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Universal Design in Learning (UDL)

"Universal Design for Learning (UDL) is a framework for designing curricula that enable all individuals to gain knowledge, skills, and enthusiasm for learning. UDL provides rich supports for learning and reduces barriers to the curriculum while maintaining high achievement standards for all." from the Center for Applied Special Technology - <http://www.cast.org>

UDL tools help teachers and students quickly adapt instructional media to match each student's needs. The flexibility of these tools give students multiple means of representation, expression, and engagement. The resources below provide extensive information on UDL.

1. Teaching Every Student in the Digital Age - <http://www.cast.org/teachingeverystudent/ideas/tes/>. an online book on UDL by David Rose and Anne Meyer.
2. UDL Toolkits - <http://www.cast.org/teachingeverystudent/toolkits/>. online resources on UDL from [CAST](#)
3. UDL Guidelines Graphic Organizer - http://www.cast.org/publications/UDLguidelines/UDL_Guidelines_v1.0-Organizer.pdf. visual guide to the basics of UDL
4. UDL Guidelines - <http://www.cast.org/publications/UDLguidelines/version1.html>. guidelines to help in designing flexible curricula.
5. UDL Guidelines Blog - <http://udlguidelines.edublogs.org/>. a forum for educators and education stakeholders
6. UDL Editions - <http://udleditions.cast.org/>. classic texts from world literature presented in a flexible online interface. view the [editions video](#)
7. CAST UDL BookBuilder - <http://bookbuilder.cast.org/>. free online tool for developing digital books. includes reading comprehension supports
8. CAST Strategy Tutor - <http://cst.cast.org/cst/auth-login>. free online tool to support students in activities that involved online reading, research, and information collection
9. CAST UDL Curriculum Self-Check - <http://udlselfcheck.cast.org/>. free online tool that helps educators building options and flexibility in the curriculum
10. CAST UDL Lesson Builder - <http://lessonbuilder.cast.org/>. free online tool to help teachers customize standards-based curriculum
11. [Pathways to Learning for Students with Significant Cognitive Challenges](#). an excellent handout from the University of Kentucky on supports for reading, writing, and presentations.
12. Using Flexible Technology to Meet the Needs of Diverse Learners - <http://www.wested.org/cs/we/view/rs/763>. a knowledge brief on how some standard, readily available technologies can be used to tailor instruction to meet individual student needs. can be purchased or viewed online
13. [Performance Technology Toolkit](#). a handout on technology tools to enhance performance across the curriculum
14. AT and UDL - <http://teachingeverystudent.blogspot.com>. great collection of information and ideas on teaching every student

15. Computer Based Study Strategies - <http://cate.uoregon.edu:8100/> . excellent resource on strategies that benefit all students

The North Star

Stories and resources to help teachers and students find their personal North Star.

1. The North Star Story . <http://www.fablevision.com/northstar/index.html>
2. North Star Posters . <http://www.fablevision.com/northstar/miniposters/index.html>
3. North Star Guide to Technology Planning . <http://www.fablevision.com/northstar/techplan/index.html>
4. FableVision Educator Resources . <http://www.fablevision.com/education/resources/index.htm>

Communication

There are some amazing new tools used for communication that are great for students with disabilities. In the past students learned shorthand in highschool. Now we have text messaging, and some students are using a cell phone as their augmentative communication device. Check out some of these great technologies.

1. Jott - <http://www.jott.com> . a phone service where you call and leave a short voice message that is converted to text, emails, reminders, etc.
2. Text Message Abbreviations - http://www.webopedia.com/quick_ref/textmessageabbreviations.asp . a guide to learning text messaging
3. Text Message Translator - <http://lingo2word.com/translate.php> . type in English and translate it to text lingo, or type in text lingo and translate it to English
4. Podbean . <http://www.podbean.com/> . social podcasting and blogging service. a great free way to start podcasting

Digital Text

Digital text is extremely flexible and can be quickly changed in font, font size, and color to match a student's needs. It can also be read aloud by computers for students who need auditory support or occasional assistance with some words.

1. ReadingBar - www.readplease.com . adds text to speech to Internet Explorer on Windows so web pages can be read out loud and saved to audio . it also includes a feature that will enlarge the graphics and text on a web page
2. Natural Reader - www.naturalreaders.com . a free Win text to speech utility. add to Adobe Reader and your computer can read PDF files aloud . use with a web browser and the Internet "talks"
3. GhostReader (Mac) from [Convenienceware](http://www.convenienceware.com) - A free text to speech tool for the Macintosh.
4. Speaking Notepad (Win) from [Qwerty Studios](http://www.qwertystudios.com) - An inexpensive talking word processor.
5. Universal Reader & Universal Reader Plus - www.readingmadeez.com/Products.php . are inexpensive text to speech programs (Plus includes scanning) for Win that include a "point and hear" feature where you can use a mouse to point to text and hear it aloud. you can apply for a grant from the company to get the software provided for the first year
6. Talking Word Processor 9.1 . www.readingmadeez.com/Products.php - is an inexpensive talking word processor that includes highlight extraction, audio grammar checker, and a summarize tool. you can apply for a grant from the company to get the software provided for the first year
7. Nisus Express (Mac) from [Nisus](http://www.nisus.com) - A word processor with highlighting and other comprehension support tools.
8. SOLO - www.donjohnston.com . extensive set of tools for writing with text to speech and activity guidelines

9. Kurzweil 3000 - www.kurzweiledu.com . scans printed text to digital format with embedded study tools
10. Read&Write Gold - www.texthelp.com . set of extensive study and text to speech tools that work with any program running on a computer
11. TextAloud . <http://www.textaloud.com> . software that converts text into audio files that can be burned to an audio CD or played on an MP3 player

Memory Tools

Many students with disabilities have problems with memory and making connections to past learning. Externalized memory journals can make a difference when students review past entries on a regular basis. Time organization tools can also be extremely helpful. All of these tools can be beneficial to all students so they make great UDL additions to any classroom. And since they are digital you can add a text to speech tool and you have a talking memory journal for those students who need audio support.

