

Finding the Right Books for Students with Complex Communication, Intellectual, and Physical Needs  
*International Society for Augmentative & Alternative Communication Conference, Lisbon, Portugal, July, 2014*

**FINDING THE RIGHT BOOKS FOR STUDENTS WITH COMPLEX COMMUNICATION, INTELLECTUAL, AND PHYSICAL NEEDS**

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[www.aacintervention.com](http://www.aacintervention.com)  
<http://aacgirls.blogspot.com>  
<http://spedapps2.wikispaces.com>

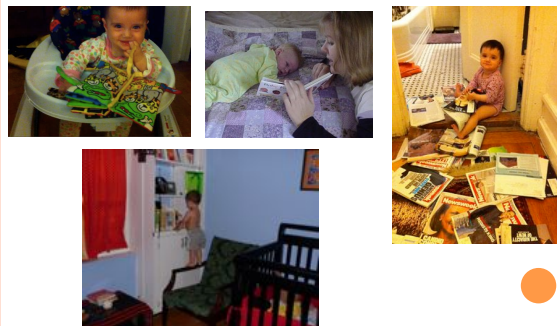
THE STRUGGLE –  
FINDING APPROPRIATE BOOKS

- Students are reading below grade level
- Younger books aren't age appropriate
- Books that may be age appropriate looking don't have robust content
- There is not enough time to adapt/write all of the books that students need

CONSIDERATIONS FOR SELECTING BOOKS

- Students who are just learning about books
  - Need durable materials with the ability to explore
  - Need to learn concepts about print
- Students who are learning to read silently
  - Need LOTS of easy books to develop reading fluency
- Students who are able to listen to texts at a higher level than their silent reading abilities
  - Need books for listening at the appropriate level
  - **\*\*BUT, must always have instruction for their silent reading comprehension**

WHAT ARE EMERGENT READERS WITHOUT DISABILITIES DOING WITH BOOKS?



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EMERGENT READERS NEED

- Indestructible books
- Books that support concepts about print
  - Get eyes on print
  - Concept of “letter,” “word,” “sentence”
- Teach good vocabulary words and language concepts
- Predictable books that help students be a part of reading

EMERGENT LITERACY EXPERIENCES  
SUPPORT STUDENTS IN BECOMING  
CONVENTIONAL READERS



EARLY CONVENTIONAL READERS NEED

- A LOT of books
- Need to be easy books to build fluency
- Fluency is essential for comprehension
- Teach good vocabulary words and language concepts
- Student spending too much time figuring out words?
  - Book is TOO hard!      Too hard=no fun!

DID YOU KNOW . . .

'good' 1st grade teachers have more than 1500 books in their **classroom** libraries! **So What??**



Pressley et al (2001) Learning to Read:  
Lessons from Exemplary 1st Grade Classrooms

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## CREATING & USING POWERPOINT BOOKS

- Can use real pictures
- Can record real voice
- Can add sound effects & animation
- Keyboard keys that are important
  - Right arrow: goes to next slide
  - Left arrow: goes back a slide
  - Mouse Click, Space or Return: goes to next slide
- Directions for Making PowerPoint Books:
  - Center for Literacy & Disability Studies-templates too!!!
  - Assistive Technology Training Online Project

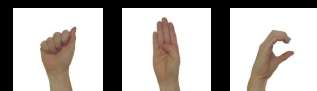
## COMPUTER SWITCH INTERFACES

- Switch Interfaces: Need one with multiple switch ports
- USB Switch Interfaces: plug in & go!
  - Don Johnston Switch Interface ([www.donjohnston.com](http://www.donjohnston.com))
  - Quizworks Switch Interface ([www.quizworks.com](http://www.quizworks.com))
- Reprogrammable Switch Interfaces
  - RJ Cooper ([www.rjcooper.com](http://www.rjcooper.com))
  - IntelliSwitch ([www.intellitools.com](http://www.intellitools.com))
  - Crick Software, ([www.cricksoft.com](http://www.cricksoft.com))



