

Family Fun for All!



Parents and children enjoyed the Family Technology Fun Day held in April. (See centre pages)

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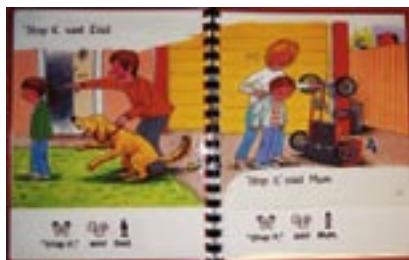
In April 2007 the CALL Centre completed a project to investigate the need for, and availability of, learning resources in accessible alternative formats for pupils with additional support needs. The project was funded by the Scottish Executive Education Department and the report was published on the Scottish Executive web site* (and the CALL web site) in June 2007.

Local authorities are obliged to consider how they can provide material in suitable alternative formats for pupils with disabilities 'if the pupil may have difficulty reading information provided in standard written form'. Many local authorities provide learning materials in Braille, enlarged text or audio format to visually impaired students and Disability Discrimination legislation requires consideration of how this provision can be extended to any pupil who has difficulty reading or accessing information.

Examples of Books for All

Symbolised Oxford Reading Tree book

This ORT book with symbols was produced for pupils with learning difficulties. Pupils who cannot read all the text can use the symbols to follow the story and engage with the book; some pupils also benefit from the symbols as a bridge to literacy.



Reading book scanned and viewed using Microsoft Word

This paperback was scanned into the computer and saved in *Microsoft Word* for a child who can read but can't physically hold the book. The pupil



* Books for All Report: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/06/05081600/0> and <http://www.booksforall.org.uk>.

uses the keyboard to navigate the book; students with reading difficulties could also have it read out with *WordTalk*.

Textbook scanned and/or obtained from the publisher

This Starting Science book was provided in digital format by OUP and then converted into PDF. It can be accessed with keyboard or mouse, the text read out with *PDFaloud*, and study aids like highlighters, bookmarks, sticky notes, voice notes etc inserted.



Audio books

Audio books on CD are available from many shops; in MP3 format downloadable from suppliers such as www.audible.co.uk; or as Daisy audiobooks from RNIB. Teachers make their own recorded materials using free recording software (Audacity, <http://audacity.sourceforge.net/download/>) and publish them on the web (podcasting - see <http://www.podcastrevision.co.uk> for a good secondary example). Audio resources can be recorded either using a human voice (time consuming), or by using text-to-speech software (quick and cheap, but uses the computer's voice which can be less pleasant for listening).

Books for All: Making Accessible Audio Resources

28th February 2008, CALL Centre, Edinburgh

This training course will consider ways in which iPods and other audio players can be used to allow access to books and other learning resources. We will look at tools for making your own resources and for generating synthesised audio files from text.

Other 'Books for All' Courses

CALL can provide training in other techniques for making books accessible, e.g. Using Word and Acrobat, Using Powerpoint, Creating Symbol Resources.

Details from <http://www.callcentrescotland.org.uk/training>

Using Technology in SQA Exams

Every year thousands of students in Scottish schools require 'reasonable adjustments' to sit SQA exams. Many of these students are using technology to assist with reading and writing tasks on a daily basis in school, but have to use a reader or scribe in exams.



The CALL Centre has been working with the SQA to create and trial examination papers in accessible digital format. These have been used in pilot schools for exams in 2006 and 2007. This year twelve Centres requested 490 papers on behalf of 80 candidates. This compares with requests for 152 papers on behalf of 34 candidates, from eight centres, in 2006. While the number of Centres increased by only 50%, the number of candidates increased by 135%, and the number of papers by 222%; each Centre therefore requested a larger number of digital papers, for more candidates, than in 2006.

The SQA have announced that will offer the facility for students with Additional Support Needs to sit exams in digital accessible format in **all** schools and centres in 2008.

Using ICT to Help Students with Additional Support Needs Sit SQA Exams and Assessments

15th November 2007, CALL Centre, Edinburgh

This training course reviews the use of ICT for students who have issues with paper-based SQA exams, NABs and 5-14 assessments. It looks at SQA policy and procedures and how papers can be adapted and accessed using ICT.