1. Evernote - <http://www.evernote.com> . inexpensive information management software for Windows
2. NoteBook - <http://www.circusponies.com> . inexpensive information management software for Macintosh
3. OneNote - <http://www.microsoft.com> . information management software for Windows
4. Curio (MacX) - <http://www.zengobi.com/products/curio/> . a new and full featured information organization software program
5. OmniOutliner (MacX) - <http://www.omnigroup.com/applications/omnioutliner/> . one of the best idea organizers and writing tools on the Macintosh. the Pro version includes the ability to record audio with the notes.
6. PlanPlus - www.franklincovey.com/fc/get_organized/electronic_planning/planplus_for_windows is a software version of the FranklinCovey Day Planner. this can be a great tool for students in organizing/storing information and remembering timelines using a "typical" tool
7. Toodledo - <http://www.toodledo.com/> . an online tool to keep task lists, plan use of time, and get email reminders

Most interactive whiteboards (Smart, Activboard), include screen capture "notebooks" that are great memory tools when used on individual student's computers.

Graphics / Videos

Because of the popularity of online graphics and video, providing access to digital graphics and video tools can quickly infuse technology into the classroom. Teachers can give a classroom presentation and then have it saved to video and uploaded to the Internet in only a few minutes (flexibility in representation). Students can create video reports (flexibility in expression). And all students can choose a method of content engagement that best fits their individual needs.

1. Flip . an inexpensive video camera that is user friendly and includes built-in software to email videos or publish them online to YouTube or AOLvideo . http://www.theflip.com/index_flip.shtml
2. Jing Project (Win . Mac) . currently a free set of software tools and online video hosting space . you can record images on a computer and record what you are doing on a computer as a video, then email it or upload it so others can view . <http://www.jingproject.com/>
3. CamStudio (Win) . free open source screen recording software to record to an avi file any computer activity . <http://camstudio.org/>
4. SnapzProX (Mac) . extensive set of screen recording to video tools . <http://www.ambrosiasw.com/utilities/snapzprox/>
5. Camtasia (Win) . excellent set of screen recording to video tools with extensive choices for final video format .

<http://www.techsmith.com/>

Internet Based Tools

Internet based tools provide a great starting point to design UDL in the classroom. For example, have you considered letting struggling readers search by images instead of text? Several search engines offer this feature. To help visually organize text view the cached web pages. All the search terms will be highlighted. Add text to speech tools and students can hear the information on the web pages read aloud.

1. ZAC Web Browser - <http://www.zacbrower.com/>. a free web browser designed to simplify the interface and choices available, supporting engagement with students who find too many choices a distraction or barrier
2. EdTech UDL Toolkit - <http://teachingeverystudent.blogspot.com/2007/06/free-technology-toolkit-for-udl-in-all.html> . blog of Web2.0 and inexpensive UDL tools
3. Web Tools 4 U 2 Use - <http://webtools4u2use.wikispaces.com/> . another blog of Web2.0 and inexpensive UDL tools
4. CommonCraft - <http://www.commoncraft.com/> . video explanations of new Web 2.0 tools
5. VoiceThread - <http://voicethread.com/#home> . website where students can collaborate on an information sharing activity using a wide variety of expression, such as text, audio, and video
6. OATS - <http://www.oatsoft.org/> . open source AT software developers. products include a Firefox extension to add text to speech to the browser and Mouse Gestures for mouse control of the browser
7. Google - <http://www.google.com> . has special search features, such as news.google.com and scholar.google.com
8. schoolr - <http://www.schoolr.com/> . one stop shop for searches, thesaurus, translators, and conversion tools
9. SCIRUS - <http://www.scirus.com/srsapp> . searches only science articles and information
10. netTrekker d.i. - <http://www.nettrekker.com/di> . a search engine with built-in text to speech and readability levels
11. Assignment Calculator - <http://www.lib.umn.edu/help/calculator> . helps students plan a paper
12. OttoBib - <http://ottobib.com/> . online bibliography creator
13. Quia - <http://www.quia.com/servlets/quia.web.QuiaWebManager> . a service for making online quizzes with immediate grading. cost about \$50.00 per teacher
14. Script-O - <http://www.readingmatrix.com/quizmaker/index.php> . a free online quiz making service
15. Education Place - <http://www.eduplace.com/> . wide variety of online resources from Houghton Mifflin
16. Read . Write . Think - <http://www.readwritethink.org/> . online resource of lessons and student materials from the international reading association

Virtual Meetings

Online virtual meetings provide support for communication and collaboration with groups of high diversity of skills.

1. vRoom - <http://www.illuminate.com/vroom> . a free distance learning tool that gives up to three users at one time interactive audio, video, virtual whiteboard, and application sharing
2. ConnectNow - <http://www.adobe.com/acom/connectnow/> . a free distance learning tool that gives up to three users interactive audio, video, virtual whiteboard, and application sharing
3. dimdim - <http://www.dimdim.com> . distance learning tools with video and audio conferencing, virtual whiteboard, and desktop sharing. you can sign up for a free 20 seat room.
4. ooVoo - <http://www.oovoo.com/> . audio and video conferencing tools
5. Skype - <http://www.skype.com/> . audio and video conferencing tools



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Assistive Technology

"The term assistive technology device means any item, piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially off the shelf, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain or improve functional capabilities of children with disabilities." (20 U.S.C. §1401(a)(25)).

BEES Assistive Technology Competencies - <http://www.florida-ese.org/atcomp/Default.aspx> . an online assistive technology skill management tool

Students with disabilities can use a variety of assistive technologies and accommodations that target accessibility issues, depending on their challenge. Some have print disabilities and need text converted into digital format to be read aloud or altered in presentation. Some have fine and gross motor limitations and need alternate keyboards or switch access to control a computer. Others may have visual impairments and require screen readers or screen magnification. This page includes examples of effective assistive technologies and accommodations.

[Accommodations Book](#) and [Accommodations for Adult Learners](#) by Marty Beech. Excellent resource for teachers on accommodations. Developed in Florida.

[Planning FCAT Accommodations for Students with Disabilities](#), 2004 FLDOE.

Try [Free Assistive Technology](#) for a wide variety of tools and utilities that can be used in the classroom.

1. [Text to Speech](#)
2. [Text Scanning Software](#)
3. [Alternative Keyboards](#)
4. [OnScreen Keyboards](#)
5. [Screen Magnifiers](#)
6. [Screen Readers](#)
7. [Switch Access](#)

Text to Speech - [back to top](#)

Read and Write Gold (Win . Mac) from [TextHelp](#) provides text to speech support across applications. It even reads help files out loud. It includes word prediction, a talking calculator, and scanning from printed to digital text.