## YOUR NEW BEST FRIENDS: COMMONLY NEEDED KEY EQUIVALENTS

- Right arrow
- Left arrow
- Space
- Enter
- 2, 3
- Click



## ABC BOOK

BY STUDENT/TEACHER NAME

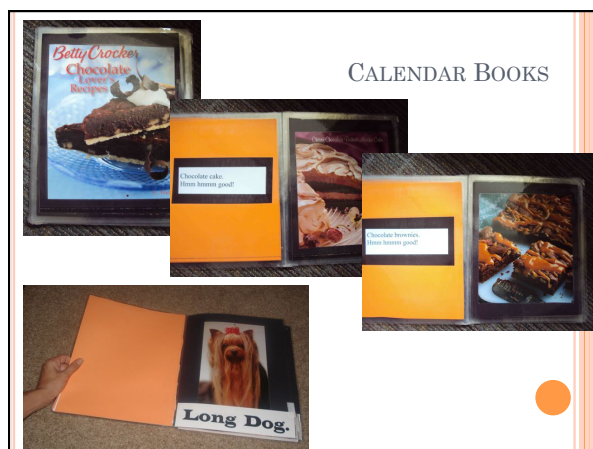
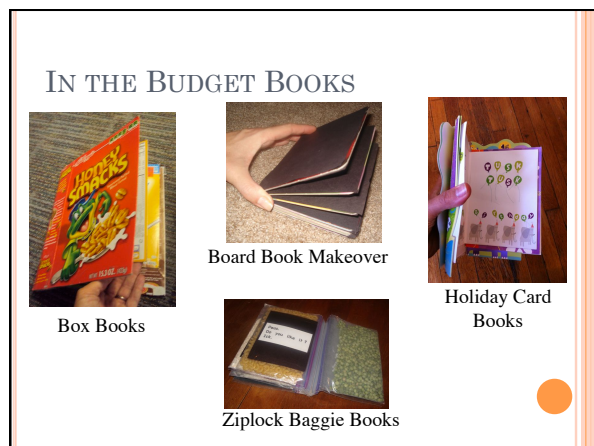
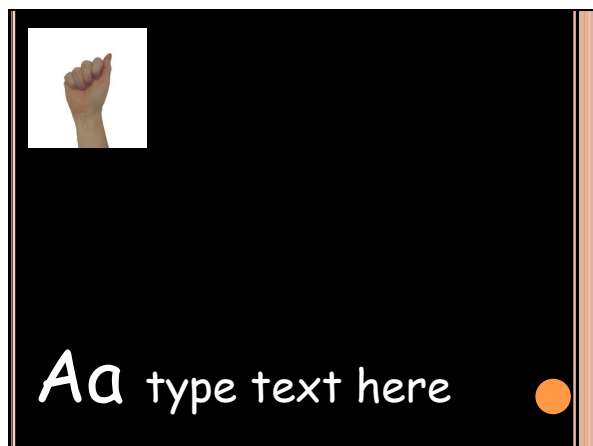
### Notes to author:

If you change the file extension from .ppt to .pps, the book will automatically open to full slide show/ book reading mode.


We have set up the book so that when students get to the end of the book, it will automatically start over again on the beginning page. To make this happen on other books: Go to Slide Show and then to Setup Show. Check "Loop Continuously until "Esc"

This template is from the Center for Literacy & Disability Studies at Chapel Hill, NC

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Pardon me for being rude.  
 It was not me, it was my food.  
 It got so lonely down below,  
 It just popped up to say hello!

**The Burp**  
 by Anonymous

Illustration © Stephen Carpenter.

