Interactive Alphabet USE -

It's Way More Than Just Letter Identification!

Gretchen Hanser Ph.D., gretchen@gretchenhanser.com
New York, New York

Caroline Musselwhite Ed.D., Special Communications, Phoenix, Arizona
www.aacintervention.com

October, 2012, Closing the Gap, 2012, Bloomington, Minnesota

ABCs of Communication Rights: 2010 AAC Awareness Song
(Sing to tune of the ABC song)

A-B-C-D-E-F-G
Help me gain lit-er-a-cy.
Set my con-ver-sa-tion free.
Introduce mentors to me.
Role mod-els will help me see
End-less pos-si-bil-i-ties.

Come and spend some time with me.
I talk with technology.
People call it AAC.
It provides a voice for me.
You may think it cannot be,
Let me show you then you'll see.

AAC, now what is that?
Ways to choose, discuss, and chat.
If it's hard to speak, you see,
Alternatives may be the key.
Pointing, signing, typing, yes,
Eye gaze or switch-es you press.

Who you ask needs AAC?
Many people you will see.
Anyone who cannot find
How to speak what's on their mind.
Never doubt that AAC
Helps set thoughts and feelings free.

One last thing that you must know
Hear us well before we go
Everyone communicates.
Listen and fa-cil-i-tate
Silence doesn't have to be.
People just need AAC.

A-B-C-D-E-F-G
We all need lit-er-a-cy.
Conversation sets us free.
Mentors help both you and me.
Role models can help us see
Endless pos-sib-il-i-ties.

Judy C. Bailey, Co-Chair, ISAAC 2010 International AAC Month Task Force www.aacawareness.org
Project Director, Everyone Communicates, ICON Community Services Inc.

The Alphabetic Principle

- Emergent readers & writers need to learn the alphabetic principle
  - Letters are linked to specific sounds.
  - Words can be segmented into individual sounds.

- Variety of activities lead to these understandings
  - Letter knowledge
  - Sound awareness

- Letter names & sounds should be taught in parallel.

- Alphabet is best learned when letters are linked to personally meaningful things, i.e. foods, people

---

Teaching the Alphabet:
Make it Meaningful

- Point out letters and print/braille in the environment
- Talk about letters and their sounds when you encounter them
- Provide opportunities to play with letter shapes and sounds
- Explicitly reference letter names and sounds in shared reading and writing
- Use actions & foods
- Use student NAMES!

Interactive Alphabet USE - It's Way More
Than Just Letter Identification!

10/17/12

Letter of the Week Club???

"Today is brought to you by the letter 'D'."

"Hey, it's D / duh week!!"

Phonemic Awareness: LETTER Level

Poetry Power CD

Braille Jewelry!

Writing!!

Interactive Alphabet USE -   It's Way More
Than Just Letter Identification!

10/17/12

Looking for the "Write" Tool

Big Keys, www.bigkeys.com
1" keys, $160

Portable word processors
www.alphasmart.com
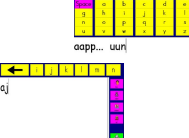
Labelers from office supply stores
Tiny ~¼" keys, ~$30

Write From the START!
Use Some Type of Alternative Pencil!

Writing With Alternative Pencils CD, $35, Center for Literacy & Disability Studies, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, UPDATED!!!

Using Alternative Pencils for Alphabet Activities

- Teaches
  ◦ Locating and selecting a letter
  ◦ Letter knowledge (concept, name, sound)

- It's about building **meaning**

- Talking about letters and connecting it to something they know helps give the letter meaning

What's Your Letter?

- Morning meeting, 1-2 students pick letters with alternative pencil; different letters each day

- Example: Nellie touches "p" with the braille alphabet flip chart

- When that letter is encountered <u>during</u> day, there is informal, FUN discussion on the fly.
  ◦ Fun music or buzzer single message device

Interactive Alphabet USE -   It's Way More
Than Just Letter Identification!