Natural Voice Reader (Win) from [Natural Voice](#) is a text to speech program that comes in a variety of flavors, including a free one. The Professional (\$30.00) and Enterprise (\$40.00) editions include high quality AT&T voices.

ReadPlease (Win) from [ReadPlease](#) is a free text reader. The commercial version is about \$50.00 and is recommended. The free version will only read from the beginning of each text file. Nice control over background/foreground colors and voices.

Reading Bar (Win) from [ReadPlease](#) is a great utility that adds text to speech to Internet Explorer. It will also increase the size of the page, including graphics, and will convert the text information to an audio file. Trial version lasts about 30 days. Registration costs about \$70.00.

ScreenReader (Win) from [TextHelp](#) is a utility that provides basic text to speech for any text in a Windows based application. A trial version is available. Registration costs about \$45.00.

TextAloud (Win) from [TextAloud](#) is a text reader that will render text files into audio files that can be burned to CD or played on MP3 players. Great way to make audio books. 30 day trial.

Ultimate Reading Machine (Win) from [URM](#) is another text reader that will convert text to audio. Limited trial.

AspireReader (Win) from [CAST](#) is a feature rich text reader with a built in Internet browser for reading web pages.

Accessibility Suite (Win) from [Premiere Programming](#) is a suite of text to speech and scanning programs. You can download the demos of many of the programs.

Key to Access (Win) from [Premiere Programming](#) is a USB flash drive with accessibility software loaded so that it will run from the flash drive without having to install software on a computer. Students can take their software from computer to computer.

Text Scanning Software - [back to top](#)

WYNN (Win) from [Freedom Scientific](#) is a feature rich program that will scan printed text into the computer, retaining the original format and graphics, and then read the text aloud to the student. It also include features for reformatting the text to make it more accessible. A 30 day or 30 hour trial version is available.

TestTalker (Win) from [Freedom Scientific](#) enables you to create talking tests and worksheets. A timed evaluation version is available.

Kurzweil 3000 (Win . Mac) from [Kurzweil Educational Systems](#) is a feature rich program that will scan printed text into the computer, retaining the original format and graphics, and then read the text aloud to the student. It also includes features for reformatting the text to make it more accessible. You can request a trial version on CD and a Flash version can be viewed on the Internet.

Read and Write Gold (Win . Mac) from [TextHelp](#) provides text to speech support across applications. It even reads help files out loud. It includes word prediction, a talking calculator, and scanning from printed to digital text.

Accessibility Suite (Win) from [Premiere Programming](#) is a suite of text to speech and scanning programs. You can download the demos of many of the programs.

Key to Access (Win) from [Premiere Programming](#) is a USB flash drive with accessibility software loaded so that it will run from the flash drive without having to install software on a computer. Students can take

their software from computer to computer.

Alternative Keyboards - [back to top](#)

IntelliKeys (Win . Mac) from [IntelliTools](#) is a popular alternative keyboard with a completely customizable surface.

BigKeys (Win . Mac) from [RJ Cooper](#) is a basic keyboard with very large keys.

Tash USB Mini (Win . Mac) from [Tash](#) is a small membrane keyboard.

FrogPad (Win . Mac) from [FrogPad](#) is a mobile one handed keyboard.

OnScreen Keyboards - [back to top](#)

Click n'Type (Win) from [Lake Software](#) is a free onscreen keyboard with basic word prediction features.

OnScreen (. Win . Mac .) from [RJ Cooper](#) is an onscreen keyboard with "word complete" features. 14 day trial. You can request a free CD with all their stuff on it.

Keystrokes (Mac) from [Assistiveware](#) is a nice looking onscreen keyboard that works with OSX and includes word prediction features. Demo.

Reach (Win) from [AHF](#) is a feature rich onscreen keyboard with word prediction. Very customizable. 30 day trial.

My-T-Mouse and **My-T-Mouse for Kids**, both Windows, from [IMG](#). Onscreen keyboards. Demo.

Screen Magnifiers - [back to top](#)

BigShot Magnifier and **ZoomText** (Win) from [BigShot](#) is a full featured screen magnifier. 30 day trial.

Lunar (Win) from [Dolphin](#) is a full featured screen magnifier. 30 minute sessions.

MAGic (Win) from [Freedom Scientific](#) is a full featured screen magnifier. 40 minute sessions. **ZoomText** (Win) from AiSquared is a full featured screen magnifier. 30 day trial.

Lens Magnifying Glass (Win) is a simple free utility that magnifies a small area of the desktop. You can download it at [magnifiers.org](#).

Dragnifier (Win) is another free utility that magnifies a small area of the desktop. You can download it at [magnifiers.org](#).

Screen Readers - [back to top](#)

JAWS (Win) from [Freedom Scientific](#) is a full featured screen reading program. 40 minute sessions.

Window-Eyes (Win) from [GW Micro](#) is a full featured screen reader. 30 minute sessions.

Switch Access - [back to top](#)

[TASH "Solutions That Click"](#) provides an extensive product line of switch systems and mounting systems.

From [RJ Cooper](#). 14 day trials.

Biggy Lite Cursors (. Win . Mac .)

CrossScanner - switch access (. Win . Mac .)

ScanBuddy (Win) from [AHF](#) is a switch control system. 30 day trial.

DiscoverPro 2 (Win) from [Intellitools](#) is a software program that provides computer control through touch, scanning, or pointing. Additional supported interfaces include Intellikeys, IntelliSwitch, and TrackerPro devices.



Low Tech Tools



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Low Tech Tools

Low, or simple and easy, technology tools are often overlooked. Yet these tools may be exactly what a student needs and they offer several advantages over high, or complex, technology tools. Low tech tools are often easy to obtain and are easy to replace. They are inexpensive and highly mobile. For example, it is easier to carry a pencil grip than a laptop to support writing. That may sound simplistic but it is an important point when you need to, for example, write a check in a store.

