

## Free Programs to Support AT and Educational Needs

### AAC Support

There are many sites that provide support for Boardmaker. These are just a few (see Blog for more extensive listing):

- On this website by Miami-Dade County Public Schools has compiled some wonderful predesigned boards, ready for use. You must have Boardmaker to print off the boards or to manipulate them to make them more personal for your use. [prekese.dadeschools.net/BMD/activityspecific.html](http://prekese.dadeschools.net/BMD/activityspecific.html)
- A wonderful collection of [Boardmaker Activity Downloads](#) and AT/AAC Websites Resource List by Iriss Shimoney in PDF format. Thank you Iriss. [www.region2library.com/DATA/Boardmaker/EZRA\\_AAC\\_resources\\_May\\_2007\\_FINAL4.pdf](http://www.region2library.com/DATA/Boardmaker/EZRA_AAC_resources_May_2007_FINAL4.pdf)

### Audio Books

See Blog for more extensive listing.

- [LibriVox](#): [librivox.org](http://librivox.org) provides free audio books from the public domain. There are several options for listening. (The first step is to get the mp3 or ogg files into your own computer.)
- [PodioBooks](#): [www.podiobooks.com/register.php](http://www.podiobooks.com/register.php) has you register then you can sign up for subscription feeds by searching or browsing the catalog and clicking the subscribe link in the book detail. New and Coming Soon books will be advertised on the homepage, so check back often to keep track of the latest new books. They have a Podiobooks Podcast to keep everyone up to date on the latest happenings in the Podiobooks world. This is free but they do ask for donations.
- [SimplyAudio Books](#): [www.simplyaudiobooks.com](http://www.simplyaudiobooks.com) allows you to download free digital audio books and listen on your favorite MP3 player, computer, or simply burn the audio books to a CD. There are over 6,000 audio books, lectures, radio shows, and more.
- [Lit2Go](#): [etc.usf.edu/lit2go](http://etc.usf.edu/lit2go) is a free online collection of stories and poems in Mp3 (audio book) format. You can: Download the files to your Mp3 player and listen on the go, Listen to the Mp3 files on your computer, View the text on a webpage and read along as you listen, Print out the stories and poems to make your own book.

### Cursors

There are many programs on-line to add variety and visual interest to cursors. Here are a few that might help with visual tracking:

- Stardock's [CursorXP](#): [www.download32.com/cursorxp-i28131.html](http://www.download32.com/cursorxp-i28131.html) is a program that lets you use and create incredibly cool looking Windows mouse cursors. It does this by taking advantage of the new visual effects features of Windows 2000 and Windows XP. Add shadows, trails, explosions and other animations to your cursors, or choose something a little more sedate just easier to see.

- These are very large and colorful cursors. Downloads and software from [Tucows](http://www.tucows.com/preview/16285): [www.tucows.com/preview/16285](http://www.tucows.com/preview/16285) the largest online software download site.
- [Sib Cursor Editor - 2.0](http://www.download32.com/sib-cursor-editor-i34076.html): [www.download32.com/sib-cursor-editor-i34076.html](http://www.download32.com/sib-cursor-editor-i34076.html) provides a means for creating images of cursors of your own. You'll be able to create and edit static/animated cursors. A multitude of special effects will give cursors as much eye-candy as you wish.
- [ArtCursors](http://www.download32.com/artcursors-i15622.html): [www.download32.com/artcursors-i15622.html](http://www.download32.com/artcursors-i15622.html) allows you to edit static and animated cursors in color depths up to 32-bit True Color. You also can search files and folders for cursors, import and export cursor images and create cursor libraries for better and more efficient storage. (Windows)

### **E-Text**

(Electronic Text) free books and text online - Electronic text provides access to digital materials for students with learning, sensory and physical disabilities. The Internet provides many sites for gathering e-text. Here are some links to explore e-text further (not just classic books... explore further!) There are many sites out there; this will provide you with a taste. See Blog for more extensive listing.

- Literature, reference, fiction, non-fiction, verse... [Bartleby](http://www.bartleby.com): [www.bartleby.com](http://www.bartleby.com) provides students with access to books and information on the web in a friendly searchable database. There are several sites like this, this is just one of them...
- [Giggle Poetry](http://www.gigglepoetry.com): [www.gigglepoetry.com](http://www.gigglepoetry.com) provides 100's of funny poems to read and explore for children.
- [ChildrenStory](http://www.childrenstory.com): [www.childrenstory.com](http://www.childrenstory.com) offers Fairy Tales, Nursery Rhymes, interactive stories, and holiday stories. Some in audio format.
- [Indian Child](http://www.indianchild.com/tongue_twisters.htm): [www.indianchild.com/tongue\\_twisters.htm](http://www.indianchild.com/tongue_twisters.htm) provides great tongue twisters for kids.
- [Wowio](http://www.wowio.com): [www.wowio.com](http://www.wowio.com) Free Books, Free minds. Selections provided by category. Readers have access to a wide range of offerings, including works of classic literature, college textbooks, comic books, and popular fiction and non-fiction titles.
- [Gamequarium](http://www.gamequarium.com/magazines.html): [www.gamequarium.com/magazines.html](http://www.gamequarium.com/magazines.html) has a great list of on-line magazine sites that are very motivating for kids to use with text-to-speech software.
- Google has a book search in their search engine now. Go to Google and then go to "More". Type in what you are looking for and voila! You just might find it.
- [Children's Storybooks On-line](http://www.magickeys.com/books): [www.magickeys.com/books](http://www.magickeys.com/books) offers illustrated and animated storybooks for young, older and young adults. Some with the audio component too. Wonderful format.
- [Children's Digital Library Foundation](http://en.childrenslibrary.org): [en.childrenslibrary.org](http://en.childrenslibrary.org) is to "excite and inspire the world's children to become members of the global community – children who understand the value of tolerance and respect for diverse cultures, languages and ideas -- by making the best in children's literature available online." The ICDL Foundation's goal is to build a collection of books that

represents outstanding historical and contemporary books from throughout the world. Ultimately, the Foundation aspires to have every culture and language represented so that every child can know and appreciate the riches of children's literature from the world community.