10/17/12

Insta-Charting

Informative Feedback: The Alphabet
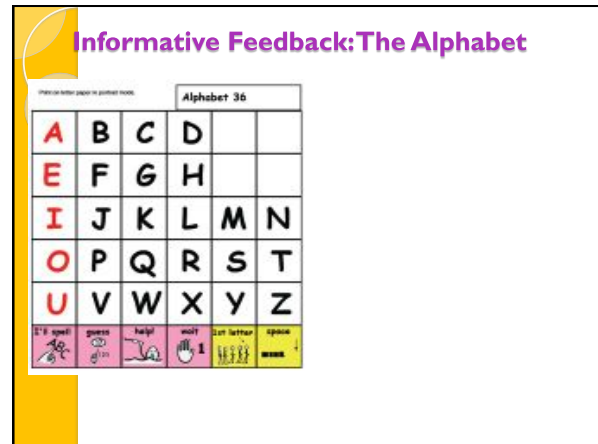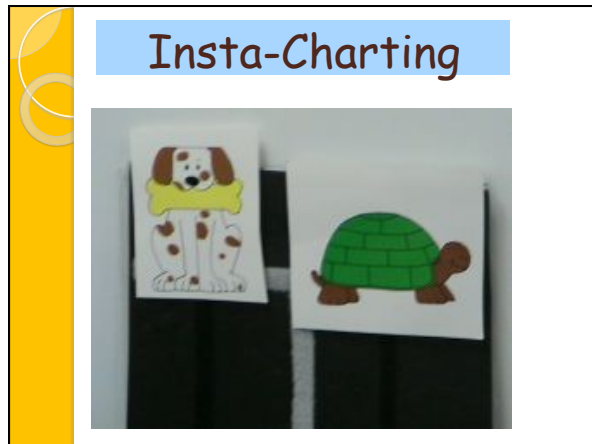
Insta-Charting: How

Tips

1) Use photos without text – students pick what
   they want (pointing, eye gaze, partner
   scanning)
   (e.g., burrito vs. pizza)
1) Eat the elephant in small bites – limited letters
   from the full alphabet
   (e.g., AlphaBoard with cover up; 1 line of the
   alphabet flip chart; 5 letters on computer
   or device keyboard)

Insta-Charting: Letters

Sample Activities:
• **Recess**: walk or gym (w / g)
• **Book**: read about hurricanes or
tornadoes (h / t)
• **Snack**: bananas or apples (b / a)
• **Lunch**: pizza or burgers
• **Cooking**: pudding or shake
• **Guest**: principal or nurse
• **Video:** cats or dogs

Interactive Alphabet USE -   It's Way More
Than Just Letter Identification!

10/17/12

Rhyme, Rhythm, Repetition, Predictability . . .

Pizza Today

Repetition With Variation!!!

ADD ON Make Your Own Pages

Insta-Charting: Letters

HOMEWORK!
• **Think of 5 times YOU would have students vote with letters for a REAL purpose!**
• **HOW would your students vote?**

Use Foods to Teach the Alphabet

• The ABCs of Snacking
  ◦ http://www.fastq.com/~jbpratt/education/theme/alphabet/abcsnacking.html
  ◦ Ants on a Log, Umbrella Cookies
  ◦ Make a big deal out of what you eat: i.e. crackers, sunflower seeds, tangerines--- predictable chart

• Lunch is brought to you by the letters…

Use Alternative Pencils for Alphabet Activities

• Hangman

• Wheel of Fortune

• Words I Know!

• Alphabet Action Man Game

Interactive Alphabet USE -   It's Way More
Than Just Letter Identification!

10/17/12

"Words I Know"

- Connecting the abstract to the familiar
  - Bringing the distant to the near

- Student generates one letter with alternative pencil

- Teacher writes out words the student knows that begins with that letter
  - Could be related to a theme
  - Could be made into a book

Braille Rap
American Printing House for the Blind
http://www.aph.org/edresearch/braille_rap/index.html

Finding Alphabet Books

Tar Heel Reader
www.tarheelreader.org

- Developed by Gary Bishop & Karen Erickson
  - Resource from University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC

- **Free** resource for easy, easy, easy books
- Designed for students with significant disabilities who are struggling readers, including older students
- Accessible via switches and Intellikeys
- Can read books online OR books can be downloaded in PowerPoint
- Professionals can author their own books

Interactive Alphabet USE - It's Way More
Than Just Letter Identification!

