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### Implementation ... Ideas

Implementation is more than training—it comprises the entire process of getting the software used effectively. Implementation includes evaluation and support of all users, with adjustments made as necessary. Good implementation makes the difference between effective use of software and software that sits “on the shelf” unused by staff or students.

Studies have shown that ongoing staff training with multiple practice opportunities is most effective.

For this reason, training materials that can be used again and again are important.

Our Workshop in a Box is designed so that a school district can use the materials as

often as desired, without the cost of paying for multiple training sessions. Educators are empowered to do their own training. For more information about Workshop in a Box, please contact LAB Resources or use this link:

<http://www.labresources-assistivetechology.com/Learning-Series.html>

**Visit LAB Resources at these conferences this fall/early winter:**

October 29—31 **ATIA Chicago**, Schaumburg, IL  
Visit us at Booth #119

December 3—4 **AT Across the Lifespan**  
Glacier Canyon Lodge at the Wilderness  
Wisconsin Dells, WI



# LAB Notes

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## Classroom Suite + Interactive Whiteboard

If you have access to an interactive whiteboard, you can use activities created in Classroom Suite with a group of students or the entire class.

Using Classroom Suite with an interactive whiteboard is both motivating and meaningful for students because they can go up to the board and touch their choice.

Caitlin Dardis, SLP with the Oregon School District in Oregon, WI and Nikki Jagfeld, Special Education Teacher in the Oregon School District,

have teamed together to create meaningful as well as stimulating activities for a group of students with cognitive disabilities.

Caitlin and Nikki began this program last school year. Each month they decided on a core theme. Then, prior to the start of each week, they met to finalize lesson plans and decide who was going to do what. Templates in Classroom Suite were used to create activities to teach their lessons.

The lessons were presented to  
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**Fall, 2009**



## Symbolstix Online by N2Y—coming soon!

Symbolstix is a new and dynamic symbol set developed by N2Y. It will be available online this fall, exact date not yet announced.

Symbolstix was originally designed by N2Y for use with its online weekly newspaper, News-2-You.

These symbols can now be found in software and products throughout our industry. These include:

- Tobii Communicator4
- AMDi Overlay Designer Pro
- PCI Printed Books
- Mind Express by Jabbla

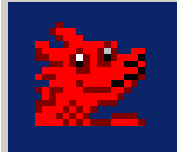
- Proloquo 2 Go (for iPhone)
- Smart Ease by AMDi
- Unique Learning System

The Symbolstix set of symbols is now available for purchase by schools and educators.

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## Dragon Corner

This regular column answers a commonly asked question about Dragon NaturallySpeaking

**Question:** What audio feedback features are available in Dragon NaturallySpeaking and how can they help my student?

**Answer:** Both the Preferred and Professional Editions of Dragon NaturallySpeaking offer auditory feedback capabilities. The Standard Edition of Dragon NaturallySpeaking does not offer any auditory feedback.

There are 2 types of auditory feedback:

- \* Playback of the audio from dictation: *Listen to what was actually said.*
- \* Text-to-speech: *Listen to what actually appears on your screen.*

Both forms of auditory feedback can be used to aid proofreading.

Playback of the audio from the actual dictation is very useful when you look back over a dictated page, see something that doesn't look right and don't remember what was actually said. With the Playback option, you can listen to what you said and make the corrections in your text. Playback of dictated speech is available from several places within Dragon NaturallySpeaking: the Quick Correct List, the Sound pull-down menu, the Extras toolbar, or by spoken command ("Play Back Document", "Play That Back", "Play Back Paragraph").

Playback of speech is a useful tool for an educator working with a student who needs help correcting recognition errors. The educator can listen to what the student actually said, highlight the misrecognized text, and type in the correct words. Because the text has been highlighted, both the document and the student's voice file will be corrected.

With the text-to-speech option, Dragon reads in a computer-generated voice what actually appears on the screen (which may be different from what was said). This is a very useful tool for a student to use when proofreading his or her document. Text-to-speech is available from several places within Dragon NaturallySpeaking: the Sound pull-down menu; the Extras toolbar, or by spoken command ("Read Document", "Read Paragraph" "Read That"). Rate of speech can be adjusted from the Options menu (click Tools, then Options).

*LAB Resources is an authorized Value Added Reseller for Dragon NaturallySpeaking. We provide training, support and have created our own tutorials and training materials. Please call LAB Resources for more information (262-691-3476 or 800-691-3476).*

[www.labresources-assistivetechology.com](http://www.labresources-assistivetechology.com)

## Symbolstix—continued from page 1

Symbolstix is not a drawing program, but rather a collection of 4000+ symbols that can be used when creating materials for students who do not read to help these students understand text and improve literacy.

Activities, items and persons are depicted as lively, vibrant stick figures - stick figures with "an attitude."

SymbolStix is continually updated with current event symbols, such as symbols that depict the people and events in the news. Actual persons

incorporated in SymbolStix are drawn as easily recognizable characterizations.

These symbols are important to communication and learning



development.

SymbolStix has a comprehensive library of pictures in many categories including:

Symbolstix is priced very economically—\$99 per individual classroom.

To purchase, or for more information, please contact LAB Resources.

## Classroom Suite and Interactive Whiteboards cont'd from page 1

students 4 days per week. Each lesson was about 30—45 minutes long.

Caitlin and Nikki would begin a new topic with an Introductory exploring page. For example, when the topic of transportation was introduced, a page was made with a variety of different vehicles. As students went up to the interactive whiteboard and touched the vehicles, each vehicle performed a different action. Following that, the 2 choice template was frequently used to present matching

activities, As students progressed, activities would be revised to present "find the" questions. Categorization activities were created. As the students learned the material, activities included "wh" questions.

Another unit that Nikki and Caitlin did last year was the concept of hot/cold. Caitlin reported students enjoyed the many Classroom Suite activities to teach this concept.

This fall, Caitlin would like to expand usage of Classroom

Suite and the interactive whiteboard to the kindergarten classroom to work on phonemic awareness. Classroom Suite comes with many already created activities and templates for quick creation of new activities for phonemic awareness and phonics.

Classroom Suite is available from LAB Resources in Wisconsin. Mimio Interactive makes any whiteboard interactive and is available from LAB Resources. Please call for more information.

[www.labresources-assistivetechology.com](http://www.labresources-assistivetechology.com)