

## Effective Technologies and Strategies for Maximum K-12 Independence

Bridgette Nicholson  
Occupational Therapist  
Assistive Technology  
Consultant

[www.powerofatech.info/2020wrotss](http://www.powerofatech.info/2020wrotss)



Bridgette Nicholson OTR/L  
Occupational Therapist  
Assistive Technology Consultant

OT and AT over 33 years

Excited about new technology and the  
opportunities it creates for all children!

AT support for presentations  
[www.powerofatech.info/](http://www.powerofatech.info/)

AT writing evaluation  
[typingtraining.com](http://typingtraining.com)  
Provided to attendees

Loving my young adult kids stage, addicted to  
outdoors, long bike rides, kayaking, camping,  
hiking, the beach!, friends and laughter.



## Today:

Collaboration  
and  
Discussion

Movement  
and Flexible  
Positions

YOU?



## Research and Supporting Information

### Supporting Information and References for Presentations

By Bridgette Nicholson, Occupational Therapist/Assistive Technology Consultant  
[www.powerofatech.info/](http://www.powerofatech.info/)

001	Supported eText: Effects of Text-to-Speech on Access and Achievement for High School Students with Disabilities. 2009. Izzo, M. V., Yurick, A., & McAnett, B. Journal of Special Education Technology, Vol.24, Issue 3. <a href="http://www.nate-network.org/resources">http://www.nate-network.org/resources</a>
002	NATE NETWORK - Connecting Assistive Technology Specialists in Education Assistive Technology Research Summary <a href="http://www.nate-network.org/resources">http://www.nate-network.org/resources</a>
003	NAEP assessments <a href="http://www.nepiassessment.org/">http://www.nepiassessment.org/</a>
004	Overview of Assistive Technology Research <a href="http://www.nate-network.org/resources">http://www.nate-network.org/resources</a>
005	Handwriting Movement Documentation for the Rehabilitation of Dysgraphia <a href="http://www.accessibility.com/resources/2011/11/11/2011110500434.htm">http://www.accessibility.com/resources/2011/11/11/2011110500434.htm</a>

<https://www.powerofatech.info/links>



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CONTENTS		
<b>I</b> NTRODUCTION & OVERVIEW	<b>S</b> Ocial EMOTIONAL	<b>A</b> CADEMICS
	Engagement	Reading
<b>M</b> OTOR FUNCTIONING	Motivation and Confidence	Writing
Multisensory learning		
Rhythm, sound and movement	<b>E</b> XECUTIVE FUNCTIONING	
Flexible seating	Multimedia Learning	<b>T</b> RANSITION
Mobility and Stability		
Physical Access		<b>D</b> ATA & PROGRESS MONITORING

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## OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY in K12 environments

Roles and Responsibilities  
Evidence Based Implementation



**COLLABORATION**



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## MOTOR FUNCTIONING



**Sensory needs**  
**Multisensory learning**  
**Rhythm, sound, movement**  
**Flexible seating**  
**Mobility and Stability**  
**Coordination**  
**Endurance**  
**Muscle tone**  
**Strength**


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## MOTOR FUNCTIONING

Motor readiness and availability for learning

Access to equipment and environment

Assistive Technology



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## Multisensory learning



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**Rhythm  
Sound  
Movement  
Vision  
Patterns  
Repetition**



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## Rhythm and Music Motor Activities



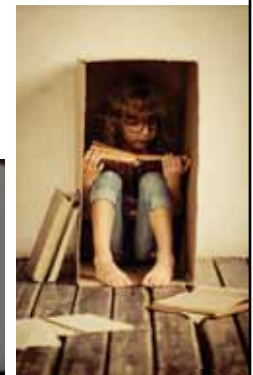
### Music for rhythm activities

[Los Minions Electronica](#)  
[Bongo Cat plays "Havana" ft. Toy Chicken](#)  
[Crazy frog](#)  
[Robot Little - Incoming Call](#)  
[Hippo jungle song](#)  
[Madagascar 2](#)  
[The Bare Necessities](#)  
[J.Geco - Chicken Song](#)  
[The Crazy Frogs - The Ding Dong Song](#)  
[Roller babies gangnam style](#)  
[Minions - papaya \(electronica\)](#)  
[Animoji We Will Rock You](#)  
[Tones And I - Dance Monkey](#)