10/17/12
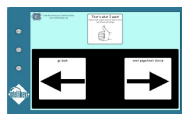
A is for American Football

by LukeM

The ABC'S of Food!

by ejh

Supporting Students with Visual Needs on Tarheel Reader

- Adjust background & font color

- Accessible using 1-3 switches & computer switch interface

- Accessible using custom IntelliKeys overlays

Some Good Books

- The Alphabet Keeper, by Mary Murphy

- Feelings to Share from A-Z, by Todd & Peggy Snow

- T is for Touchdown: A Football Alphabet, by Brad Herzog (has done other sports books)

- Alphabet Scramble-great Braille book
  ○ American Printing House for the Blind

Interactive Alphabet USE -   It's Way More
Than Just Letter Identification!

10/17/12

Kids Like Me Learn ABCs
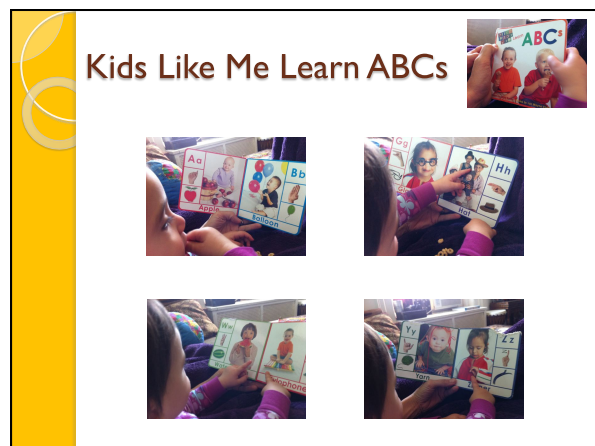
Some **Funky** Alphabet Books
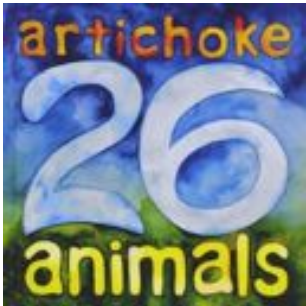
- A is for Salad
  by Mike Lester

A is for Salad
Mike Lester

- When Royals Wore
Ruffles by Pamela
Jaber

Very Fun Alphabet Books List
http://www.flashlightworthybooks.com/Very-Fun-Alphabet-Books/289

Artichoke
http://www.myspace.com/artichoketheband

artichoke
26
animals

Animal Alphabet
Book and CD

Great for older kids

Making Alphabet Books

Interactive Alphabet USE -   It's Way More
Than Just Letter Identification!

10/17/12

Scavenger Hunt Letter Books

- Student writes a letter using alternative pencil

- Co-constructs & conducts an interview social script
  ◦ by Caroline Musselwhite & crew, 1999
  ◦ Go to www.aacintervention.com for more social script info

- Takes photos, records results or takes an item

- Puts in book-tactual book, PowerPoint book
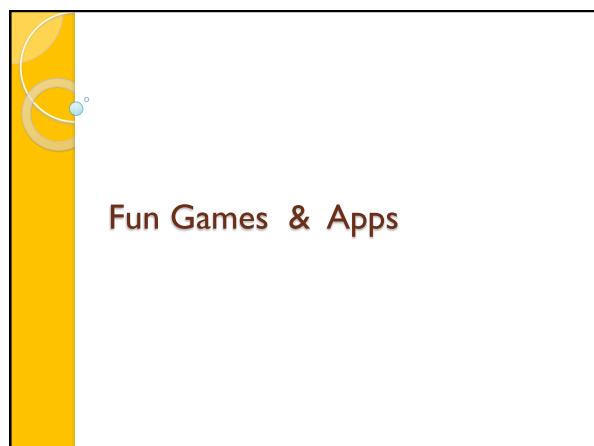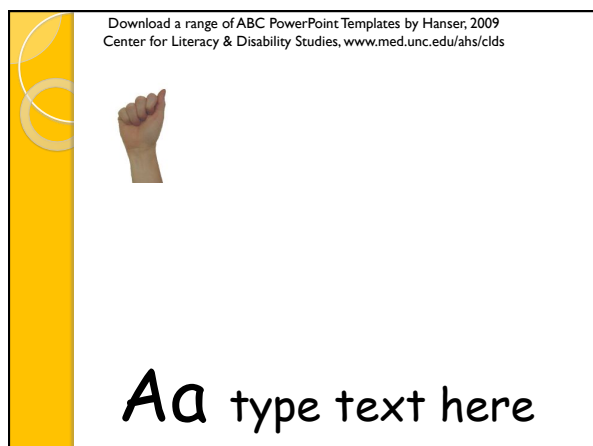
Brainstorming Tricks

