birth through 21.

How to Join: To subscribe, visit <https://webmail.mnet.state.mn.us/mailman/listinfo/assistive-tech> or send a message with the word “help” in it to the request address, assistive-tech-request@lists.statemn.us for further instructions.

To Post on the Listserv: Send message to assistive-tech@lists.state.mn.us. Complete the subject line identifying the topic of your post. Type your message and send it. Remember confidentiality when posting!

QIAT Listserv

The Quality Indicators for Assistive Technology (QIAT—pronounced quiet) listserv is a place to share resources, questions ideas, and problem-solving in an on-going email discussion (there are archives and a website of resources to assist you, too). To sign up, go to the following website <http://qiat.org> and follow the links to join the listserv.

Lots of Random Resources

At the March 4, 2015, Regions 5 & 7 Assistive Technology Community of Practice meeting, there were many resources shared. This newsletter contains the resources discussed. There are no special topics, no recommendations, just discussion items. Please investigate further those that apply to your caseload.

Access to Independence

Michelle L. Lange, OTR/L, ABDA, ATP/SMS, has a website that features many of the handouts from her trainings. On the list of available materials are:

- Positioning Chart (seating challenges and solutions)
- Complex Rehab Power Wheelchair Electronics Comparison Chart
- Indoor Power Mobility Chart
- Outdoor Power Mobility Chart
- Pre-mobility Training Guidelines
- Mobility Training Guidelines
- Multifunction Electronic Aids to Daily Living Comparison Chart (switch/remote environmental control)
- Basic Electronic Aids to Daily Living (updated)
- Telephones, Personal Emergency Response Systems (PERS), and Pagers
- Adaptive Toys Handout
- Mounting Chart
- Computer Access Hierarchy (recently updated)

Source: www.atilange.com

Boardmaker Curriculum: Expedition Education and Book Bridge

“**Boardmaker Expedition Education** is a rigorous academic curriculum, designed to transform students with special needs in 3rd grade and higher into readers, writers, and thinkers.” Source: www.spectronics.com.au/product/boardmaker-expedition-education/print

“**Boardmaker Book Bridge** is a curriculum to help students with special needs meet modern academic standards for reading, writing, and vocabulary development through grade level literature.” Source: www.spectronics.com.au/product/boardmaker-book-bridge/print

Boardmaker Training

The Boardmaker Online Help and Training website includes many resources for Boardmaker users. There are sections that include: articles on getting started, tutorials, how-to-videos, implementation ideas, an online user’s guide, and community forums. Source: <http://helpandtraining.boardmakeronline.com/>

Bookshare Web Reader

Bookshare Web Reader is a way for individual membership holders to use an internet browser and a screen reader to download and read books online in the browser. Font size and color can be adjusted. The accessibility features of Chrome are recommended for the browser. Source: www.bookshare.org

Funding for iPads

There are a variety of sources for funding iPads for use with individual students or with classroom groups. The iTaalk Autism Foundation website lists resources in seven areas for funding iPads. Source: <http://www.itaalk.org/#!/ways-to-get-an-ipad/c20r1>

iPads in Special Education

The NSSEo Wiki features a long list of resources regarding iPads. The topics include:

- iPads and the SETT Process
- iPad Management (process to check them out)
- iPad Tips and Tricks
- iPads as AAC
- Apps, Apps, and More Apps!
- iPad Accessories
- iPads in Physical and Occupational Therapy

Source: <http://ipads.nsseo.wikispaces.net/iPads+and+the+SETT+Process>

Keyboard Connector for the iPad

If you want to use an external, non-blue tooth, USB keyboard with an iPad, consider using a USB Camera Connection Kit. “The USB-to-Dock connector that ships as part of Apple’s iPad Camera Connection Kit doesn’t just work with cameras. Early reports say that it will also let you hook up a USB keyboard.” Source: www.wired.com

Microscope Accessibility

Students with physical or visual disabilities often have great difficulty accessing a standard microscope. One solution is to use a small LCD screen or connect the screen to a larger monitor. This can be done with the Celestron USB Microscope or the PentaViewLCD Digital Microscope. Source: www.celestron.com/browse-shop/microscopes



Pic Collage

Free on iTunes, this app allows you to put together collages. You can import photos, edit with touch gestures, use special effects, add borders, make frames, add backgrounds, etc. There are teacher and parent controls in the app. Source: <https://itunes.apple.com/gb/app/pic-collage-photo-video-text/id448639966?mt=8>

PicMonkey Collage Maker

“PicMonkey is a free photo editor that works in your browser—nothing to download or install.” Templates are used to make cards, collages, etc. Source: www.picmonkey.com/collage

QIAT List Serv Resource Bank

The QIAT List Serv is a very valuable resource to all of us. QIAT also has a website where individuals can upload documents that may be helpful to colleagues in the field of assistive technology. The uploads are

NOT in alphabetical order or by topic, but are listed by posting date—so searching takes time. Some of the items on the resource page include:

- Evaluation of Student for Speech Recognition
- Social Narrative Apps Comparison Chart
- Tally Baseline
- Comprehensive Switch Tally Data
- Object-Photo-Icon Data
- Keyboarding Student Log
- Data Collection Templates
- Speech Recognition as AT for Writing: A Guide for K-12 Education
- Assistive Technology Flow Chart
- Assistive Technology Plan (documents what has been tried and the effectiveness)
- Request for Assistive Technology Assistance
- Assistive Technology Procedures for IEP Teams
- AT Consideration and Process for IEP Teams
- iOS Word Prediction Apps Comparison Chart

Source: <http://qiat.org/resource-bank.html>

Squatty Potty

This device is useful for students with issues of constipation, irritable bowel, straining, etc. This tool is a footrest that positions the feet and legs of the person when using the toilet. The idea is to position the body at a precise angle to assist in faster and more complete elimination. \$35.00 Source:

<http://squattypotty.com/>

App of the Month

Voice Dream Writer by Voice Dream LLC

\$9.99 on iTunes

You may have used Voice Dream Reader, but now there is a new app called Voice Dream Writer. “Text-to-speech proofreading reduces mistakes, phonetic and meaning search help you use the right words, and an active outline helps you organize and improve the structure of your writing.”

“Voice Dream Writer reads your writing using text-to-speech, so you can easily spot awkward sentences, grammatical errors and typos. Also, it can read words and sentences as you type or voice dictate. This way, you can type faster because you no longer have to look up to check the text you just wrote.”