## Flexible seating

Creative positioning   Alternate postures  
Dynamic postures





## Flexible seating



### Benefits and reasons

- Sensory and movement
- Sensory diet or program
- Physical comfort
- Motor needs
- Posture, positioning
- Endurance
- Habituation
- Social and Interaction
- Collaboration
- Informal versus formal
- Student choice and control
- Behavior
- More options for alternate methods of work
- Highly individual, reduced isolation of individual students with unique needs
- Developing healthy work habits



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## Flexible seating

### Group vs. Individual options

#### Adding sensory options

- Theraband
- Bungee
- Weighted pads and animal beanbags
- Slings
- Swings
- Slant boards
- Alternate or therapeutic seating
- Weighted fidget tools



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## MOTOR FUNCTIONING and ACCESSIBILITY

### High Incidence Ss



### Low Incidence Ss



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## Accessibility

### Physical control and access

- Technology
- Communication
- Learning
- Materials
- Environment
- Socialization



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## Accessibility



Mac computers  
Windows Computers  
Handheld devices



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## Accessibility

**Seating and Positioning:**  
Describe Seating and Positioning:

☐ Height adjustable table ☐ Wrist rest  
☐ Inflatable wedge for seating ☐ Arm support  
☐ Memory foam wedge for seating ☐ Keyguard  
☐ Flexible or alternate positioning ☐ Keycaps  
☐ Adjustable keyboard mount or tray (angle and/or height)

(unspecified)

QWERTY - hardware  
 QWERTY - on-screen  
 Frequency of use - hardware  
 Frequency of use - on-screen  
 On-screen AAC language or layout  
 Enlarged keyboard  
 Mini keyboard  
 Adapted keyboard  
 Other

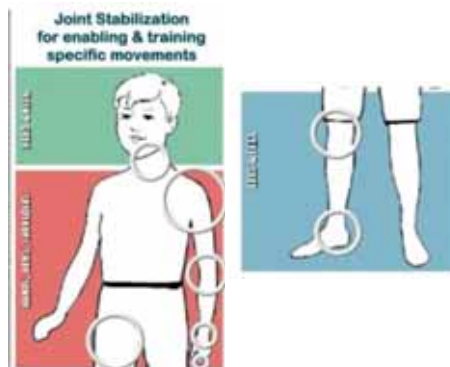


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## Mobility and Stability

Proximal stability

Distal mobility  
and function



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## Adaptive Access for Students with Complex Needs

Access methods for complex needs

Alternate keyboards  
including AAC devices  
Alternate pointing  
devices with on-screen  
keyboards



[View video](#)

AAC device controlling iPad  
Computer control  
Mouse movement and macros



[View video](#)

Joystick controlling iPad  
Adaptive Joystick  
iPad Assistive Touch



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## Adaptive Access for Students with Complex Needs

### Seating and Positioning

#### Student's body

Movement and control

Vision

Sensory

#### Setup for successful access

Determine access method

Key points of control

Physical setup



## Adaptive Access for Students with Complex Needs

### Environmental set up

Mounting and placement

Vision and hearing

Educational materials/supports



## Adaptive Access for Students with Complex Needs

### Positioning for Access

*(Student photos used with parent permission)*



## Adaptive Access for Students with Complex Needs

### Positioning for Access



## Adaptive Access for Students with Complex Needs

Positioning for Access



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## Social Emotional



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## Engagement

Buddy work  
Peer demo  
Role play  
Modeling



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## Engagement

Buddy work  
Peer demo  
Role play  
Modeling



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## Engagement

- High Interest
- Low Cognitive Load
- Quick and Easy
- Awesome Products
- Creating Content with meaning and purpose
- Bypass mechanical and challenges of writing



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Cognitive engagement grows when classrooms look less like worksheets and assessments and more like places of personalized reading and writing with large, in-class libraries, regular student publication, and high levels of student interaction.

