



TechKnowledge 2007

Special Topics Promoting Assistive Technology and Universal Design for Learning

November 5-6, 2007

Holiday Inn Select Koger Center South Conference Center, Richmond, VA

Sponsored By the Virginia Department of Education's Training and Technical Assistance Centers at VCU, ODU, and JMU and the Hospital Education Program at Children's Hospital in Richmond

Monday, November 5

Keynote Address by Dan Keplinger, M.F.A., an accomplished artist, writer, and subject of the Oscar winning HBO documentary, "King Gimp." Dan will talk about his education and life experiences growing up with cerebral palsy. Dan's message will benefit parents, teachers, and individuals serving students with disabilities. For more information, check out Dan's web site, www.kinggimp.com. After the keynote address, Dan will be available to meet individually with families by appointment (see registration form). Throughout the day a variety of commercial assistive technology exhibits and workshop sessions will be provided by company representatives who will demonstrate and discuss the application of their products in educational settings. Some featured companies include IntelliTools, TextHelp, Don Johnston Inc., AlphaSmart, Freedom Scientific, AbleNet, and Dynavox.

"King Gimp" showing at 4:00 p.m. Filmed over a thirteen-year period, this Academy Award-winning documentary chronicles Dan Keplinger's life from his years in a special school to his college graduation. This is a frank, uplifting epic of triumph over adversity. This showing will be open to conference and non-conference participants. Non-conference participants are asked to call the conference registrar (see registration form) in advance to register for this "free" film showing.

Tuesday, November 6 Features half-day or full day sessions. Vendors will also be available in the exhibit area.

Write On, Right Now: Emergent Writing

PRESENTER: Caroline Musselwhite, Ed.D. CCC-SLP, Assistive Technology Specialist and Author, AAC Intervention, Litchfield Park, Arizona
"Oh, they're 'not ready' for writing"...WRONG! This workshop will cover emergent writing for students who use symbols, words, or developmental spelling approaches. Participants will learn to use templates to help students with structured writing activities (story retelling, story reconstruction, a variety of poems, charting and graphing for math) and language experience activities (journaling, making lists, describing). This workshop supports beginning writers of all ages. Participants will receive the *Write to Talk* book and CD. **HALF DAY SESSION; Participant Skill Level: Beginner to Advanced**

What's to Read? Locating, Analyzing, and Adapting Appropriate Literacy Materials for Older Students Who Are Emergent Readers

PRESENTER: Caroline Musselwhite, Ed.D. CCC-SLP, Assistive Technology Specialist and Author, AAC Intervention, Litchfield Park, Arizona
Trying to find materials that are truly EASY enough for your emergent readers ages 9 and up, but truly HIGH INTEREST? This workshop focuses on interactive literacy learning for upper elementary, middle school, and secondary students with severe disabilities, including students who use augmentative and alternative communication. Participants will see and try strategies for adapting or developing appropriate reading materials. This will include both light and high tech approaches, and will include books written BY students as well as FOR students. **HALF DAY SESSION; Participant Skill Level: Beginner to Advanced**

Creating Accessible Quizzes, Test Preparation, and Alternative Assessment Activities

PRESENTER: Dan Herlihy, Assistive Technology Resource Specialist/Integration Specialist, Connective Technology Solutions, Inc., Hoosick, New York
Do your assessment activities really gauge what your students have learned, or are they traditional testing activities that haven't ideally captured and reported the progress your students are making? In this hands-on session we will be using software and hardware that was traditionally viewed for students with special needs, and explore how it can be utilized to create seamless solutions for assessing what all your students have learned, as well as be accessible by all students. **HALF DAY SESSION; Participant Skill Level: Intermediate to Advanced**

Creating Writing Adventures for Students – Bringing Out the Creativity in All Your Students

PRESENTER: Dan Herlihy, A.T. Resource Specialist/Integration Specialist, Connective Technology Solutions, Inc., Hoosick, New York
Too often students with disabilities, including those with hearing and vision issues, have great difficulty accessing meaningful writing activities. Learn how to create accessible writing activities from the start. Create a variety of adapted writing activities including activities for journaling, social stories, interactive creative writing prompts, as well as story writing prompts for students with hearing or vision impairments. We will be utilizing a variety of tools in this hands-on workshop. **HALF DAY SESSION; Participant Skill Level: Intermediate to Advanced**

Please Teach Me to Communicate! Expressive Communication Strategies for Children and Adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorder

PRESENTER: Susan Stokes, M.A., CCC-SLP, Autism Coordinator for Cooperative Educational Service Agency (CESA) 6, Fond Du Lac, WI
This training will challenge you to consider the difficult or unusual behaviors exhibited by a person with ASD in relation to an *expressive* communication difference. The communication skills of students all along the autism spectrum, from pre-verbal to incredibly verbal, will be addressed. Core communication functions (essential life skills for communication) will be reviewed, as well as *where to start* and *where to go* with AAC systems for people with ASD who are pre-verbal. Numerous examples of practical "low tech" instructional strategies to teach various expressive communication skills to "verbal" children/adolescents with ASD will also be shared through a combination of video clips, actual materials, and personal stories. **HALF DAY SESSION; Participant Skill Level: Beginner to Advanced**

When it Comes to Talking - Less is More! "Low Tech" Receptive Communication Strategies for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder

