



WRITING LITERACY
CLASSES
ASSESSMENT
TUTORING
ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

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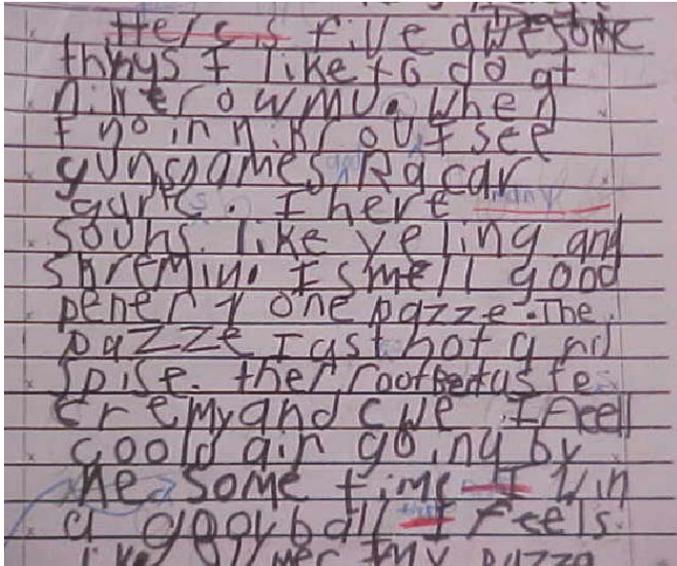
**Multi-Sensory Educational
Learning Labs!**

Child struggle with:

- writing skills?**
- spelling?**
- organization of paragraphs?**
- composition?**
- sentence writing?**
- grammar?**
- using “voice”?**
- punctuation?**

	AGES/ GRADE	APPROPRIATE FOR:	DESCRIPTION OF SCHOOL YEAR CLASS/SUMMER CAMP	COST/DURATION OF CLASS/CAMP
<p>WRITING LITERACY CLASSES</p> <p>Zany PIRATES!</p>  <p>Zany HEROS</p> 	<p>1st - 2nd grade</p> <p>3rd - 5th grade</p>	<p>Students who need to improve using their “voice”, creative writing, grammar, punctuation, compensation techniques for spelling.</p>	<p>Writing Literacy Classes I and II - Each class will explore different skills towards writing. Many of our students handwriting was so illegible prior to coming to the clinic, that once their handwriting was improved, it is apparent that they still have trouble with grammar, spelling, composition, and punctuation. Using fun themes, our teacher will reteach basic grammar, punctuation, capitalization rules, and help students learn tricks or compensation skills for spelling. Students also learn to write creatively, with longer sentence structure. A FUN way to work towards preparing for TAKS writing! Session I is a pirate theme. Pirates are glamorized in the movies, but what was it like to be a pirate. Write “how to’s” and persuasive essays! Explore The Hero Within Yourself in our Zany Heroes class. Explore qualities about cartoon heros, heros in literature, and find the hero within yourself when realizing how fun writing can be!</p>	<p>*** Each session is 8 classes. See main school year or summer camp brochure, website, or call for current pricing and schedule.</p> <div style="border: 2px dashed black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 20px; text-align: center;"> <p>Classes are FUN and use multisensory techniques. Students get prizes, toys, crafts and do games to facilitate learning. Student dislike writing? These classes are FUN!</p> </div>

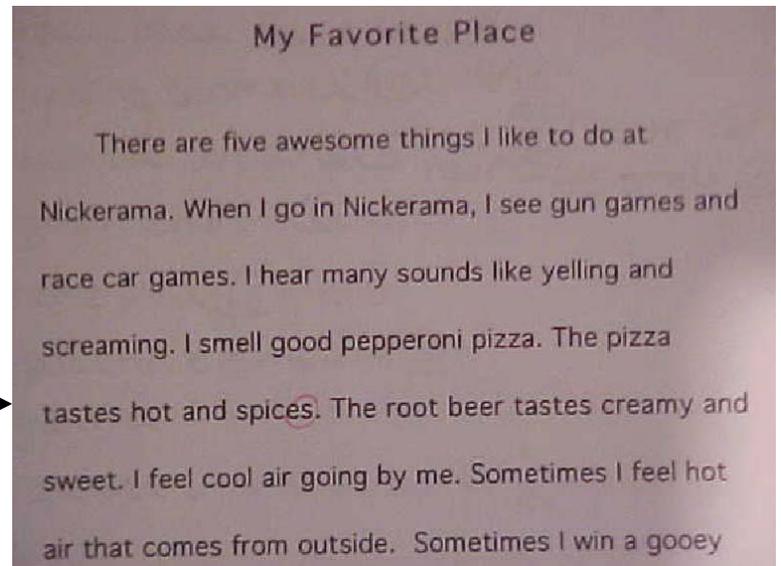
Assistive Technology Tutoring for Written Expression - We provide tutoring for assistive technology software and portable keyboard devices. If you have a poor speller, or a disorder of written expression, tutoring may help children write at their cognitive level, not their spelling level. We use a software program called Write OutLoud which allows students who misspell about 40 out of 100 words, to write a paragraph with only 1 - 2 spelling errors. This program has text to speech, to enhance students abilities to self correct. \$75 an hour



Same 3rd grade student independently used the Write Outloud program with an interactive spell checker with text to speech. Student corrected all misspelled words.



to



3rd grade child with poor spelling, spacing issues, poor consistency of size and form of letter formation and poor legibility of handwriting. Handwriting and spelling errors make it difficult for the child to edit grammar, learn and learn capitalization and punctuation rules.