Karen Erickson, David Koppenhaver  
*Comprehensive Literacy for All: Teaching Students with Significant Disabilities to Read and Write*

#kindlequotes

## Motivation and Confidence



OT role with social emotional issues in different environments.

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## Motivation and Confidence



True multimedia strategies to improve confidence and motivation

SIMPLE  
EFFECTIVE

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## Executive Functioning

Time management and planning  
Calendars  
To-do and tasks  
Reminders and cues  
Timers  
Checklists

Management of materials  
Environment

Technology and digital management  
Assignments  
Organizing information  
Graphic organizers  
Note-taking



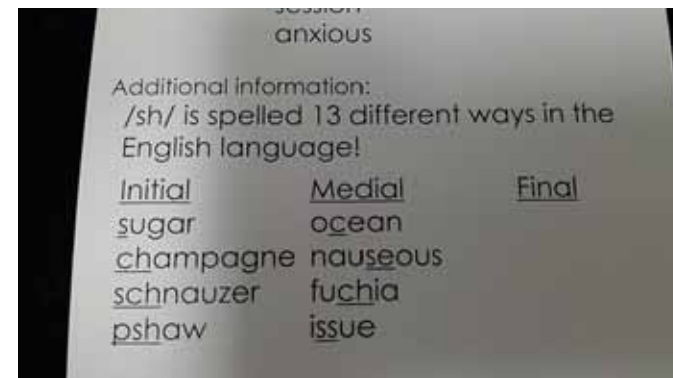
## Executive Functioning



### Multimedia Learning



## READING





## LISTENING - Text to Speech

Text-to-speech

Computer or technology 'reads' aloud to student.



Power of Speech for Learning [www.powerofspeech.info](http://www.powerofspeech.info)

## Example of Synthesized Speech

Bookshare

An Accessible Online Library  
for people with print disabilities

TEXT WITH COMPUTER /  
SYNTHESIZED VOICE

time of year. For  
another, he really  
wanted to do his  
homework but was  
forced to do it in  
secret, in the dead of  
night. And he also

Power of Speech for Learning [www.powerofspeech.info](http://www.powerofspeech.info)

## LISTENING - Digitized Speech

- REAL human voice, narration
  - Student voice
  - Teacher voice
  - Prerecorded voice e.g. audiobook with real human
  - Mostly audio is stand-alone (normally no text associated)

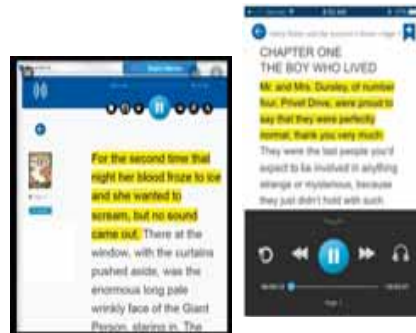


Power of Speech for Learning [www.powerofspeech.info](http://www.powerofspeech.info)

## Example of Digitized Speech

Learning Ally

HUMAN VOICE –  
SOME BOOKS  
WITH TEXT



Power of Speech for Learning [www.powerofspeech.info](http://www.powerofspeech.info)

VOICE

Show voice controls

Voice name

Speaking rate

SPEECH

Speak in background

Speak on tap

Stop on tap

Speak from

Stop after sentence

SYNCHRONISED HIGHLIGHT

Mode

Highlight color

DOCUMENT

Background color

Page scroll direction

Autoscroll

Invert colors

VIEW

Thumbnails scroller

Fullscreen mode

GALLERY

Show multimedia gallery settings

Settings are essential!

The Power of Speech for All Learning

Bridgette Nicholson - Occupational Therapist / Assistive Technology Consultant

46

1980

Research

Research on Supported  
eText started in early  
1980's

Large amount of research  
demonstrating significant value  
of Text to Speech for students  
with reading challenges!