1. [Assistive Technology Continuum](#) . a handout by Judi Sweeney that illustrates a low tech to high tech continuum
2. [Tech Tool Handouts & Articles](#) from [Onion Mountain](#) . a collection of handouts and articles maintained by Judi Sweeney
3. [LoTTIE Kit](#) from [Onion Mountain](#) . a collection of low tech tools to support learning in the classroom. you can order the regular kit, specialized kits, or just particular items from the Onion Mountain online store
4. [Low Tech Tool Ideas](#) from [STAR Tech](#) . tips and ideas on using sticky notes, highlighters, and correction tape
5. [Low Tech Tools](#) from [LD Resources](#) . examples of a wide variety of low tech tools and uses

Provide your students with a variety of low tech tools so they can experiment and choose which tools work best for them. This helps to build their own skills in the area of tool assessment and evaluation.





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Reading

Mapping Information

Visually mapping information is a scaffolding technique that supports pattern recognition, information organization, and memory. Tools found in programs like WORD and Adobe Reader include highlighters, comments, stamps, and font attributes. For more information on how learning disabilities can affect different cognitive processes see the [NICHCY](#) brief on [Reading and Learning Disabilities](#).

Mapping strategies may need to be customized to specific student needs, though most strategies work with most students.

1. Scaffold connections by color coding connections to self (past experience, prior knowledge), media (familiar books, songs, movies, articles), and events (familiar people, issues, news).
2. Scaffold organization by color coding people, places, dates, and vocabulary.
3. Scaffold ideas by color coding connections to senses (I can taste, smell, visualize, etc.). www.scholastic.com . [handout](#)
4. Instant scaffold ideas: Google a topic and look at the cached page, or use the FireFox add-on HighlightAll (<https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/4240>) where you can click on any word on a web page and all occurrences are highlighted.
5. Active Reading Strategies (download the manual) . http://www.savvyknowledge.com/products/great_teacher/greatteacher.html . excellent resource of strategies for students to use to visually organize text
6. [FDLRS/TECH reading handout](#) summarizing the effects of learning disabilities on reading, mapping strategies, and tools.

Programs such as WORD, Nisus Writer Express (Mac) from [Nisus](#), [Adobe Reader](#), Skim (Mac) from [SourceForge](#), FoxitReader (Win) from [FoxitSoftware](#), Adobe Reader, and the Talking Word Processor include highlight and comment tools that are useful for visually mapping text. The Find/Replace tool in WORD is useful for finding all occurrences of a word or phrase and highlighting it. Also look at the Auto Summarize tool in Microsoft WORD and the Talking Word Processor; great for making quick summaries.

Reading Software

Many students benefit greatly from being able to practice an instructional activity repeatedly. Having a variety of reading software available also benefits students who have problems engaging in instruction by giving them choice in their learning activities.

Reading

1. Meville to Weville . http://www.donjohnston.com/products/access_solutions/software/meville_to_weville/index.html . early communication and literacy development
2. Earobics - <http://www.earobics.com> . targets phonemic awareness and phonics. there are versions for young children and teens
3. Sound Reading Solutions - <http://www.soundreading.com> . targets phonemic awareness, phonics, and early reading with versions for children and teens
4. Simon S.I.O. http://www.donjohnston.com/products/simon_sio/index.html . training in phonics and reading
5. Soliloquy - <http://www.soliloquylearning.com> . listens to students as they read and provides correction and support when they have problems
6. Start to Finish Books . http://www.donjohnston.com/products/start_to_finish/index.html . provides high interest topics on a variety of reading levels to support fluency, comprehension, and critical thinking. includes printed and electronic versions of each book
7. Scholastic Read 180 . <http://teacher.scholastic.com/products/read180/> . a reading intervention program based on extensive research
8. Thinking Reader - <http://www.tomsnyder.com> . embeds reading comprehension strategies around core literature titles

Online Books & Reading Support

1. [Fry's Readability Graph](#) . great resources from Kathy Schrock on tools to determine the readability level of a body of text
2. [LeapFrog Talking Books](#) . highly popular LeapFrog products. talking books are easy to carry around and use by children and students
3. [StarFall](#) . the ABCs of getting ready to read. extensive materials and resources for early literacy development
4. Timmy Books . from [Riverdeep](#) . these are digital books from the Travel the World with Timmy program. students can make choices to customize each book, hear the book, and print a paper copy out
 1. Timmy in Argentina (Win . Mac9)
 2. Timmy in Japan (Win . Mac9)
 3. Timmy in Kenya (Win)
5. My Friend (Win . Mac9) . from [Riverdeep](#) . activities targeting the use of adjectives
6. [BookBox](#) . inexpensive digital books in a wide variety of languages. many of the books can be read in one language with subtitles in a different language
7. Book Builder . <http://bookbuilder.cast.org/> . from [CAST](#) . create UDL based digital books
8. [StoryPlace - Children's Digital Library](#) . the children's digital library. includes a spanish version
9. [Tumble Books](#) . digital books with text to speech and adjustable font sizes in the Readables
10. [News-2-You Newspaper](#) . graphic enhanced newspapers. online samples include [regular](#), [high](#), and [spanish](#)
11. [Communicate: In Print 2](#) - A desk top publishing tool for creating graphic enhanced reading material.
12. [PowerPoint Books/Region 2 Digital Library](#) . large collection of PowerPoint books created by teachers and therapists
13. [Baen Free Library](#) . free online library of a collection of digital books
14. [MagicKeys](#) . children's online storybooks
15. [ReadingAtoZ](#) . online reading program
16. [America Reads](#) . a great guide for paraprofessionals and volunteers in helping students learn to read

Higher Order Thinking Scaffolds

Use graphic organizers to support reading comprehension by providing visual scaffolds for thinking processes like story plot, character analysis, event timelines, compare/contrast, concept maps, brainstorming, and information synthesis.

Reading

Graphic organizers can also be used to help keep students on task and scaffold longer periods of engagement. For ideas, see the Computer Based Study Strategies at <http://cbss.uoregon.edu/> . Tools include:

1. Graphic Organizers - <http://www.teachervision.fen.com/graphic-organizers/printable/6293.html?s2> . free online source of printable graphic organizers in a wide variety of cognitive supports
2. bubbl.us - <http://www.bubbl.us/> . free online mapping software. very basic, simple, and works
3. Mindomo - <http://www.mindomo.com/index.php> . free online mind mapping software. supports additional graphics and shapes
4. cMap - <http://cmap.ihmc.us> . free concept mapping software for Mac and Windows
5. FreeMind (Win . Mac) - <http://freemind.sourceforge.net> . free mind mapping software. requires Java runtime
6. Inspiration (Win . Mac) & Kidspiration (Win . Mac) - <http://www.inspiration.com> . commercial concept mapping with extensive image libraries and writing support tools
7. WordMenu (Win . Mac) - <http://www.wordmenu.com/> . a text based visual organization of words by subject matter. 14 day trial



Writing



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Writing

Lined Paper Tools

Start with the basics. Customize paper to support hand writing. Great for students learning to use pencil grips (remember to check the Low Tech Tools section for pencil grips).