Same 3rd grade child using Write OutLoud software to INDEPENDENTLY rewrite the paragraph. Note, he now has only one spelling error, and good punctuation and grammar. This child feels successful and others can view him as being smart and capable. Goals for this child would be to 1. help him learn to love writing 2. Use an alphasmart to type in text 3. Use Write OutLoud spell and grammar checking software with text to speech to edit work. 4. Write using handwriting, using a handheld spell checker with the Write Outloud spell checking software built into the handheld device. 5. Improve legibility of handwriting through a Cursive I or a WHAM class (print).

Writing should be based on a students creativity and cognitive level, not a child's spelling or handwriting level!

What is the Children's Talking Dictionary?

This is a handheld spell checker, that is very kid friendly. It has text to speech to read the words to the child. It is available to purchase from www.donjohnston.com. We have students use it during written work.

What is Write OutLoud software?

Write OutLoud software is a phonetic word processing program that allows a student who spells phonetically, to write paragraphs with very few misspelled words. No longer do they need to do "safe" writing with brief sentences of words they know how to spell. Write OutLoud corrects most phonetic and dyslexic spelling errors. This software has text to speech that allows a child to hear what they are writing. This software is awesome for beginning or advanced writers and makes writing FUN!

What is the Don Johnston Writing Literacy Technology Lab?

Our writing literacy lab consists of 4 computers, each loaded with Don Johnston Writing Literacy software. All of the above software programs are loaded on the computers, as well as other special software programs. You can find out more about the software at www.donjohnston.com

Of course, the software helps, but our FUN, experienced teachers make writing literacy work for the child. Through fun, creative and zany writing projects, a child is invested in developing writing literacy!

Frequently asked questions about assistive technology software:

My child does not have trouble with writing or spelling. Would this software be ok for my child to use? YES, of course, anything that can make writing FUN would be beneficial.

Will using the phonetic spell checking software be a “crutch” for my child. NO! It will allow your child to begin to compose with success. In fact, when kids have to correct their spelling, after a few times they often remember to start to spell the word correctly. Paragraph formatting skills practiced with the software will only generalize to more success with handwritten work. Also, as students get into more advanced grades they spend more and more time working on typing written work. Jr. High and high school students turn in most written essays and reports typed.

My child is a very poor speller. Will he always be a poor speller? Many kids have difficulty with spelling. The English language is not very fair - a large amount of words are NOT spelled phonetically. Even kids with dyslexia learn to master most words. But many, many adults need to always use a spell checking program to edit and correct written work. We find that young children do best with a simple program such as Write OutLoud, and then by the time they are in middle school, have success with Microsoft Word.

Will Microsoft Word work just as well? The ultimate goal is for a child to use the more advanced word processing programs. But Microsoft Word does not correct phonetic or dyslexic spelling errors as well as a phonetic spell checking program. Besides, “hearing” their paragraph read to them word by word, in Write OutLoud, is much more fun!

What are some other advantages of having text to speech? Say a child writes “I want to lunch my rocket”. “Lunch” is a real word, so no spell checking program will correct the sentence. However, when a student HEARS the sentence, the student will immediately recognize the error and can do a different word attack approach for the word “lunch”. Even if the child wrote “lonch”, the phonetic spell checking program will bring up the spell checking menu with the word “launch”.

My child uses an alphasmart at school. How do I integrate this software? Your child can continue to use the alphasmart at school, and then import the text into Write OutLoud on the computer. But the most exciting thing is that Don Johnston, Inc has recently come out with a Dana (improved version of the alphasmart) that finally and wonderfully, has Write OutLoud as an option WITHIN the portable keyboard device. This new integration of the software and portable device, will not allow students with learning differences to finally keep up with their peers in writing literacy. There is another device, called the Fusion, that has all of these abilities as well within the portable device. New technology keeps being developed so portable keyboards are getting better all the time.

My child does not have access to this at school: If your child is in regular education, the program offered for assistive technology support is just a great, creative writing outlet. If your child has some learning disabilities and qualifies for special education, you have a right to request an assistive technology evaluation from your districts assistive technology team if you feel like your child may benefit from assistive technology. Most assistive technology teams are very familiar with this software. They provide training at the district level for how to use portable keyboards, special software for writing literacy, etc. But, after initial short term training, the student is expected to use the technology within the classroom. Zany Labs writing literacy program is a bridge that will allow more training, in FUN ways, for students who need more work in practicing these skills. The Zany Labs summer camp writing camps and the parent night out classes during the school year, are marketed for ALL students who are beginning learners or who need a little extra help with writing literacy. They are considered “enrichment” classes.

My child does not need help with assistive technology. What class is best for him, to help his writing? The Writing Literacy - Pirates, or Writing Literacy - Heroes, classes may be beneficial. The assistive technology program through private tutoring or through the Zany Science camp, is mostly for poor spellers, or for children with a disorder of written expression or true dysgraphia. The creative writing classes are for all students who need help with writing literacy. Students that need assistive technology also would be recommended to take the creative writing classes too.

My child is a poor typist. Does he need typing skills to use assistive technology? Yes, typing skills at 12 wpm is recommended to be an initial level of skill to begin assistive technology. The clinic provides multi-sensory keyboarding classes to improve typing skills. ALL children would benefit from keyboarding skills!!