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



**STORYLINE ONLINE**  
[WWW.STORYLINEONLINE.NET](http://WWW.STORYLINEONLINE.NET)

**ALL STORIES - INDEX**


A BAD CASE OF STYING	BRAVE IRVING	DAD, ARE YOU THE TOOTH FAIRY?	THE TOOTH
EVERY PIE	OLD GULA	KERRY THE DIRTY DOG	
KNOTS ON A CHOCOLATE ROPE	HE AND MY CAT	MY BOTTEN STEADHEAD	CLIVE BRIDGES
THE NIGHT I FOLLOWED THE DOG	NO MURDER IN MY MAMA'S KITCHEN	THE POLAR EXPRESS	
PIRATES 1: GUNN	THE RAINBOW FISH	SOMEONE A DROOLES	
DEBATING BOLLER BLASTS	COMFORDY LOVES YOU MR. MATCH	COMFORDY ANTI-SPRICE	
STELLALUNA	TANK YOU MR. FALKER	WIKIPIGGO MEET MOOTIGGO	
TO BE A DRUM	WHITE SOCKS ONLY	WIKIPIGGO MEET MOOTIGGO	

**BOOKFLIX**  
 (FROM SCHOLASTIC, [HTTP://TEACHER.SCHOLASTIC.COM/PRODUCTS/BOOKFLIXFREE TRIAL/INDEX.HTM](http://TEACHER.SCHOLASTIC.COM/PRODUCTS/BOOKFLIXFREE TRIAL/INDEX.HTM))

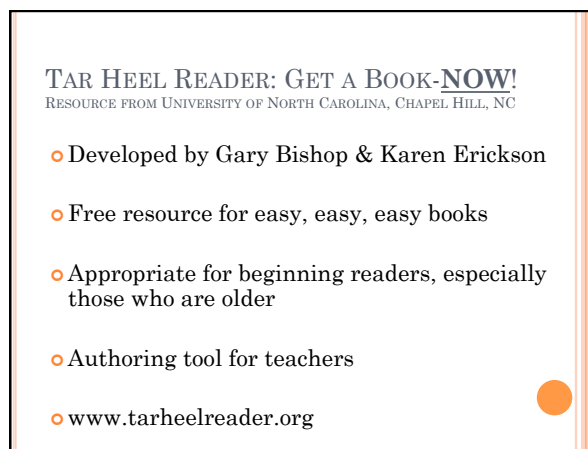
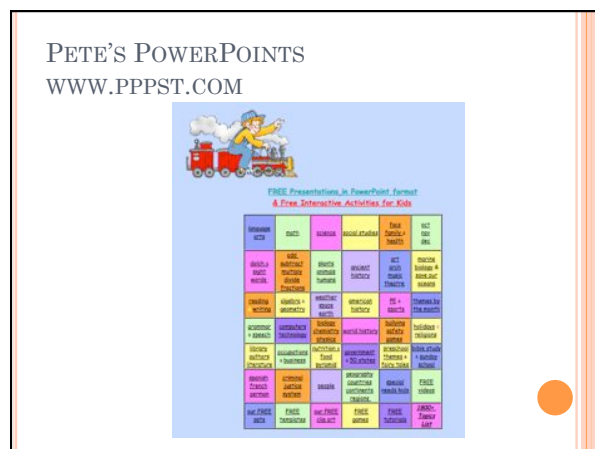
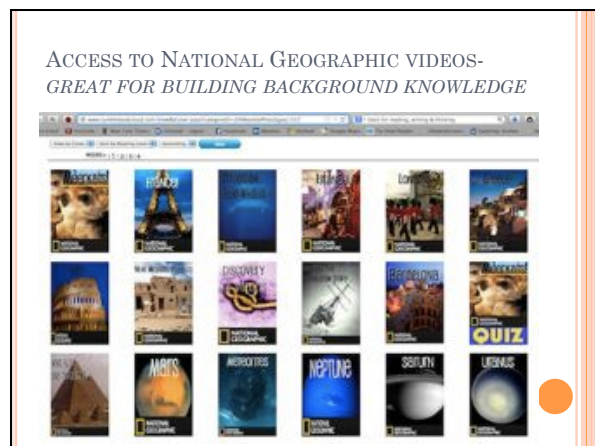
- Grades PreK-3 literature
- Fiction and non-fiction
- Paired with movies
- Has read aloud feature
- Check your library