- More is MORE!! Brainstorm lots of ideas before you select

- Make this VISIBLE
    - chart paper + markers
    - graphic organizers (*Inspiration*)
    - graphic organizer apps (*Inspiration, Popplet Lite,*

Inspiration Web
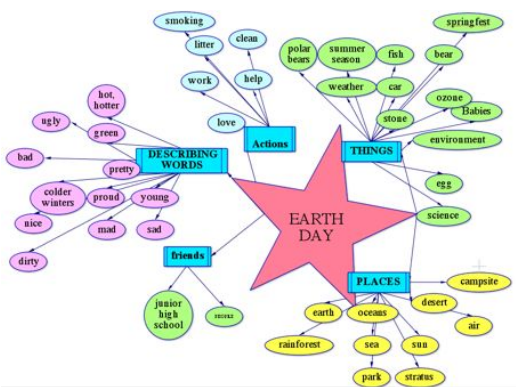
Earth Day Alphabet

A is for <u>air</u> . . . don't smog it up. (David)

B is for <u>bad</u>. . . . don't smog it up. (Amber)

C is for <u>car</u> . . . don't smog it up. (Gilbert)

D is for <u>dirty</u> . . . don't smog it up. (Erica)

E is for <u>Earth</u> . . . don't smog it up. (Amber)

F is for <u>fish</u> . . . Be kind to the Earth.. (Erica)

G is for <u>green</u> . . . be kind to the Earth. (Sara)

H is for <u>help</u> . . . be kind to the Earth. (Maggie)

I is for <u>iceburg</u> . . . don't smog it up. (Ben)

Interactive Alphabet USE -   It's Way More
Than Just Letter Identification!

10/17/12

Mind Maps: *Inspiration*

Mind Maps: *Popplet*

Download a range of ABC PowerPoint Templates by Hanser, 2009
Center for Literacy & Disability Studies, www.med.unc.edu/ahs/clds

Aa type text here

Fun Games & Apps

Interactive Alphabet USE -   It's Way More
Than Just Letter Identification!

10/17/12
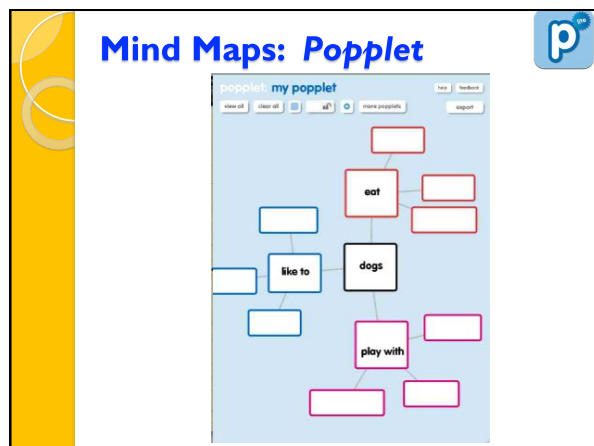
**Alliteration: Make a Book!
(Match Your Theme)**

Bongo bites

Balloons!