Power of Speech for Learning [www.powerofspeech.info](http://www.powerofspeech.info)

[MUST KNOW] Tech. Tools and Strategies

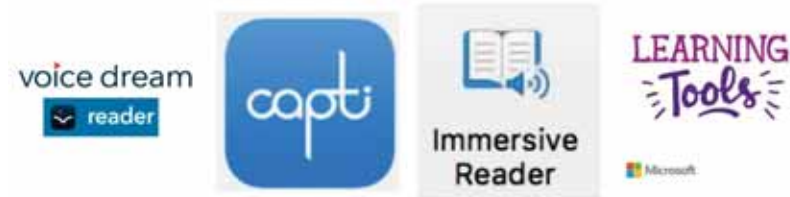




## [MUST KNOW] Tech. Tools and Strategies



## [MUST KNOW] Tech. Tools and Strategies



## [MUST KNOW] Tech. Tools and Strategies



## WRITING

How do students

SHOW WHAT  
THEY KNOW?



Public and nonpublic schools At or above Proficient

GRADE 8 | WRITING | 2007

ACHIEVEMENT LEVELS - at or above Proficient

2007 National public (NP) percentage at or above Proficient

NP 31%

**In the US,  
Over 2/3  
of our  
students  
demonstrate  
significant  
challenges  
with writing!**

[www.powerofatech.info](http://www.powerofatech.info)

HOW DO STUDENTS  
SHOW WHAT THEY  
KNOW?

DRAWING

HANDWRITING

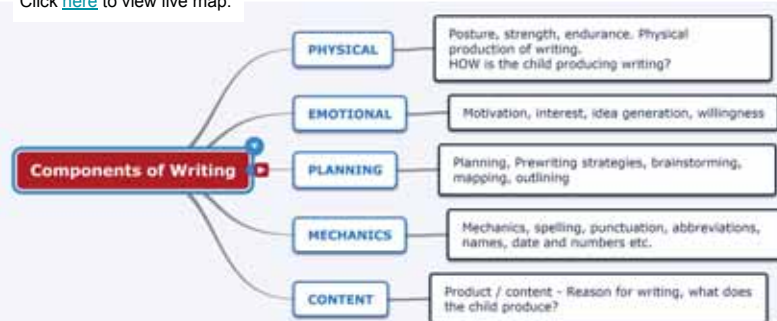
TYPING

VOICE RECORDING

SPEECH RECOGNITION

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Click [here](#) to view live map.



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Writing  
process

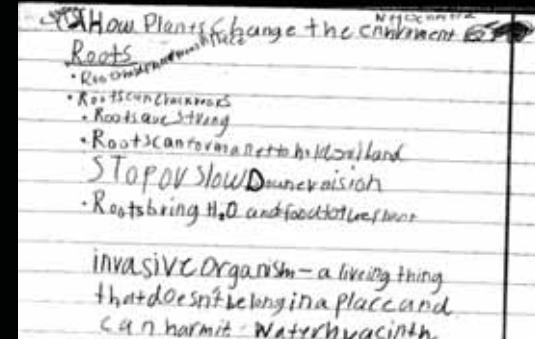
1. Initial thoughts and ideas 2. Pre-writing strategies 3. Drafting and Writing 4. Revising and Editing 5. Publish or Product

[www.powerofatech.info](http://www.powerofatech.info)



## Challenges and Strategies

Productivity  
Rate  
Legibility  
Content



## Challenges and Strategies

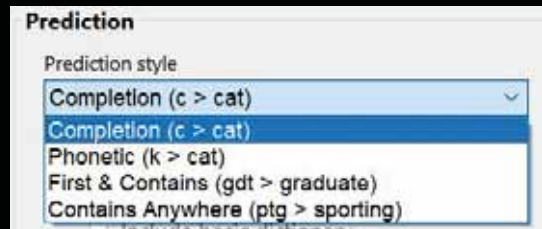
Strategies and Approach  
Ages and stages