**TUMBLE BOOK CLOUD JUNIOR**  
 ACCESS THROUGH YOUR LIBRARY



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## Finding the Right Books for Students with Complex Communication, Intellectual, and Physical Needs International Society for Augmentative & Alternative Communication Conference, Lisbon, Portugal, July, 2014

### TARHEEL READER BOOKS ARE READ ALL OVER THE WORLD!

- Books are available in many different languages
- From Arabic to Turkish
- Including Portuguese!
- Students can read books online OR books can be downloaded in PowerPoint
- Accessible via switches and Intellikeys

### EXEMPLAR TEXT SUPPORTS

#### SIMPLIFIED TEXTS WRITTEN BASED ON EXEMPLAR BOOK LIST IN COMMON CORE STANDARDS AVAILABLE FOR K-11

Information From Dynamic Learning Maps  
<http://dynamiclearningmaps.org/unc/texts/index.html>  
Books are all on Tarheel Reader: [www.tarheelreader.org](http://www.tarheelreader.org)

### START TO FINISH LITERACY STARTER KITS (FROM DON JOHNSTON)

- Sample Content Areas:  
Solar System, Volcanoes, Life Cycles, Continent & Culture, Plants, Insects, Ocean Animals, Biographies: Mark Twain, Habitats, Rights & Responsibilities, Jobs
- Switch Accessible



### LITERACY STARTERS ARE BASED ON THE BEGINNING LITERACY FRAMEWORK (BLF)

- A framework for selecting, adapting & writing texts
- Developed specifically for students with significant disabilities
- Identifies 3 different text types
  - Enrichment
  - Transitional
  - Conventional

\*\*Download framework from: [www.donjohnston.com](http://www.donjohnston.com)  
\*\*Developed by Karen Erickson & Caroline Musselwhite



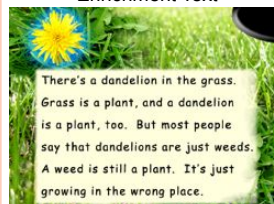
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### TEXT TYPES

- Enrichment
  - Lots of text – focus on concept building
  - Books for shared reading
  - Builds background knowledge
- Transitional
  - Supports students learning how books work
  - Predictable text structures
- Conventional
  - Short sentences with high frequency words
  - Books for independent word reading
  - Builds fluency

### Enrichment Text



### Transitional Text



### Conventional Text

### MORE RESOURCES

- Accessible Book Collections-subscription
  - [www.accessiblebookcollection.org](http://www.accessiblebookcollection.org)
  - Scanned in children's literature, available in different formats, Clicker, Boardmaker + more

### TEXT READERS

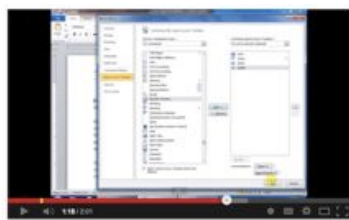
- MS Word!!!
- Natural Reader (free)
- Snap and Read ([www.donjohnston.com](http://www.donjohnston.com))
- Read Outloud ([www.donjohnston.com](http://www.donjohnston.com))



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### MS WORD TALKS? WHAT? IN THE BUDGET!

- 2 Minute Tutorial
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ips3k6UdY7Q>



How to Make Microsoft Word to Talk, Read, Speak Aloud with T...

### NATURAL READER FREE-ONLY FOR MAC

- Check out the MINI-Board!!!



### GREAT APP REVIEWERS

- SpedApps2: Applications for Special Populations
  - Caroline Musselwhite and crew
  - <http://spedapps2.wikispaces.com/HOME>
- Apps for Children with Special Needs
  - <http://a4cwsn.com>
  - Has video overviews!
- Jane Farrall
  - [www.janefarrall.com/](http://www.janefarrall.com/)

### SPINOUT BLUE & RED



- Stories are informative, fictional, and narrative genre
- High interest / low readability, with excellent photos
- 4 stories, each with 3 levels of difficulty
- Lots of supports
- Supports fluency by underlining
- \$9.99 each



From Caroline Musselwhite  
<http://spedapps2.wikispaces.com>

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### HUMAN BODY DETECTIVE

- Great science stories
- Lovely, engaging graphics
- Smallish print
- Occasional animations
- Lots of word art
- Great for older students
- \$1.99 - \$2.99 each



From Caroline Musselwhite  
<http://spedapps2.wikispaces.com>

### *IHowTo BOOKS*



FREE

#### IHow-To Book

A bookshelf of how-to stories about many self-help topics. Can automatically read page OR read word-by-word.