1. StartWrite (Win . Mac). <http://www.drawyourworld.com/strtwrt.html> . inexpensive program for creating a variety of visually lined papers and writing guides. excellent program
2. Stationery Studio (Win . Mac). <http://www.fablevision.com/stationerystudio/product.htm> . software for creating a variety of visually lined papers and writing guides. includes an extensive graphics library. highly engaging
3. Free Online Graph Paper . <http://incompetech.com/graphpaper/> . free online PDFs of various graph papers. includes an online generator so you can create customized graph paper and print it out
4. Handwriting for Kids . <http://www.handwritingforkids.com/handwrite/manuscript/alphabets/index.htm> . online collection of printable handwriting guides in a variety of sizes.
5. Letter Machine (Win . Mac9) . basic letter / keyboard exploration
6. Tux Typing (Win . Mac . Linus) . <http://tuxtype.sourceforge.net/download/> . free open source typing program for students
7. Typing Software Listing . http://www.edinformatics.com/education/computers/typing_software.htm

Productivity Tools

Now build a collection of inexpensive writing tools and word processors you can use in the classroom and your students can use at home.

1. OpenOffice - www.openoffice.org . free Microsoft Office compatible software for several platforms, including Win and MacX.
2. Docs and Spreadsheets - www.google.com . free online word processing and spreadsheet. online collaboration features are also included
3. Zoho - www.zoho.com . an extensive set of free online productivity tools, including word processing, spreadsheets, presentations, and database. online collaboration features are also included
4. WordWeb - <http://wordweb.info/free/> . a free English thesaurus and dictionary that works with most Win programs
5. Communicate: In Print 2 - <http://www.widgit.com/products/inprint/index.htm> . a symbol based desk top publishing program, great for creating symbol rich print materials
6. Publishing resources, including free clip art, can be found at <http://www.paec.org/fdlrstech/books.htm>
7. Thumbstacks - www.thumbstacks.com . free online presentation and remote presentation software
8. Speaking Notepad - www.qwertystudios.com . inexpensive talking word processor for Windows

Writing

9. TexEdit - <http://www.tex-edit.com/> . inexpensive word processor for Macintosh with text to speech that highlights each word as it is spoken
10. Adobe Reader - www.adobe.com . current version includes extensive commenting tools and a "typewriter"
11. KidWidget Win / KidWidget Mac - <http://www.astoundit.com/products/kidwidget/index.html> . an inexpensive publishing toolkit; including Write, Draw, Paint, Music, Games, Calculator, and Dictionary. speech output is included.
12. Canvastic - <http://www.canvastic.com/Canvastic LLC> . a graphics and text publishing tool for grades K-8. It includes an adjustable interface that is designed to add tools and features as the student learns the program.

Word Prediction and Talking Word Processors (Audio Feedback)

Word prediction software "watches" what a student writes and provides a list of predicted words based on typical word usage and rules of grammar. This type of tool can help students who have fine motor involvement, type slowly, and/or need help with spelling. Talking word processors provide audio feedback which increases the scaffolding available to students struggling with writing, as well as reading. Most of these programs include both word prediction and audio feedback.

1. Co:Writer (Win. Mac). <http://www.donjohnston.com/products/cowriter/index.html> . adds quality linguistic word prediction to any software program or word processor a student is using. use with a talking word processor to get full audio feedback
2. Classroom Suite (Win. Mac). <http://www.intellitools.com> . provides word prediction, speech feedback, and extensive writing support tools
3. WordQ (Win). <http://www.wordq.com/> . provides word prediction and text to speech to any writing software program. the company also has a plug-in called SpeakQ for voice to text
4. Premiere Assistive Technology (Win). <http://www.readingmadeez.com/home.php> . includes several products with word prediction, as well as talking word processors. you can apply for a grant to get the initial software for your classroom
5. Read and Write Gold (Win . Mac). <http://www.texthelp.com/page.asp> . provides several writing tools, including word prediction and text to speech, to any word processor or writing program. there is a mobile version that comes on a USB drive so you can use it with any computer without having to install it
6. Speaking Notepad - www.qwertystudios.com . inexpensive talking word processor for Windows

Graphic Enhanced Writing

Several software tools provide extensive graphics correlated with words as they are typed, providing an extra layer of visual scaffolding.

1. Clicker 5 . <http://www.cricksoft.com/uk/products/clicker/> . write with words, phrases, or pictures. correlates pictures to words and includes text to speech
2. Classroom Suite . <http://www.intellitools.com> . write with words, phrases, or pictures. includes text to speech
3. PixWriter . <http://www.slatersoftware.com/pixwriter.html> . write with words, phrases, or pictures. correlates pictures to words and includes text to speech
4. Communicate: In Print 2 - <http://www.widgit.com/products/inprint/index.htm> . a symbol based desk top publishing program, great for creating symbol rich print materials

Organize Writing with Graphic Organizers

Use graphic organizers to organize writing activities. Tools include:

Writing

1. Graphic Organizers - <http://www.teachervision.fen.com/graphic-organizers/printable/6293.html?s2> . free online source of printable graphic organizers in a wide variety of cognitive supports
2. bubbl.us - <http://www.bubbl.us/> . free online mapping software. very basic, simple, and works
3. Mindomo - <http://www.mindomo.com/index.php> . free online mind mapping software. supports additional graphics and shapes
4. cMap - <http://cmap.ihmc.us> . free concept mapping software for Mac and Windows
5. FreeMind (Win . Mac) - <http://freemind.sourceforge.net> . free mind mapping software. requires Java runtime
6. Inspiration (Win . Mac) & Kidspiration (Win . Mac) - <http://www.inspiration.com> . commercial concept mapping with extensive image libraries and writing support tools
7. Rationale & Reason!Able - <http://www.austhink.com> . guided reasoning and argument thinking diagramming software ([one minute overview](#)) for Windows. requires .net2 which may be on current XP machines
8. Draft:Builder (SOLO) . http://www.donjohnston.com/products/draft_builder/index.html . build planning, organizing, and draft writing skills and abilities. includes text to speech