## Challenges and Strategies

Rate Enhancement

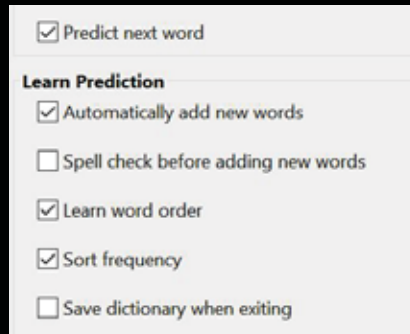
Word prediction - types  
Word completion  
Bars  
Phrases



## Challenges and Strategies

### Rate Enhancement

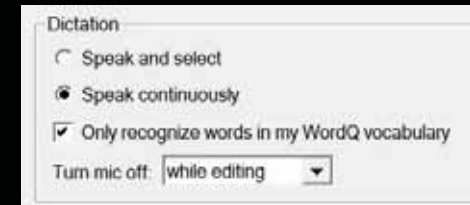
Settings and specific strategies make a big difference!



## Challenges and Strategies

### Rate Enhancement

Settings and specific strategies make a big difference!



## [MUST KNOW] Tech. Tools and Strategies

Speech Recognition

Speech to Text



## [MUST KNOW] Tech. Tools and Strategies





### [MUST KNOW] Tech. Tools and Strategies



iOS Pages  
on iPad



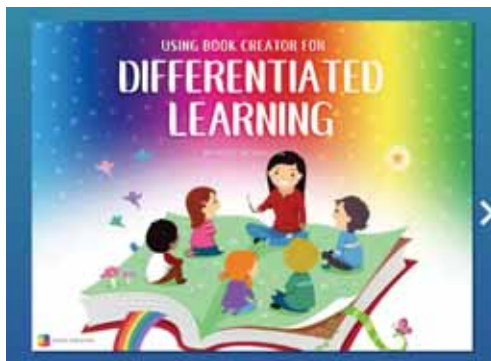
Shadow  
Puppet



### [MUST KNOW] Tech. Tools and Strategies



### [MUST KNOW] Tech. Tools and Strategies



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### [MUST KNOW] tech. tools and strategies



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## TRANSITION



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## DATA

Evidence based practice  
Data Driven Decisions  
Student Data



## EVALUATION, TRAINING, DATA

Evidence Based Practice

Data Driven Decisions  
Student Data

Systems for evaluating writing:

1. Variables
2. Production
3. Productivity
4. Content



**QUALITATIVE:**  
Professional  
Judgment

Professional  
Opinion

**QUANTITATIVE:**  
Objective  
Data



[Link](#) to mind map



**EVALUATION OF INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS**  
Student skills and challenges with writing

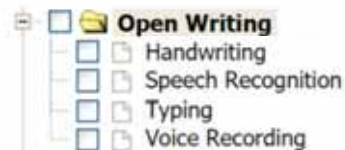
**PROGRESS MONITORING**  
What strategies are working, and what isn't working?

**GROUPS OF STUDENTS**  
Collective data for district planning. Which types of tools and strategies have the best overall impact?

**DATA COLLECTION**  
How do we introduce a variety of writing methods and quickly and 'effectively' collect data?



Data and progress monitoring for:



[www.typingtraining.com](http://www.typingtraining.com)

Conference attendees will receive a subscription to this website to use with students. Login provided at this session.

Evaluation of Writing - Production, Productivity, Content

[www.typingtraining.com](http://www.typingtraining.com)

#### Method of Text Entry:

This is the method used to select a

##### Direct Select:

- ☒ 10 Finger Typing
- ☐ Left Hand
- ☐ Right Hand
- ☐ Other

##### Directed Selection:

- ☐ Mouse
- ☐ Joystick
- ☐ Switch Controlled Mouse Directions
- ☐ Other Mouse Control
- ☐ 2 Or More Switch Scanning
- ☐ Morse Code

##### Indirect Select:

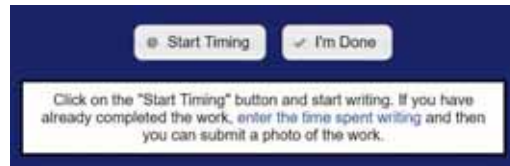
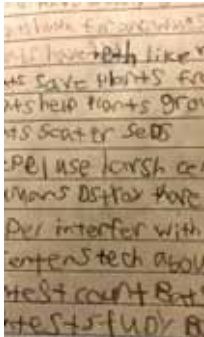
- ☐ Timed Scanning With Single Switch

##### Unspecified Text Entry Method

Conference attendees will receive a subscription to this website to use with students. Please indicate if you want this on the feedback form at the end of the session.