- Great hand-drawn graphics
- Good voice – not babyish
- Includes some object animations



From Caroline Musselwhite  
<http://spedapps2.wikispaces.com>



### *BOOKSY*

FREE  
 (shell, +  
 2 books)

#### Booksy

Intended for younger readers, but has informational text of interest to older students.

- Reads a page
- Provides word support
- Gives a record for adults
- Great graphics and some sound effects
- Comprehension check



From Caroline Musselwhite  
<http://spedapps2.wikispaces.com>

### *I LIKE BOOKS*



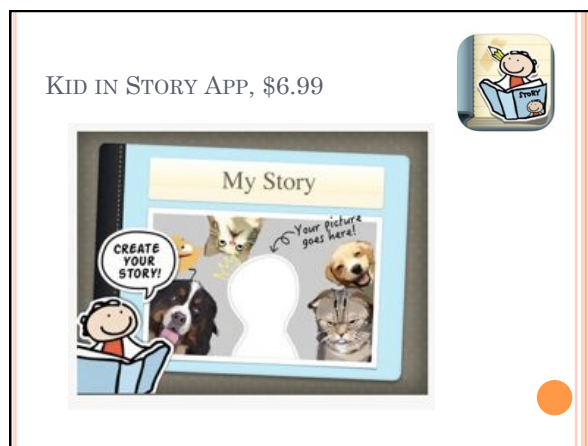
- 37 picture books for younger kids
- Free!!



From Caroline Musselwhite  
<http://spedapps2.wikispaces.com>

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### WRITING SIMPLE STORIES...IN A N.Y. MINUTE (MUSSELWHITE & ERICKSON, WWW.AACINTERVENTION.COM)

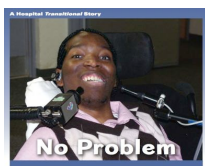
- Choose topics based on student interest
- Keep it SHORT, SHORT, SHORT
  - 6 words or less per page
- Use a variety of writing features/styles
- Have AAC student add sound effects/comments

### TIPS FOR STRUCTURES

- Fun Use of Repeated Lines-but sparingly
- Use High Frequency Words
- Noun, Verb or Adjective Books
- Sentence Frames
  - (noun) in the (place), (at, on, up)

### LEARNING TO WORK

BY CAROLINE MUSSELWHITE & LAUREL RICHARDSON  
FROM ATTAINMENT



Themes:  
•Garden  
•Hospital  
•Fast Food



### FIREHOUSE POWERPOINT BOOKS

BY CAROLINE MUSSELWHITE & THE AZ CREW

- From [www.aacintervention.com](http://www.aacintervention.com)
- All About Fire Fighters
- Fire Fighters
- Fire Alarm
- What's in the Firehouse (noun book)

SEPTEMBER - 2006



#### Fire House Stories

Get out your lights and sirens! Hot off the press! Here are some more simple stories. These were written by teachers & therapists at Buckeye Elementary School in Arizona on a Friday afternoon after a long week! (And they are still wonderful... proves what a combination of determination, imagination, collaboration, and inspiration will do!) Enjoy!!

September 2006

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### SENTENCE FRAME PREPOSITION BOOKS

- <noun> in the <noun>.
- <noun> at the <noun>.
- <noun> on the <noun>.
- <noun> with <noun>.
- <noun> and <noun>.
- <noun> under the <noun>.

Tito in the laundry.



Tito in the hat.



### GREAT FREE RESOURCE FOR PICS PICS4LEARNING.COM



HANDOUT AVAILABLE AT:

[HTTP://AACGIRLS.BLOGSPOT.COM](http://AACGIRLS.BLOGSPOT.COM)