Parietal

Frontal

Temporal

Occipital
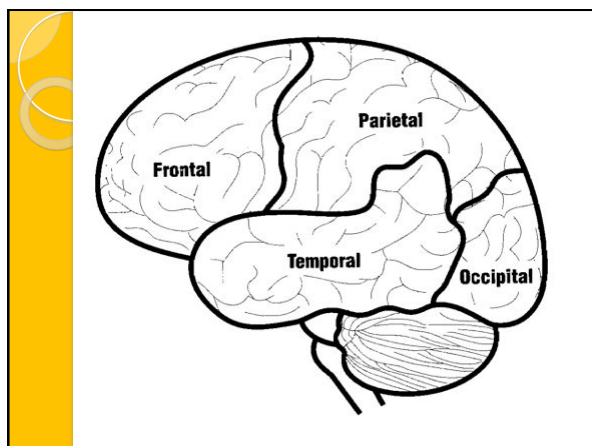
"The brain is a pattern detector, not a rule applier!"
Pat Cunningham
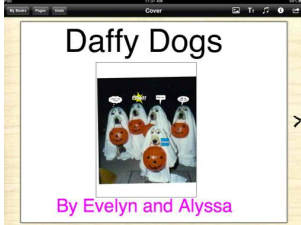
**Alliteration: Make Another
Book! (Different Sounds)**

Cool cat caught

a caterpillar!

Interactive Alphabet USE -   It's Way More
Than Just Letter Identification!

10/17/12

See SpedApps2 Wiki for more ideas!!!
http://spedapps2.wikispaces.com/

$2.99	**Story Patch**	Easy story creation, including: • Several themes • 800 + illustrations • Lots of customizeable characers • Importing photos Stories are shared as pdfs See demo here: http://storypatch.com/

Book Creator or
Story Creator app

Daffy Dogs

By Evelyn and Alyssa

- Look at the photo
- Alphabet Flip Book – students pick letter
- Then give 3 word choices + None
- Write their choice
- Pick a partner to record it

Yucky   Kooky

C models Y = yucky

A picks K, then 'kooky'

Cute   Adorable!

Sister models C = cute

E Picks A = adorable

Voice Morph Pro App

FREE

Light tech writers:
Have someone record:
-Pick a person (Jenny, Ann)
-Pick a voice (Cat, Giant)

Word Spree Lite

Ideas!

• Have students EACH write words on paper or *Doodle Buddy*
• Then do a 'share-a-thon' with the whole class
• You can also save stories, so 3 students could write stories, then the group could practice reading them chorally (great fluency practice!)

Grandma's recipe

Every Thanksgiving without fail, grandma's **tuna sandwich** dish makes us all feel **resentful**. Grandma always covers her **tuna sandwich** meal with a **macabre** layer of **beets**, which certainly contributes to our **resentful** feelings.

Grandma **troubles** her **tuna sandwich** before sticking in the oven, an **efficacious**
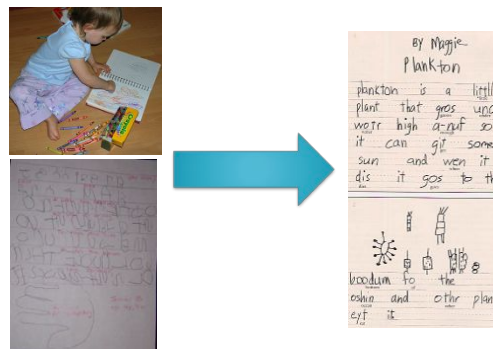
Magnetic Alphabet

SPOOKY

ABCDEFGHIJKLM
NOPQRSTUVWXYZ

Scribbling

The POWER of Scribble!

By Maggie Plankton

plankton is a littll plant that gros undr wotr high a-nuf so it can git some sun and wen it dis it gos to the

boodum to the oshin and other plant eyt it

Interactive Alphabet USE - It's Way More
Than Just Letter Identification!

10/17/12

Hot Off the Press! NO Waiting!!

Gave her crayon at 9 months—here she is at 11 months!

The Beginning

Scribble

Wavy lines

From Schickedanz & Casbergue, Writing in Preschool, 2009, International Reading Association

Development of Writing

Letter-like forms

From Schickedanz & Casbergue, Writing in Preschool, 2009, International Reading Association

Development of Writing

EARLY sound spelling-begins with a few phonemes

EARLY sound spelling-has a few more phonemes

From Schickedanz & Casbergue, Writing in Preschool, 2009, International Reading Association

Interactive Alphabet USE -   It's Way More
Than Just Letter Identification!

10/17/12

Alphabet Action Man Game

Handout for this session is at:

www.aacintervention.com

See apps reviews:
spedapps2.wikispaces.com