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## Data collection for HANDWRITING



## EXCITING NEW DEVELOPMENTS

**Face  
Tracking  
and Eye  
Gaze for  
the iPhone  
and iPad**

*Creating new opportunities for people with significant physical disabilities! It's not 'real-time' yet, but it's developing quickly.... Keep watching, it will be functional and useful soon!*



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## EXCITING NEW DEVELOPMENTS

<https://www.disabilityscope.com/2019/12/03/google-seeks-help-from-people-with-down-syndrome/27512/>

### Google Seeks Help From People With Down Syndrome

by Michelle Diamond | December 3, 2019



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## EXCITING NEW DEVELOPMENTS

### Handicap Assistive Robots Market - Global Industry Analysis, Size, Share, Growth, Trends, and Forecast 2018 - 2026

Category : Healthcare Format : PDF, PPT, Excel

<https://www.transparencymarketresearch.com/handicap-assistive-robots-market.html>



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## EXCITING NEW DEVELOPMENTS



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## EXCITING NEW DEVELOPMENTS

Microsoft | Global Diversity and Inclusion

### Diversity & Inclusion



<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/diversity/default.aspx>

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## EXCITING NEW DEVELOPMENTS

Google Impact Challenge | Disabilities



Working together to build a more inclusive world.

<https://www.google.org/impactchallenge/disabilities/>

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## EXCITING NEW DEVELOPMENTS



### Kids' Adaptive Clothing

Target / Kids / Kids' Adaptive Clothing (22)



<https://www.target.com/c/kids-adaptive-clothing/-/N-11aue?Nao=0>

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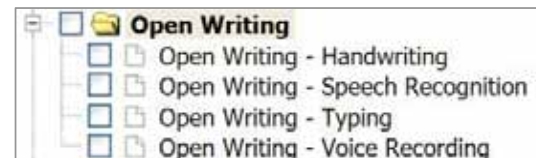
## Online Survey of today's presentation

[www.powerofatech.info/feedback](http://www.powerofatech.info/feedback)

[www.powerofatech.info](http://www.powerofatech.info)

## Resource - typing training website

Login for student evaluation and data collection for writing production methods



[www.typingtraining.com](http://www.typingtraining.com)

Indicate if you want this resource by checking the section in the survey you complete at the end of this session.

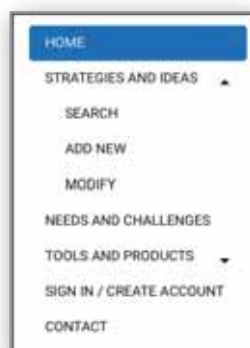
[www.powerofatech.info](http://www.powerofatech.info)

## Database

[www.powerofatech.info/database-writing](http://www.powerofatech.info/database-writing)

A comprehensive database of

1. Assistive Technology TOOLS for writing (for ALL students of all ages, all cognitive levels and all functional levels)
2. STRATEGIES and REAL LIFE samples - information from people who are using the technologies, both students as well as their teachers and parents.

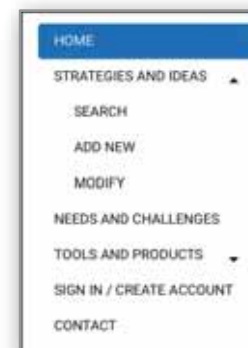


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## Database

**PLEASE  
SHARE YOUR  
IDEAS AND  
KNOWLEDGE  
ON THE  
DATABASE**



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Q & A  
Comments  
Suggestions?

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*Thank  
you!*

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