

Software Functions

Abbreviation Expansion

Abbreviations instead of a word/phrase can be entered to reduce the number of keyboard presses required

- e.g. The Grid, Speaking Dynamically Pro

Icon Supported

Uses pictures, photos, symbols etc. to enhance the text and help the user to recognise words

- e.g. Clicker, WWS, Inclusive Writer, The Grid, Speaking Dynamically Pro

Keyboard Familiarisation

Activities to enhance the user's knowledge of the keyboard layout to improve typing speed

- e.g. First Keys 2, Type for Fun, Speedy Keys

Keyboard Shortcuts

Use of "Hot Keys" (such as ALT & E together to bring down the Edit menu on Word)

- e.g. Word, Clicker

On-Screen Keyboards

Grid of the keyboard on screen for either Point & Click or switch access

- e.g. Clicker, WWS, Penfriend, The Grid, Speaking Dynamically Pro, WIVIK

Speech Feedback

Reinforces what has been entered by speaking it back out to the user

- e.g. Write Outloud, Clicker, WWS, Intellitalk, Co-Writer

Touch Typing

Teaches users to type using all fingers and without looking at the keyboard

- e.g. Type to Learn, Touch Type, Five Finger Typist (for one handed use)

Voice Recognition

Allows text to be entered by speaking into a microphone, there are two types

Discrete - where words are spoken separately

- e.g. Dragon Dictate (Classic)

Continuous - where speech is more natural as you speak in phrases or sentences

- e.g. Dragon Naturally Speaking

Word Banks

Gives lists of words for the user to choose from

- e.g. Word Bar, Clicker, WWS

Word Prediction

Shows a changing list of possible words as the user types, based on the letters that have already been entered

- e.g. Penfriend, Co-Writer

Products

Clicker

Clicker is a powerful writing support and multimedia tool that enables users to write with whole words, phrases or pictures

- Produced by Crick Software

WWS (Writing with Symbols 2000)

A language, literacy and communication tool that uses symbols, speech and activities to help anyone read and write

- Produced by Widgit Software

Penfriend

Word Prediction program with on-screen keyboard and editable dictionaries

- Produced by Penfriend Ltd

Co-Writer

Grammar-smart word prediction helps pupils get to the word they want to write, maximises their writing efforts with as few keystrokes as possible

- Produced by Don Johnston Special Needs Ltd

First Keys 2

Develops keyboard skills through text matching, spelling and word blends from picture cues

- Produced by Widgit Software

Type to Learn

Teaches pupils to touch type and also reinforces spelling, grammar, composition and punctuation skills. Includes automatic reporting features to help teachers plan and assess and monitor each pupils' best typing speed, accuracy, performance averages and level of participation

- Supplied by Dyslexic.com, Adapt-IT, R-E-M