Technology for Publishing

1. Stapleless Books . http://www.readwritethink.org/student_mat/student_material.asp?id=10 . online tool for children to create simple stapleless books
2. Free Clip Art . <http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/5to14/> . give your students clip art to help them publish
3. Free DK Clip Art . <http://www.dorlingkindersley-uk.co.uk/static/cs/uk/11/clipart/home.html> . more free clip art
4. Imagine Symbols . <http://www.imaginesymbols.com/> . free symbols that can be used to make graphically enhanced text
5. Pocket Mod . <http://www.pocketmod.com/> . more ideas for stapleless books
6. ClickBook (Win) . <http://www.bluesquirrel.com/products/clickbook/> . utility that paginates writing done in just about any software program so it can be printed as a book or booklet
7. TIP - Check out the print-to-booklet feature for instant pagination in Microsoft Publisher.
8. Lintor Publishing Materials . <http://www.lintorpublishing.com/main.htm> . publishing materials for creating hard back books from student and teacher created content
9. flickr toys . <http://bighugelabs.com/flickr/> . amazing online publishing tools with flickr integration
10. Shutterfly . http://www.shutterfly.com/shop/product_c10010/Photo_Books . online photo book publishing
11. TIP - Check out the publishing tools in iPhoto on the Macintosh.
12. Lulu . <http://www.lulu.com/> . online book publishing service
13. Blogger . <https://www.blogger.com/start> . free blogging service that includes posting by email, a great way for students to turn in writing assignments electronically or share writing with others
14. Podbean . <http://www.podbean.com/> . social podcasting and blogging service. a great free way to start podcasting
15. Gaggle.net . http://gaggle.net/gen?_template=/templates/gaggle/html/blog/index.jsp . filtered blog service for schools
16. Wikispaces . <http://www.wikispaces.com/> . free wiki service with great online collaborative tools



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Math

Interventions/Instructional Support

These programs provide instructional support by building math fluency and helping students visualize mathematical processes.

1. Cuisenaire Rods - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cuisenaire_rods . concrete manipulatives
 - o Ideas for cuisenaire rods
 1. <http://assoc.orange.fr/une.education.pour.demain/articlesrrr/sw/begsw.htm>
 2. <http://teachertech.rice.edu/Participants/silha/Lessons/cuisen2.html>
 3. <http://www.iit.edu/~smile/ma8616.html>
2. Fripple Cookies - (Win . Mac9) - <http://www.riverdeep.com> . pattern sequencing game
3. FASTT Math . <http://www.tomsnyder.com> . software that targets the development of fluency in addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division
4. Go Solve . <http://www.tomsnyder.com> . uses graphic organizers to help students plan for solving word problems in addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division
5. InspireData (Win . Mac) . <http://www.inspiration.com> . applies proven strategies of visual learning to data literacy; supporting strong critical thinking
6. [Escher Fun](#) - an activity guide on creating tessellations

Virtual Manipulatives

Virtual manipulatives are great tools for students who need to use a computer for writing and drawing. It provides basic tools like rulers as well as math manipulatives to support comprehension.

1. Virtual Cuisenaire Rods . <http://www.arcytech.org/java/integers/integers.html>
2. bright clique . <http://www.indivisuallearning.com> . a flexible set of digital tools for demonstrating key mathematical concepts on computers, projectors, or interactive whiteboards
3. Virtual rulers .
 - <http://www.desktopruler.com/products-dr.htm> . (Win)
 - <http://www.svet-soft.com/ruler.shtml>
 - <http://www.spadixbd.com/freetools/> . (Win Free . Win Pro)
 - <http://www.downloadjunction.com/product/store/15482/index.html> . (Win)
4. Classroom Suite (IntelliMathics) . <http://www.intellitools.com> . includes animation, manipulatives, text to speech, and multimedia to demonstrate basic math concepts.
5. Geoboard (Win . Mac9) - <http://www.riverdeep.com> . electronic geoboard with area and perimeter tools

Math

- Geoboard Activities
 1. Ages 3-5 . [Mouse](#) . [Duck Duck](#)
 2. Ages 5-8 . [Tree](#) . [Numbers](#)
 3. Ages 8-12 . [City](#) . [Secret Ages](#)
 4. Ages 12-14 . [Perimeters](#) . [Question](#) . [Riddle](#) and the [Answer](#)
- 6. Visual Fractions . <http://www.visualfractions.com/> . includes online tools for learning fractions, PowerPoints to help teach fractions, downloadable worksheets, and downloadable software for creating circle fractions
- 7. Illuminations . <http://illuminations.nctm.org/> . a collection of online, standard-based virtual manipulatives and lessons, to make math come alive in the classroom and at home
- 8. BlockCad - <http://web.telia.com/~u16122508/proglego.htm> . a free Win virtual Lego land
- 9. Lego Factory . <http://factory.lego.com/> . free online virtual Lego land
- 10. NLVM . <http://nlvm.usu.edu/en/nav/vlibrary.html> . collection of online manipulatives and visualizations for all grade levels
- 11. SmartBoard Software - <http://www2.smarttech.com/st/en-US/Support/Downloads/SBS/Windows/SBSv97Win.htm> . includes a collection of virtual math tools. Students can run the software on their own computers to practice mathematical concepts

Simulations/Visualizations

These programs give students a way to perform math calculations on the computer as well as provide "math labs" that students can work in.