PRESENTER: Susan Stokes, M.A., CCC-SLP, Autism Coordinator for Cooperative Educational Service Agency (CESA) 6, Fond Du Lac, WI
How do we communicate to students with ASD? Through their strength processing channel – visual! Participants will leave this session with dozens of highly effective, innovative, and practical visual low tech strategies that can be used *immediately* to meet the receptive communication and learning needs of students with ASD. A unique educational planning guide will also be shared, designed to assist teams in identifying the source of challenging behaviors in relation to the features and characteristics of ASD. **HALF DAY SESSION; Participant Skill Level: Beginner to Advanced**

Playing with Technology – Keeping it Practical

PRESENTERS: Patricia Walsh-Cassidy, M.S. CCC/SLP, Collaborative Center for Assistive Technology and Training (CCATT) at the Hampshire Educational Collaborative, Northampton, MA; Dale Gardner-Fox M.S. RPT, A. T. Specialist, CCATT; Nancy J. Hogan M.Ed., High School Teacher, Agawam Public Sch., MA
Sound educational practice insures that all students be active participants in learning. Preschool curriculum focuses on helping students improve their communication, social, and motor skills, as well as early literacy and math. We will show you how you might use a range of light tech to high tech tools and materials. Some of these tools include communication boards, visual strategies, toy and material adaptations, computer software, voice output devices, adapted books, and song boards. We will guide you in how to use these tools and strategies within an early learning environment (preschool) to allow all your students to be active learners. **FULL DAY SESSION; Participant Skill Level: Beginner to Advanced**

TechKnowledge 2007

AGENDA

Monday, November 5, 2007

8:15 – 9:00 REGISTRATION

9:00 – 10:00 Keynote, Dan Keplinger

10:10 – 3:10 Commercial Vendor Workshops, Exhibits, and
Box Lunches

4:00 "King Gimp" PBS Documentary

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

7:45 – 8:30 REGISTRATION

8:30 – 11:30 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Workshop 1:

Caroline Musselwhite – Write On, Right Now...

Workshop 2:

Dan Herlihy – Creating Writing Adventures for Students...

Workshop 3:

Susan Stokes – *Please Teach Me to Communicate...*

Workshop 4:

Patricia Walsh-Cassidy, Dale Gardner-Fox, Nancy Hogan –
Playing with Technology...

11:30 – 12:30 LUNCH

12:30 - 3:30 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Workshop 5:

Caroline Musselwhite – What's to Read?...

Workshop 6:

Dan Herlihy – Creating Accessible Quizzes...

Workshop 7:

Susan Stokes - When it Comes to Talking – Less is More!...

Workshop 4 (Continued):

Patricia Walsh-Cassidy, Dale Gardner-Fox, Nancy Hogan –
Playing with Technology....

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Conference Registration Fee:

\$90 (2 days), **\$45** (one day)

Family members may apply for tuition assistance by contacting Sarah Wright. Child Care is not available at the conference.

Conference Registration Deadline:

October 26, 2007

No refunds. Substitutions are accepted.

Overnight Hotel Information:

Holiday Inn Select Koger Center South Conference Center
1021 Koger Center Blvd., Richmond, VA 23235
804-379-3800

Please Contact Hotel for Conference Rates.

www.hiselect.com/ric-kogerctr

Hotel Reservation Deadline:

October 12, 2007

When making hotel reservations please identify yourself as attending the TechKnowledge '07 Conference. If special accommodations are needed, please call Sarah Wright at 1-866-465-0412 or 434-292-3723.

Recertification Points will be available.

REGISTRATION FORM

(PLEASE COMPLETE ONE FORM PER REGISTRANT)

Name: _____

Position: _____

School/Program: _____

School Division (City/County): _____

Ages Served: 0-2____ 3-5____ 6-11____ 12-14____ 15+_____

Home/School Address (Circle one): _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email address: _____

Monday, November 5

Yes, I plan to attend workshops available on a first come, first serve basis.

I will schedule a 15 minute appointment to meet with Dan Keplinger by contacting Sarah Wright at 1-866-465-0412

I plan to attend the 4:00 showing of "King Gimp"

Tuesday, November 6

NOTE: Please mark the workshops below according to your preference – 1 being first choice and 4 being last choice. If for some reason your first choice is unavailable, you will automatically be placed in your second choice selection, and so on.

AM SESSIONS

Workshop 1: Write On, Right Now...

Workshop 2: Creating Writing Adventures for Students...

Workshop 3: *Please Teach Me to Communicate...*

Workshop 4: Playing with Technology...

PM SESSIONS

Workshop 5: What's to Read?...

Workshop 6: Creating Accessible Quizzes...

Workshop 7: When it Comes to Talking – Less is More!

Workshop 4 (Continued): Playing with Technology...

TOTAL ENCLOSED: 1 Day Total: _____ 2 Day Total: _____

PO #/SCHOOL DIVISION _____

Please return by October 26, 2007

Checks payable to: VCU T/TAC

Mail to: Sarah Wright

440 QM Circle South, Pickett Park, Blackstone, VA 23824

sswright@vcu.edu

Toll Free: 1-866-465-0412 **FAX:** 434-292-7486

If you require special conference or meal accommodations, please contact Sarah Wright by October 26, 2007

Confirmation & Directions will be e-mailed or mailed prior to conference.