

LAB Resources

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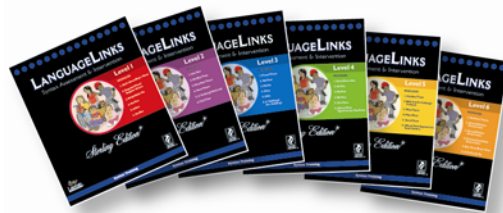
Please call LAB Resources for a copy of our new 2007 Catalog!



Language Links ... continued from page 1

Optimized Intervention, a powerful, innovative system that tailors instructional delivery to each student's unique needs. The software begins with an assessment to determine where to start training. Then the program checks detailed information about a student's performance and automatically guides the student through the curriculum. Reinforcement animations are entertaining and included enriched language. Language Links automatically produces comprehensive reports.

If you would like to receive



a demo CD, please call LAB Resources at 800-691-3476 or 262-691-3476.

LAB Notes

LAB Resources

Training and Software Implementation

"The challenge . . . is that schools, teachers and parents are struggling with the integration of technology into the lives of individuals with disabilities." Smith and Allsopp, 2005

Assistive technology software can make a major difference in the life of a student. It can make the difference between dependence and independence.

In order to equip students with the appropriate assistive technology, schools make large investments in computer hardware and software. Only limited funding may remain for training the educators on how to use the technology to best benefit their students. Not only are

educators extremely busy with little time to sit down with a software program and learn all of its features, but research has shown that learning must be active to be most successful. Self study alone is not the best way to reach competency. Additional support and guidance is most effective.

LAB Resources has developed Workshop in a Box to provide schools with the tools they need to train their staff on a number of

popular assistive technology software programs. Workshop in a Box is designed to meet the needs of educators. It has been designed to follow best adult learning practices.

A Workshop in the Box is available for each of these titles:

- Boardmaker for Windows – Ver. 5 or 6
- Boardmaker Plus - Choose Ver. 5 or 6
- Boardmaker/Speaking Dynamically Pro— Windows - Ver. 5 or 6

(Continued on page 3)



Winter 2007



Language Links... by Laureate

Language Links is the new, comprehensive, evidence-based approach to syntax assessment and intervention from Laureate.

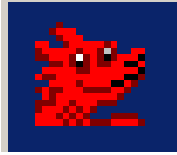
This software program takes children from the early 2 - word development stage through the mastery of a broad range of syntactic forms. Six

levels train over 75 essential grammatical forms in developmental order.

Language Links features *(Continued on page 4)*

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Dragon Corner

This regular column answers a commonly asked question about Dragon NaturallySpeaking

Question: How much time does it take to set up a voice file with the new Version 9?

Answer: It takes about 5 Minutes to set up a voice file. First, the Audio Setup Wizard must be run. The Audio Setup Wizard lets NaturallySpeaking look at the computer's sound card, microphone and computer settings - and the Wizard may make changes to these settings. This Wizard will tell you if NaturallySpeaking will work on your computer. When you run the Audio Setup Wizard, the user will be asked to read 2 short paragraphs to adjust the volume and test the quality of the sound card. These tests just listen to the sound of the voice, not the accuracy of the reading. If you are working with a student who has difficulty reading, he or she can just talk during this test. If he has difficulty thinking of something to say, you can ask him to count until he hears a beep. Following completion of the test, NaturallySpeaking will tell you if your sound card passed or failed, as well as give a Speech to Noise Ratio. The higher the Speech to Noise ratio, the higher the grade your sound system received. In general, you will want a Speech to Noise ratio over 20 before continuing.

The next step is the voice training. With Version 9 you can choose to skip this initial voice training. Version 9 will then be approximately as accurate as Version 8 was after doing the voice training. If you do the training, NaturallySpeaking will be more accurate. Only skip the initial training if your student will have a lot of difficulty reading aloud for 5 minutes. Another option is to do the training and whisper it to your student for him or her to repeat.

Within the Accuracy Center, there is an option for additional training beyond the initial training. In most instances, this is not needed. Rather, a user should dictate his or her real work and correct all recognition errors to improve his voice file. If a user is experiencing very poor accuracy when dictating, or if you need to move a user file to another computer, you may want to perform this additional training. This additional training will take between 20 and 25 minutes.

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).

Training and Software Implementation, cont'd

- Clicker 5
- Dragon NaturallySpeaking 9
- Kurzweil 3000 Ver. 10
- WNN Wizard/Reader 5.1

An in-depth (but visually simple) PowerPoint presentation with presenter notes guides the educator who will be leading the workshop with initial presentation to the group of the material being trained. This PowerPoint links to the workbook that each participant will receive for hands-on practice. A school may print as many workbooks as needed for workshop participants using the PDF file that comes with the Workshop.

The Workbook provides step-by-step directions for participants to follow in the hands-on portions of the training. In addition, participants can take these workbooks back to their homes and schools to support them as they implement the software in their classrooms and with their students. Discussion questions and implementation activities are included with each

Workshop in the Box to encourage discussion among the participants. Dave Edyburn (2001) states, "Effective staff developers know it is important to stimulate conversation among the participants in a workshop. Discussion serves as a means of creating a network to sustain the conversation beyond the day's activities."

Each Workshop in a Box contains these items:

- Workshop in the Box CD:
 - * In-depth PowerPoint Presentation + presenter notes
 - * LAB Lessons Workbook PDF – print the copies you need
 - * Agendas for Half Day and Full Day Workshops – can also be adapted to smaller units of time
 - * Evaluation Form PDF
 - * Completion Certificate PDF
 - * PowerPoint Viewer 2003
 - * Adobe Reader.
- One paper copy of each PDF file
- Original Time timer,
- \$25 gift certificate for drawing

Workshop in a Box is a tool

designed for schools specifically for staff development. It has been designed to help educators be proficient with the software in their districts – and ultimately, see that the software they have invested in is being used to improve the lives of their students.

Workshop in a Box is priced at \$189.95 per title. Questions? Call LAB Resources 262-691-3476 or 800-691-3476.

References:

Edyburn, Dave. (2001) *Technology Training Strategies: Training as a technology integration strategy*

Lahm, Elizabeth A. (2005). *Improving Practice using Assistive Technology Knowledge and Skills*. Handbook of Special Education and Technology Research, Edyburn 2005.

Reed, Penny and Kaplan, Marsye. *Tune Up Your Technology Training Techniques*. Closing the Gap, 2005.

Smith, Sean J. and Allsopp, David. (2005) *Technology and In-service Professional Development: Integrating an Effective Medium to Bridge Research to Practice*. Handbook of Special Education and Technology Research, Edyburn '05.