

## Diversity Assignment

**Scenario 1:** Carl has speech and motor disabilities. He has difficulty with his fine motor skills, making writing almost impossible. In addition, Carl's speech disability impedes communication with his teachers and other classmates.

<http://www.words-plus.com/website/products/soft/ezkeys.htm>

This assistive technology tool is called EZ Keys. It is designed for users with a third grade reading level and above who have trouble with writing and communicating. This product can help the user type a letter; engage in conversation or surf the web. EZ Keys can be accessed through a variety of modes – standard keyboard, expanded keyboard, joystick since Carl has trouble with his fine motor skills. When Carl begins to type a word, EZ keys displays a table of six most frequently used words that begin with those letters, he would have to select a word from the display and EZ Key instantly types in the word. Additionally, EZ Keys can store thousands of phrases and sentences and group them according to subject, i.e. family, school, friends etc. This would allow Carl to retrieve this information and use for conversations.

**Scenario 2:** Shawna has very limited vision. She is unable to see standard size letters and words.

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

<http://www.nanopac.com/Dolphin%20Super%20Nova%20Screen%20Reader%20Magnifier%20low%20vision%20Blind.htm>

Shawna would benefit from a keyboard with large letters for her to see at the above website. The keys are yellow with black letters and are oversized. It is a product that is recommended for children with low vision and is reasonably priced. In addition to the keyboard, a screen reader would help her to see her texts more efficiently. SuperNova, the second website listed above offers students with low vision magnification, speech and Braille output. It talks as you type announcing words or characters so you can check what you write. Additionally, user can manage the colors of the text so that one is able to see text easier.

**Scenario 3:** Serena's primary language is Spanish, and she is struggling with the readings from the assigned textbook for your class. Realizing that Serena needs audiovisual enriched materials to supplement the textbook, you locate several technology related resources.

<http://www.kurzweilededu.com/kurz3000.aspx>

This program will read texts to Serena so that she gets use to hearing how English sounds. It will help her to improve her reading speed and comprehension as well as complete writing projects and tests independently. Research was conducted to show that use of technology such as Kurzweile 3000 is an important tool for ELL learning to comprehend grade level content-area work. The software can access printed texts, electronic or information on the web making it a resourceful technology to help ELL become proficient in English.

<http://eslbears.homestead.com/>

In addition to the Kurzweile – the above website offers a lighter version for Serena to learn English. This website offers English pronunciations of words, quizzes, writing and games for the English language learner.