

## My Favorite Things:

*Computer programs, resources and services that really work!*

### SOFTWARE:

- Intellitools Classroom Suite:** (software) A collection of Intellitools most popular authoring tools: **Intellipics Studio 3-** a multimedia presentation tool, **IntelliMathics 3-** a virtual math manipulatives tool, and **IntelliTalk 3-** a talking word processor and writing tool. Teacher designed activities can be sent home for use on home computers set up with the free players. [www.intellitools.com](http://www.intellitools.com), also available locally from **Dunamis Inc., (800) 828-2443**
- Boardmaker:** (software) A graphics database of over 3000 Picture Communication Symbols which allows users to create communication boards, worksheets, activity **schedules**, calendars, storybooks, recipes, and much, much more! Boardmaker allows you to add **visual cues** to almost any activity or routine you engage in. A very powerful tool for visual learners who have difficulty with auditory processing. Simply a MUST-HAVE for all teachers and therapists- and a very good idea for homes with family member who need visual supports. [www.mayer-johnson.com](http://www.mayer-johnson.com) (800) 588-4548 (also available from Dunamis, Inc- see above) Mayer-Johnson is now offering a special for parents- Boardmaker @ Home, a home version which is slightly less comprehensive than the standard but “perfect for home use.”
- Writing With Symbols:** (software) A powerful word/picture processing program allows you to type words and have the option of having picture symbols quickly pop in with each word. An excellent writing tool for early readers and writers who need picture support. WWS is also a great tool for creating worksheets, recipes, and schedules etcetera. [www.mayer-johnson.com](http://www.mayer-johnson.com) (800) 588-4548 (Also available from Dunamis, Inc- see above)
- Intellikeys:** (alternative keyboard) “A programmable alternative keyboard that plugs into the keyboard port of your computer. It enables users with physical, visual, or cognitive disabilities to easily type, enter numbers, navigate onscreen displays, and execute menu commands.” Great for people who have difficulty accessing the standard computer keyboard either because of physical difficulties or cognitive challenges. [www.intellitools.com](http://www.intellitools.com) (800) 899-6687 (also available from Dunamis, Inc- see above)
- Intellitools Overlay Maker:** (software) An add-on program for use with Intellikeys. With Overlay Maker you can customize your own overlays to fit on Intellikeys and meet the varying needs of your students. You can simplify writing activities so that children only have to press one picture to write a relevant sentence. Wonderful for people who are at varying stages of symbol comprehension and use. This product works well with Writing With Symbols and Classroom Suite. . [www.intellitools.com](http://www.intellitools.com) (800) 899-6687 (also available from Dunamis, Inc- see above)
- My Own Bookshelf:** (software) A book-authoring program that allows students, teachers and parents to create their own stories for the computer or buy from a selection of books available from SoftTouch [www.softtouch.com](http://www.softtouch.com) (877) SOFTTOUCH. Stories can include real voice recordings, sound effects, movies and photographs. Very powerful and easy to use.

### WEBSITES AND SOFTWARE MANUFACTURERS:

- Mayer-Johnson:** (AAC, AT manufacturer and distributor) **The** top manufacturer and distributor of light tech AAC options, reference materials and teacher/therapist materials. The manufacturer of PCS Symbols, Boardmaker and Boardmaker Add-Ons, as well as Speaking Dynamically Pro (AAC software). The website also offers free downloads. [www.mayer-johnson.com](http://www.mayer-johnson.com)
- News-2-You:** (on-line newspaper) A fantastic weekly picture-based newspaper designed for special needs readers. A standard subscription provides access to the weekly newspaper in regular, simplified and advanced versions. Color newspapers are available in the regular version. This newspaper can

talk on your computer. Each newspaper comes with recipes and activity sheets to check comprehension. [www.news-2-you.com](http://www.news-2-you.com)

**Joey's Locker:** (software and printables) An add-on subscription to News-2-You. Joey's locker has approximately 12-15 activity pages related to the weekly newspaper theme. Pages target math (facts and sequencing), daily living (recipes and shopping), phonics, writing, and other concepts. The subscription also gives you access to on-line games, related to the weekly theme, of course! An invaluable tool for busy teachers! [www.news-2-you.com](http://www.news-2-you.com)

**Learning Magic Inc:** (software manufacturer) A wonderful company that produces amazing quality computer activities and non-fiction academic content for our kids. Their activities run on Intellitools Classroom Suite, My Own Bookshelf and Test Me, Score Me currently. You can visit their website to learn more about their wonderful products. They offer freebies on a wide range of topics including science, social studies, nature and more on their "Goodies" section. Activities are designed for students of all ability levels with new offerings monthly. [www.learningmagicinc.com](http://www.learningmagicinc.com)

**Priory Woods:** This is an amazing school whose team shares hundreds of switch activities with all of our favorite themes including Finding Nemo, Madagascar, Axle-F Crazy Frog and the Black-Eyed Peas, just to mention a few! They also have interactive talking story books, their own educational programs and their curriculum to share. Most of their switch/touch window activities are done in Macromedia Flash Player (free player). They also have a template you can use to create your own stories in Power Point. All of their programs operate with a range of assistive input devices including switches, touch-screens and pointing devices. [www.priorywoods.middlesbrough.sch.uk](http://www.priorywoods.middlesbrough.sch.uk)

## **ALTERNATIVE ACCESS TO THE COMPUTER (WRITING, SWITCHES)**

**Touch Window:** (alternate computer access) A touch screen you can add to your monitor by simply attaching it with Velcro. This allows the user to simply touch the areas of the computer screen instead of having to point and click with a mouse. This helps with cognitive understanding of using the computer as well as physical access. Available from Dunamis Inc (Magic Touch Add-On Touch Screen, \$170.00), Riverdeep (Edmark Touch Window \$335.00([www.riverdeep.net](http://www.riverdeep.net) or 888-242-6747). Also keep a watch on Ebay- but be careful to buy a connection that works with your computer- USB or Serial Port.

**Intellikeys:** (alternative keyboard) "A programmable alternative keyboard that plugs into the keyboard port of your computer. It enables users with physical, visual, or cognitive disabilities to easily type, enter numbers, navigate onscreen displays, and execute menu commands." Great for people who have difficulty accessing the standard computer keyboard either because of physical difficulties or cognitive challenges. [www.intellitools.com](http://www.intellitools.com) (800) 899-6687 (also available from Dunamis, Inc- see above)

**Switches:** Many different switches are available that connect to the computer, mechanical toys and equipment around the home and school for people who have difficulty physically accessing their environment. Dunamis sells a variety of these as well as companies such as AbleNet [www.ablenetinc.com](http://www.ablenetinc.com)

## **AUGMENTATIVE COMMUNICATION AID MANUFACTURERS:**

**Dynavox:** (AAC device manufacturer) Worldwide leading manufacturer and distributor of AAC products such as the DV4, MT4, DyanWrite, TabletXL, MiniMo, MightyMo, and PalmTop. A very established company with exceptional technical support, funding assistance and local representation [www.dynavoxtech.com](http://www.dynavoxtech.com) **Local Sales Representative: Ron Steinberg, Ph: 800-344-1778 ext: 7868**

**Prentke Romich Company (PRC):** (AAC device manufacturer) The oldest AAC product manufacturer now celebrating their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This company produces products such as the Pathfinder Plus, Vantage Plus, Vanguard Plus, and the Springboard Plus. PRC products are based on a very strong language system, Minspeak. A company with a good product support and solid research base. Available locally through Dunamis Inc. (see above)

*There are many other communication aid manufacturers; these are just my favorites because of their long history of providing exceptional products and support for the end user.*