Details from <http://www.callcentrescotland.org.uk/training>

Assistive Tech. on YouTube

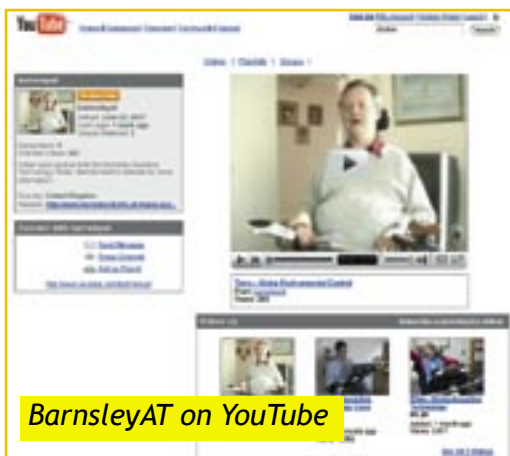
The YouTube web site (<http://www.youtube.com>) is not just a collection of video clips of teenage girls lip-synching into hair brushes and boys pulling faces - there is also a lot of material that is interesting and useful for people using technology to support people with disabilities.

AbilityNet, for example, have set up their own page on YouTube (<http://www.youtube.com/abilitynet>), with a small collection of their own videos (mostly tutorial material for using the *Thunder* screenreader) and links to their 'Favourites'. The favourites are particularly interesting with links to over 100 video clips of people using or talking about assistive technology. They include talks by distinguished users of augmentative communication systems and demonstrations of equipment and software such as the *MyTobii* eye gaze system and the *NaturallySpeaking* speech recognition program.

The Barnsley Assistive Technology Team (<http://www.youtube.com/barnsleyat>) have made available three detailed case studies each lasting from 5 to ten minutes of individual clients using assistive technology.

Simple searches by a topic, or a device name can bring up interesting material that is worth looking at - e.g. a search for 'Lightwriter' can bring up a clip featuring a young woman whose cat is greatly intrigued by her *Lightwriter* communication aid!

The video clips on YouTube vary in quality, but are often interesting and informative. As always with the internet, there is no formal quality control over the content, so it is important to be aware of the source of a video.



Family Technology Fun Day

CALL hosted a Family Technology Fun Day on Saturday 28th April. 135 parents and children came along to try software, hardware and specialised communication technologies.

The Day was run by specialist staff from the CALL Centre (Edinburgh), KEYCOMM (Edinburgh), FACCT (Fife), SCTCI (Glasgow) and TASSCC (Aberdeen) ICT and communication aids centres and other centres.

Feedback was very positive and we all hope to be able to run another similar day sometime in the future.



Everyone was very helpful!



Great for all the family!





It exceeded my expectations.
Thank you!



Introduction to *Clicker Phonics*

Clicker Phonics is a new set of add-ons for *Clicker 5* that provide a comprehensive set of resources for use with any phonics scheme (though it is based on the Jolly Learning scheme). A total of six CDs are available, under the headings *Get Ready!*, *Get Set!* and *Let's Go!*.



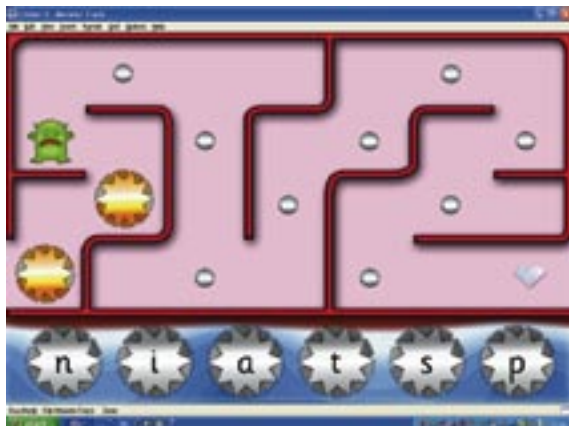
The two CDs in the *Get Ready!* category are designed to help children discriminate between different sounds through the use of a variety of activities. The *Sounds Around* CD focuses on the sounds that can be heard in a number of different locations, with children encouraged to match sounds, record their own sounds and talk about the locations. The second CD, *Noisy Bears*, is in more of a Talking Book format.

The *Get Set!* CDs introduce sounds in the context of language, encouraging children to focus on patterns, differences and similarities within words. *Rhyme Time* is a set of activities around rhyming words, with children encouraged to play with different forms of rhymes and make their own. *Alphabet Animals* adopts a similar approach to the introduction of alliterative words.