1. MathPad & MathPad Plus . <http://www.intellitools.com> . simulated "paper and pencil" basic arithmetic software for students who need to use a computer to write with
2. Virtual Pencil . <http://www.hentermath.com/> . simulated "paper and pencil" arithmetic and algebra software for students who need to use a computer to write with
3. Equation Editor Tutorials - <http://ist.uwaterloo.ca/ec/equations/equation.html> . equation editor is a part of Microsoft Office and enables students to use a computer to enter math equations. to view Vista tutorials go to the [Microsoft Office WORD Team's Blog](#)
4. MathType - <http://www.adeptscience.co.uk/products/mathsim/mathtype/> . comprehensive professional version of Equation Editor. 30 day trial version available for Win and Mac9.X
5. Broken Calculator . http://seeingmath.concord.org/broken_calculator . online simulation of a broken calculator. students must think through how to solve problems using the keys available
6. Explore Learning . <http://www.explorelearning.com> . extensive online set of mathematic simulations and visualizations
7. SELECT Math . <http://boston.k12.ma.us/teach/technology/select/index.html> . aligns virtual manipulatives and visualizations with standards
8. GeoGebra - <http://www.geogebra.org/cms/> . free software for Win . MacX of geometry, algebra, and calculus simulations and manipulatives
9. Algebrus - <http://www.astrise.com/software/algebrus> . a comprehensive visualization tool for higher mathematics. the trial version has some features disabled
10. Eduscapes . <http://eduscapes.com/sessions/smartboard> . includes links to a variety of simulations and visualizations

Homework Helpers

Completing homework can be a big challenge for students with disabilities; both from the time involved as well as working through the cognitive processes. These tools can help with basic math through algebra and calculus.

Math

1. Animated Math Dictionary . http://www.harcourtschool.com/glossary/math2/index_temp.html . provides basic definitions of math terms, along with text to speech so students can hear the definitions and visualizations
2. A Math Dictionary for Kids .
<http://www.teachers.ash.org.au/jeather/maths/dictionary.html> . extensive math dictionary and highly interactive
3. WebMath . www.webmath.com . online tool that helps students solve math problems, showing step by step solutions. general math through calculus
4. GraphTablet (Win) - <http://www.graphtablet.com/graphtablet.html> . a free program for creating custom graph paper
5. Calculator Collection (Win . Mac9) - <http://www.riverdeep.com> . basic set of calculators that includes a fraction calculator
6. Big Calculator (Win) - <http://www.sensorysoftware.com/bigcalculator.html> . a free basic calculator that can be adjusted for really big buttons
7. MetaCalc (Online) - <http://www.metacalc.com/> . free online basic calculator with size options
8. KoalaCalc (MacOSX) - <http://www.macropodsoftware.com/koalacalc/index.html> . a free simple and scientific mode calculator
9. Calc Thingy (MacOSX) - <http://liquidbinary.com/software/> . a simple interface but fairly powerful calculator
10. MoffSoft FreeCalc (Win) - <http://www.moffsoft.com/freecalc.htm> . a great basic calculator with adjustable size and color schemes, and a simulated paper tape display
11. AlgeKalk (MacOSX) - <http://goldfishsoft.com/algekalk.html> . simple utility that factors numbers, give square root, converts decimals, and more
12. FrakKalk (MacOSX) - <http://goldfishsoft.com/frakkalk.html> . simple utility for adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing fractions
13. GoMath . <http://www.gomath.com/> . online tool that helps students solve math problems. includes algebra and geometry calculators
14. Hot Math . <http://hotmath.com/> . provides online help and guidance for math problems in most text books
15. Conversion Tools – <http://www.convertit.com> . basic online collection of conversion tools
16. Arty Space Calculator (Win . Mac9) . a conversion calculator
17. Math Tips for Students with Visual Impairments . <http://www.tsbvi.edu/math/> . ideas and recommendations for helping students with visual impairments learn math concepts
18. Algebra Solver . <http://www.algebrasolver.com/index.shtml> . an interactive, algebraic problem solver and graphing tool
19. Microsoft Math (Win) . <http://www.microsoft.com/math/default.mspx> . all-in-one math homework solution. solve equations, graph functions, use a fully-functional graphing calculator, solve triangles, and convert standard units
20. WebGraphing - <http://www.webgraphing.com/> . online equation-graphing environment, from simple to advanced calculations
21. Equation Wizard (Win) . <http://www.equationwizard.com/> . algebraic equation solver software. trial version good for 30 equations
22. Cosmeo . <http://www.cosmeo.com/math/> . a fee-based, homework video-tutor for many national textbooks
23. Translating Word Problems . <http://www.purplemath.com/modules/translat.htm> . keywords to help with word problem translation



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Science

Online science information, simulations, and virtual labs are particularly helpful for students with disabilities. Text-to-speech tools (check out the UDL section) provide audio support for students struggling to read scientific text. Many students with learning disabilities benefit from the ability to easily repeat experiments using visual simulations and virtual labs. Students with physical limitations often have to use a computer for all their work, including science experiments.

Getting Started

1. Steps of the Scientific Method . basic overview of the scientific method with a nice visual diagram of the process . http://www.sciencebuddies.org/mentoring/project_scientific_method.shtml
2. Planning a Science Project . an in-depth look at the basic scientific method and guide for planning a science project . http://www.sciserv.org/isef/primer/scientific_method.asp
3. Science Fair Project Guide . comprehensive set of resources to help students plan and complete a great science project . http://www.sciencebuddies.org/science-fair-projects/project_guide_index.shtml

Experiments

1. M&M Survival Challenge . simple and fun experiment that demonstrates the concept of camouflage and the "survival of the fittest" using M&Ms . http://www.sciencebuddies.org/mentoring/project_ideas/Zoo_p012.shtml
2. Science Experiments / Project Ideas . extensive list of science experiment and project ideas . http://www.sciencebuddies.org/mentoring/project_ideas.shtml

Physical Science

1. Motion Basics . an overview of the basics of motion . don't forget that students can use text-to-speech tools to hear this content read aloud . http://www.physics4kids.com/files/motion_intro.html
2. How Stuff Works . targets acoustics, energy, forensic science, nuclear science, optics, and physics . <http://science.howstuffworks.com/physical-science-channel.htm>
3. Frank Potter's Science Gems . broad collection of links to physical science web resources . <http://www.sciencegems.com/physical.html>
4. Soda Play . a collection of applets for building online working models with motion based on the control of friction, gravity, and muscle energy . <http://www.sodaplay.com/create>

Life Science

Science

1. DNA From the Beginning . an animated primer on the basics of DNA, genes, and heredity .
<http://www.dnafb.org/dnafb/>
2. DNA Interactive . lesson plans and classroom activities . free registration for teachers . <http://www.dnai.org/>

Earth & Space Science

1. Windows to the Universe . content lessons on our planet, solar system, and the universe. each lesson is available in 3 different reading levels and in English or Spanish . <http://www.windows.ucar.edu/>
2. Starry Night . extremely realistic astronomy simulation software with activities for K-12 .
<http://www.starrynightstore.com/>

