



Clicker® is an easy to use symbol writing and multimedia application. Clicker® enables students with communication disabilities, to convey their thoughts and ideas clearly using symbol grids that represent common real life objects.

Symbol grids use clipart, images, text, and voice to build vocabulary for any situation a student is likely to encounter. Clicker® provides constant feedback through its speech engine, enhancing the rate of literacy development. Users can create custom grids to compliment the templates that are part of Clicker®.

Clicker's® word processor is appropriate for use by all younger students. The easy to use interface, extensive image library, and the text to speech engine helps all students to express their thoughts and ideas in a meaningful way.

Clicker® is a wonderful teaching and learning tool that accelerates learning through its multi-sensory approach to writing and speaking.



Sample of a "Talking Book" written in Clicker ®

Find Clicker® resources at <http://www.osapac.org>.

## Our Mandate

The Mandate of the Ontario Software Acquisition Program Advisory Committee is:

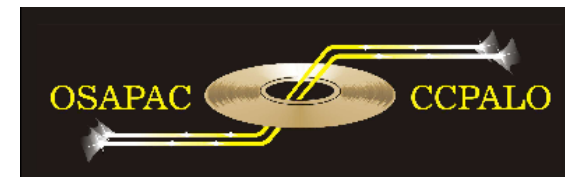
- to survey the publicly funded education system for software titles recommended by teachers
- to review software titles submitted to the Ministry through the Requests For Proposals (RFP) process and forward the resulting recommendations for province-wide licenses to the Ministry of Education;
- to maintain for the Ministry of Education, a web-enabled database, in both official languages of all provincially licensed software;
- to inform educators of the OSAPAC process and of the licensed software titles available provide additional support, including professional development, where appropriate and available;
- to maintain a web site and a conferencing system to keep all interested parties informed of the business of the Committee and to provide a feedback mechanism;
- to maintain a web-enabled database of Ontario curriculum expectations linked to provincially licensed software titles.



<http://www.osapac.org>

© OSAPAC 2007

## Assistive Technology from OSAPAC



Ontario Software Acquisition Program Advisory Committee

Assistive technology is any hardware or software that enables those with disabilities to develop independence while learning in an environment that reflects their community.

Understanding how people learn helps us to effectively differentiate our instructional techniques thereby appealing to a broad range of learners in the classroom.

OSAPAC used its resources to evaluate and recommend assistive software to support Ministry of Education initiatives in differentiated instruction, literacy, mathematics, and learning to 18. Software reviewed in this brochure, while intended for students with disabilities, will help all students to learn in a meaningful way.

<http://www.osapac.org>

<http://www.ccpalo.org>



SMART Ideas® is the ultimate graphic organizer and planning tool. With Smart Ideas®, users see their thoughts and ideas as linked text and images.

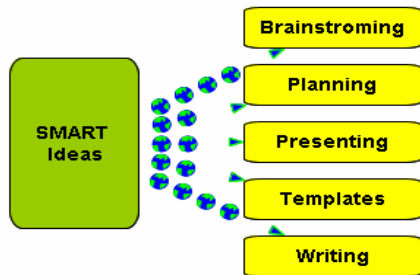
Since image based mind maps are easier to develop, connect, and interpret, students see the connections between main ideas and supporting details at a glance. Ideas can be altered or moved from topic to topic with a single mouse click.

Visual learners will enjoy sorting and organizing subtopics using colours and shapes.

Through its many easy to use features, SMART Ideas® encourages students to focus on the process of writing. For example, mind maps can be exported and re-used as text in Microsoft® Word, Corel® WordPerfect®, and Appleworks®.

A library of templates (Venn diagrams, cyclic events, cause and effect) are part of the program. An even larger library of resources and templates and teaching resources can be found at located at [www.smarttech.com](http://www.smarttech.com)

SMART Ideas® specifically supports visual learners, however all students benefit when using planning tools that focus on the writing process.



Sample right tree mind map



In CoWriter®, students use one of three built in dictionaries, along with a personal dictionary, to assist with the writing process. A student profile tracks word usage and uses this information to predict which word the student is attempting to type.

CoWriter's® main strength is the intelligent way it uses word prediction to help students focus on the writing process while freeing them from the mechanics of spelling.

As the first letter of a word is typed, CoWriter® provides a list of words the student may be trying to use. Assuming the student chooses to type a second letter, the list of word choices is updated. CoWriter® speaks each word on demand, enabling the student to write coherent meaningful passages.

With its focus on getting ideas into print, CoWriter® levels the playing field for students who struggle with the mechanics of writing.



Write:OutLoud® motivates students through its talking word processor features. Depending on the settings, Write:Outloud® will speak letters, words, sentences, and paragraphs. In all instances, students hear and see their writing. They can quickly determine if the sentence conveys the desired meaning. If not, changes can easily be made. As an added benefit, reading along with speech engine helps to identify missing words. Write:Outloud® is essential for reluctant and emerging writers, while providing a tool all students can use to further their literacy skills.



Dragon Naturally Speaking®, the world's foremost speech to text software, works in conjunction with most Microsoft® Windows® applications to provide speech to text capability. Imagine the freedom!

Students bypass the keyboard and use a microphone to dictate their thoughts and ideas directly into a word processor, spreadsheet, or other software application.

Dragon Naturally Speaking® is an amazing software support for students with mobility problems, dexterity problems, and visually impaired students.

Users train Dragon Naturally Speaking® by reading several passages designed specifically for students.

As Dragon® learns the speaker's voice, it creates a user profile which stores speech patterns, and word usage.

The benefits of using Dragon Naturally Speaking® extend far beyond the school setting. Students familiar with Dragon® through their own use, or through business courses, leave school with cutting edge technology skills that are in demand.

Dictating text motivates all students, but is especially relevant for those who have difficulty staying on task for extended periods, as well as those experiencing fatigue when writing. Using speech to text software makes learning more accessible and interesting to all learners.

Note: Parents and teachers can obtain a personal copy of Dragon Naturally Speaking® for home use at a special price. Contact OSAPAC for details.