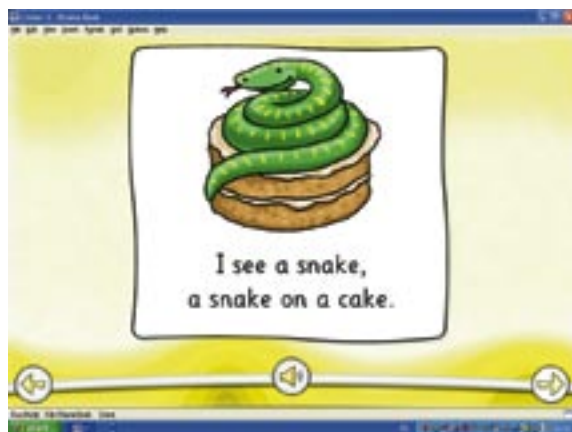
The 42 phonemes used in English are introduced and developed in the order

used by Jolly Learning in the two *Let's Go!* CDs. *Sounds and Letters* introduces the major phoneme/grapheme correspondence and helps children to develop their phonic skills by blending sounds to build words. *Read and Write* provides a wide range of reading, writing and spelling activities to help children practice and reinforce their synthetic phonic skills.



The designers have created a friendly useable interface, with good contrast between the background and targetable elements, though a few screens are a little more cluttered than we would like - but this is a minor quibble! Switch access is provided for people using both one and two switches.

Overall, this is an excellent package with a massive range of useful resources. It is sure to be useful for all schools using a synthetic phonics reading scheme - not just those using the Jolly Learning scheme. There are a number of purchase options: £25 for a single CD for a single user; £75 for a site licence for a single CD; £399 for a site licence for all 6 CDs. They are available from Crick Software



(<http://www.cricksoft.com>) and from a number of other suppliers.

If you want to have an in-depth demonstration of the package, come to the free CALL Centre Software Information Day with Crick Software on 29th May 2008.

Software Demonstration Centre

The CALL Centre acts as a 'demonstration centre' for a number of suppliers. This means that they provide us with evaluation copies of software which we can make available for people to see within the CALL Centre. We also use this software during assessment visits to work with pupils in schools. CALL does not have commercial links with any supplier so we can offer impartial advice on software and hardware.

Contact the CALL Centre if you would like to come in and look at some of this software. It helps us greatly if you can give us an idea of the software that you want to see before you come. We now have a wide range of software from Sherston, in addition to programs from 2Simple, Crick, Don Johnston, Inclusive Technology, SEMERC, Softease and Widgit, in addition to specific programs from a number of other suppliers. Recent software includes *Clicker Paint* and *Clicker Phonics* from Crick; *IntelliTalk 3*, *IntelliMathics 3* and *IntelliPics 3* from Inclusive and the *Skillbuilder* software from Sherston.

We also host a series of Software Information Days, which allow invited suppliers to demonstrate or provide hands-on training for their new products.

Software Information Days

Find out about new products from suppliers:



25th October 2007 - 2Simple Software

29th November 2007 - Inclusive Technology

6th December 2007 - SEMERC

7th February 2008 - Sherston Software

24th April 2008 - Softease (am) / TAG (pm)

29th May - Crick Software

Software Information Days are FREE!

Further details from <http://www.callcentrescotland.org.uk>

In Brief...

Surplus Equipment

Over the years CALL has acquired a wide range of assistive technology devices and software for our Equipment Bank. We now have an urgent need to 'de-clutter! We have now removed a lot of old, surplus equipment and will make it available free to anyone who wants it. A list of available equipment and software will be placed on our web site at <http://www.callcentrescotland.org.uk/surplus> from October 1st. Let us know if you want something - or arrange to come into CALL for a free rummage!.



Augmentative Communication in Practice: Scotland.

This year's Study Day, organised by CALL in conjunction with FACCT, KEYCOMM, SCTCI and TASSCC is to be held on November 14th at the Auchterderran Centre, Cardenden, Fife. The title for the day is *Language and Literacy: Examining Theory and Evidence* and it will feature presentations by Dr Juliet Goldbart, Dr Janice Murray and Dr Martine Smith. Contact CALL for details.

Routes for Learning

The last issue of New in CALL focused on the Routes for Learning assessment materials for pupils with Severe and Complex Additional Support Needs, which were originally developed in Wales. The assessment materials can now be downloaded from <http://accac.org.uk/eng/content.php?cid=3&pid=1309>. CALL can offer short in-service courses to introduce this very useful pack of materials to staff. If any school or Scottish authority wishes to take implementation further, it may be possible to buy in CALL input for a collaborative project - please contact Sally Millar at CALL to discuss.

CALL Centre

Communication Aids for Language and Learning



The CALL Centre is a research and service unit funded primarily by the Scottish Government, Support for Learning Division to support pupils with communication difficulties in schools across Scotland. Contact the CALL Centre for further information on any of our work.

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<http://www.callcentrescotland.org.uk>

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