Virtual Labs / Simulations

1. NASA Virtual Scanning Electron Microscope . a complete simulation of a scanning electron microscope that enables the user to zoom in and focus on a variety of built in microscopic samples .
<http://learn.arc.nasa.gov/vlab/index.html>
2. Virtual Chemistry Lab . select from hundreds of standard reagents and manipulate them just like in a real lab .
<http://www.chemcollective.org/applets/vlab.php>
3. Sunburst Virtual Labs : Workshop (Win . Mac9) Electricity (Win . Mac9) & Kinetic Energy (Win . Mac9) . excellent software virtual labs for doing electricity and light experiments . students can build circuit boards and watch changes in the flow of electricity as they make changes in the circuit board . get the full programs from
<http://www.ccvsoftware.com>
4. NOVA Interactives . a wide variety of online interactive activities that can be used to demonstrate principles in the areas of space science, earth science, technology, and other areas of interest .
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/hotscience/>
5. Online Technology Exploration Activities . fun online activities that explore technology, such as robotics and how computers work . <http://www.omsi.edu/visit/tech/activities.cfm>
6. ExploreLearning . extensive online set of science simulations and visualizations . each simulation can be used for free for up to 5 minutes per session . <http://www.explorellearning.com>
7. Froguts . virtual frog dissection software with an online interactive demo .
http://www.froguts.com/flash_content/index.html

Technology

Digital QX5 Computer Microscope . USB microscope for viewing microscopic organisms on a computer screen or projected on a large screen . includes software for capturing still images as well as time-lapse video . students can also use the presentation software included to create multimedia presentations . http://digiblue.com/digital_blue/qx5.html

Tip - Need a quick way to enlarge small objects, plants, insects, etc.? Use a regular photo scanner. Place a transparency on the glass surface to protect it from any scratches and then place the object on the transparency. Leave the lid open and lay a sheet of paper over the object you are scanning. Scan it into an image editing program at 300 to 600 dpi. You will then be able to view on screen, project, or print out a very large version of the scanned object.

HOBO Data Logger . portable data collection probes that can be programmed while connected to a computer then disconnected to be used to record changes in temperature, light, and other stimuli . recorded data can be transferred back into a computer and converted into colorful, easy to read graphs . <http://69.16.224.70/>

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Creativity

There are great creativity software programs that come on computers today; MovieMaker on Windows, and iPhoto, iDVD, and GarageBand on the Macintosh. Here are some additional tools to add to your toolkit.

Art

1. Free Online Photo Editing Software - <http://desktoppublishing.com/photo-editing-free.html> . a collection of free image editing and painting software
2. Picasa - <http://picasa.google.com> . free image editing software for Windows
3. Cosmic Blob 3D Win & Cosmic Blob 3D MacX - <http://www.cosmicblobs.com/> . a user friendly 3D modeling program. Check out the Cosmic Blob Widget for MacX.
4. iScrapbook - <http://www.chronosnet.com/Products/iscrapbook.html> . inexpensive scrapbook software
5. Gliffy - www.gliffy.com . draw and share diagrams on the web
6. SketchUp - <http://sketchup.google.com> . free 3-D drawing software for Win (on the CD) and MacX. check out the [video tutorials](#)
7. Tux Paint (Win . Mac . Linux) - <http://www.tuxpaint.org/> . free painting software for children. be sure to download the rubber stamps
8. ImaginationCubed - <http://www.imaginationcubed.com/LaunchPage> . a free online drawing tool with the ability to invite others to draw together online
9. Sketch Studio (Win) - www.drawinghand.com/Sketch/SketchStudio.php . natural media drawing with drawing tutorials, for Win
10. ArtRage Win & ArtRage Mac - <http://www.ambientdesign.com/artrage.html> . a free natural media drawing program for Win and Mac
11. Color Wheel - http://www.sessions.edu/career_center/design_tools/color_calculator/index.asp# . a Flash based tool for creating color schemes and learning about color
12. Painter Essentials 4- <http://www.corel.com> . a natural media painting program for Win and MacX. includes image hoses, a "high end" type of stamp tool, and a variety of tutorials for digital drawing and painting. you can download a 60 day trial version from the Corel website
13. Create a Sculpture - <http://hirshhorn.si.edu/education/interactive.html> . an interactive art activity where students create their own sculptures.
14. Comic Life for Mac from <http://plasq.com/> enables students to take pictures and create their own personal comic books.

Crafts

1. Dioramas . [dinosaur valley](#) . [outer space](#) . [undersea](#)
2. 3D train set . [engine](#) . [dog](#) . [clown](#) . [cat_bear](#) . [horses](#) . [lion](#) . [elf](#) . [caboose](#)

Creativity

3. Binder covers . [bee bug](#) . [flutterbug](#) . [stylin](#) . [cool](#) . [blastoff](#) . [space exploration](#) . [po popo](#)
4. Paper airplanes . [blue jay](#) . [hawk](#) . [robin](#) . [shark](#) . [usaf](#)
5. Picture frames . [aspire](#) . [birthday](#) . [circus](#) . [create](#) . [dream](#) . [flowers](#) . [hearts](#) . [stars](#)

Music

1. Dot Mixer - <http://www.exploratorium.edu/music/exhibits/dotmixer/index.html> . an audio playground that works best with headphones. students can mix preset sounds in terms of volume and panning
2. Audacity - <http://audacity.sourceforge.net> . free audio editing software for Mac and Win
3. Onion Street Music - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/communities/onionstreet/music/> . a variety of music programs, including a 16 track mixer and an interesting set of preset music mixers that can be "played" with keyboard shortcuts; perfect for something like an Intellikeys overlay
4. Mashup Music Machine - <http://www.taketheleadmovie.com/mashup/> . an online DJ mixer that uses preset music loops
5. Super Duper Music Looper (Win) - <http://www.sonymediasoftware.com/products/showproduct.asp?PID=535> . a kid friendly, inexpensive loop music creation program. trial version
6. ACID - www.sonymediasoftware.com . high end loop based music creation for Win
7. RiffWorks - <http://www.sonomawireworks.com/riffworks.php> . digital music creation and recording environment for Win or MacX
8. Reason - <http://www.propellerheads.se/> . a full featured professional music creation environment with self-contained synthesizers and loop players
9. NotePad - <http://www.finalemusic.com/notepad/> . free music notation software

