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MEDT 6401

Shawna has very limited vision. She is unable to see standard size letters and words.

A. Resource selected:

There are a variety of devices available to help students with poor vision. As the assisted technology (AT) devices range from very simple and relatively inexpensive, such as magnifying glasses or using a very large font on printed documents, to the more complex screen reading software and screen magnification programs. These would be some of the AT items I would use with Shawna.

Specialty keyboard
Keyboard with oversized print on the keys and high contrast between keys and print.
http://www.amazon.com/DC-Computer-Keyboard-Oversized-Individuals/dp/B0039O9LCM

Text to speech program
Software that converts text on a computer into an audio file for playback.
Family Center on Technology and Disability
http://www.fctd.info/factsheet/glossary#T

Screen reader program
Software that reads text as the person is interacting with the computer
Georgia Project for Assistive Technology
http://www.gpat.org/devices.aspx

Magnification software
Software that greatly magnifies all items on a computer screen.
Tools for Life, Georgia's Assistive Technology Act Program
http://www.gatfl.org/AssistiveTechnology.aspx

Possible software to use:
Nuance Speak & See Suite
http://www.enablemart.com/Catalog/Screen-Readers/Speak-See-Suite

B. Resources Used

Before using any AT I would first do my best to adapt the physical environment to best suit Shawna's needs. I would place her in the front row. If her vision was worse in low light conditions I would make sure that she had the best lighting. Since it's surprising how much even people with normal hearing speechread, I would wear a voice amplification device (Like Lightspeed or Calypso Systems) if one were available to help her understand me.

When possible, I would have Shawna use a computer for her work. Between the specialty keyboard and the screen magnification software she should be able to view what she is doing. When applicable, I would input information into the text to speech software so she would have audio files that she could play at home. This would be useful for things such as homework assignments or notes on the lesson I have typed up. To participate in class, the screen reader software would be useful. She would wear headphones.

C. Sample Lesson Plan

Title:
Learning about idioms

Grade:
Possibly 3rd grade

Objectives:
 Identify idioms in a paragraph

Materials:
Worksheets
Highlighter & pencil
Laptop with keyboard and AT software

Procedure:
The teacher will discuss and define idioms. The teacher will go over common idioms and their meanings. The students will be given a sheet of paper with a story full of idioms on it, with the instructions being to highlight all of the idioms. This text will already be on the laptop so Shawna can use the screen reader software to read the story to her. Using screen magnification and the specialty keyboard she can "highlight" the text on the computer.

Evaluation/Assessment:
Check and see how many of the idioms each student highlighted