

Examples of Low Tech Assistive Technology

Motor/Mechanics of Writing

- **Binder** – use as a slant board; hold in place with rug lock
- **Rubber stamps** – letters, numbers, math functions facilitate simple tasks, e.g., writing name on paper
- **Rug lock** – stabilizes work/writing surface
- **Koosh ball** – sensory input, kinesthetic, stress reliever, identifies speaker in group
- **Pencil grips** – various types
- **Grip It!** – a holder for pens that attaches to desk, computer, etc.
- **Tactile rulers** – some school rulers have raised numbers/lines with notches for locating points on the ruler or make your own with puff paints
- **Evo pen** – oval pen that fits in the palm of the hand
- **eGrip, Dr. Grip pens** - rubber grip in middle
- **Light Pen** – enhances writing area
- **Plastic signature guide and writing guide** – guides the writer's hand; keeps within lines; also use to frame text as read \$3.49 writing guide; \$2.50 signature guide
- **Raised line paper** – primary or elementary – Red/Green paper indicates Start/Stop points

Motor/Writing & Reading Supports

- **White board** – easier for some students to use (some are magnetic as well)
- **Page holders** (TOP and/or BOTTOM) acrylic cardholders
- **Clear picture holders** (office supply) - to hold story pages, schedules, directions, vocabulary words, math tables, etc.; place in page holder on desk for continuous access; student can manipulate cards to create sentences, number problems, etc. if writing is difficult
- **Finger grip ruler** – for students with fine motor difficulties; allows ruler to be grasped by raised center grip bar; also use for focusing on words/lines while reading
- **Magnetic sheets/business cards** – can be cut as needed to create numbers, letters, words, sentence strips; put on cookie sheet, metal ruler/yardstick (use also as visual/reading supports)
- **Magnetic picture frames** – all sizes; to hold pictures/words
- **Velcro** – attach letters, words, sentences, etc. on ruler/yardstick or garden gloves/mittens for interactive lessons
- **Velcro enhanced books** – copy or cut out graphics from books; attach velcro to picture and book for interactive lessons; purchase commercially made Velcro books, e.g., Interactive Stories
- **Veltex/soft fabric** – (Fabrics & Fasteners, self-adhesive also; fabric stores) - use Veltex or other soft fabric to create bulletin boards, fabric boards/books, gloves/mittens, etc. for interactive word/number play with Velcro backed symbols/props

- **Inquiry Box** (make it yourself) - a fun, inexpensive, interactive, multi-purpose teaching/learning tool for the classroom using a cardboard mailing carton. The box has plastic page protectors/pockets on all 6 sides, allowing you to address a wide variety of content areas by inserting pictures, words, numbers, etc., inside the pockets to be used in a variety of creative ways. The Inquiry Box handout provides directions for making the box and strategies for its use.

Visual/Reading Supports

- **Easy reading text guides:** Use plastic signature guide or Finger Grip Ruler or regular ruler
- **Bar Magnifier w/ yellow guiding line**
- **Other Magnifiers** - sheets, bars, hemi-sphere styles; many bars have a yellow highlighter section down the middle to emphasize words/phrases in text
- **Correction tape** – removable; write on it and erase it; can be removed without damaging paper/text
- **Highlighter tape** - removable; same as correction tape but comes in many colors; emphasize words/phrases in text; laminate to make a student reading guide that highlights/focuses in on text; (Use for motoric challenges too)
- **Reading Helper** - white plastic strip with highlighting down the middle; multiple colors and sizes the middle to help students track text as they read
- **Laminate highlighter tape** to make your own reading guide
- **Page Flags** – removable; use to emphasize words/text, etc.
- **See It Right or other colored transparencies** (See It Right!) – use to correct specific
- visual perceptual problems; student chooses preferred color to place over book/text
- **Enlarge text on photocopier** - can place in card holder on desk
- **Jumbo rulers** – enlarged numbers/lines
- **Word rings** – create your own from index cards, can laminate; or purchase pre-made packages (Top Notch Teacher/school supply) - words, words & definitions, words & pictures, etc.
- **Words in a bottle** – put laminated words in a plastic bottle for easy access
- **Transparent pencil cases** – with holes for a notebook or hanging style (like travel bath cases); holds letter or word cards
- **Corner Rounding Punch** - clips off sharp edges on laminated cards, etc. for improved appearance and safety
- **Avery Removable Label Paper, 8.5" X 11"** – Full page removable labels for use on AAC devices, notebooks, adapting books, etc. Print BoardMaker symbols to adapt a book and peel off later, keeping the book intact.
- **Binder Clips** – use to clip student work onto hangars for classroom display; come in a variety of sizes

Math Supports

- **The Master Ruler** - (Master Innovations, Inc., \$6.95) Ruler has 5 separate transparent layers, each measuring a different fraction of an inch shown in a

unique color for easy identification. Use for measurement skills, fractions, addition and subtraction of mixed numbers and improper fractions, and multiplication and division of fractions. All layers of the teacher's ruler are clear for overhead presentations.

- **The Master Fraction** – Transparent overlays demonstrate the concepts of equivalency, reducing, improper and proper fractions, adding, subtracting common and uncommon denominators, mixed numbers, and more covering the fractions: $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{8}$, $\frac{1}{16}$, $\frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{1}{6}$, $\frac{1}{12}$, $\frac{1}{5}$, $\frac{1}{10}$, $\frac{1}{20}$.
- **The Master Angle** - Circular disk showing 360 degrees with moveable lines to form angles
- **The Master Clock** - transparent layers & removeable gears
- **Fractionograms** - set of two stamps demonstrate parts and their relationship to the whole
- **X-Y Stamp** - Creates a negative and positive X-Y axis
- **Large 1" grid chart paper** - promotes visual access; laminate for reuse

Source: Boston Public Schools