### **Graphics**

Pictures are used to support students with communication devices, to use with picture schedules, to support reading and comprehension and to enhance presentations. Here are a few ways to tap into graphics on the Internet:

- [Microsoft: office.microsoft.com/en-us/clipart/default.aspx](http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/clipart/default.aspx) clipart provides all kinds of graphics, photos, animations and sounds that will be downloaded right into your clipart library. Good source that is often forgotten.
- Google images are wonderful but beware of copyright laws when using [Google](http://www.google.com)! Select the "Image" tab and type in your image search request. To copy just hold down the mouse on the graphic and there will be a little pull down menu that has Copy to Clipboard as an option. Select that and return to your document and select Paste. You can also select to download the image to a disk or your desktop and then insert picture from the pull down menu.
- This site includes "copyright friendly images for education" including American Sign Language. The [Pics4Learning: pics.tech4learning.com](http://pics.tech4learning.com) collection consists of thousands of images that have been donated by students, teachers, and amateur photographers.
- [Overboard: www.gusinc.com/Overboard](http://www.gusinc.com/Overboard) is a tool for parents, teachers and speech language pathologists for creating printed communication boards, schedules, reading/writing activities, visual supports and speech enhanced dynamic display (AAC) solutions. It includes 5,500 symbols plus device templates and links to other images. It even includes speech output and page linking!! Worth exploring!
- [Beyond Autism PECS Pictures/Icons Pages: trainland.tripod.com/pecs.htm](http://trainland.tripod.com/pecs.htm) includes pictures that you can use for communication systems. May be used with Boardmaker or on its own by using a cut and paste method. Includes real pictures of many items, such as food, fast food places, stores, etc.
- [Discovery School: school.discoveryeducation.com](http://school.discoveryeducation.com) makes it easy to add graphics to your next project, whether its for home or school. Choose from hundreds of original clip art pieces, including animations.
- Just something to be aware of... Google has a video library. Go to Google, go to "more" and you will see Video: Search TV programs and videos. Great for adding a little visual to presentations! This may be a good source for students who can't go out and take their own. (Beware of copyright rules!) And of course, there is YouTube and TeacherTube!!!
- [PictureSET: www.setbc.org/pictureset/Default.aspx](http://www.setbc.org/pictureset/Default.aspx) is a collection of downloadable visual supports that can be used by students for both receptive and expressive communication in the classroom, at home, and in the community. This searchable database allows you to find a wide range of useful visual supports for different curriculum areas, activities, and events.

### **Graphic Organizers**

- **Mindomo:** [www.setbc.org/pictureset/Default.aspx](http://www.setbc.org/pictureset/Default.aspx) is a Web-based mind mapping tool, delivering the capabilities of desktop mind mapping software in a Web browser - with no complex software to install or maintain. You can create, edit mind maps, and share them with your colleagues or your friends.
- **TeacherVision:** [www.teachervision.fen.com/graphic-organizers/printable/6293.html?detoured=1](http://www.teachervision.fen.com/graphic-organizers/printable/6293.html?detoured=1) provides Math Graphic Organizers, All-Subject Graphic Organizers, Problem and Solution, Venn Diagrams and Webs, and Language Arts Graphic Organizers. They are in PDF format.
- A wonderful site for an abundance of pre-made PDF graphic organizers is the **Education Place:** [www.eduplace.com/graphicorganizer](http://www.eduplace.com/graphicorganizer) by Houghton Mifflin. (These are also available in Spanish!) They are in PDF format.
- **ReadWriteThink Webbing Tool:** [www.readwritethink.org/student\\_mat/student\\_material.asp?id=38](http://www.readwritethink.org/student_mat/student_material.asp?id=38) provides a free-form graphic organizer for activities that ask students to pursue hypertextual thinking and writing. Students can drag the circle or box shapes representing their ideas to arrange any layout and relationship that they want. Each layer on the chart will have a different color border for the shapes that you choose.
- **Education Place:** [www.eduplace.com/graphicorganizer](http://www.eduplace.com/graphicorganizer) provides PDF files of many graphic organizers. With the hit of a button they are available in Spanish also!
- **Gliffy:** [www.gliffy.com](http://www.gliffy.com) allows you to use diagramming in your web browser without downloading additional software. You can create many types of diagrams such as Flowcharts, UI wireframes, Floor plans, Network diagrams, UML diagrams, or any other simple drawing or diagram.
- **Cmap:** [cmap.ihmc.us/conceptmap.html](http://cmap.ihmc.us/conceptmap.html) download is an alternative to Inspiration that is totally free. Doesn't have some of the supportive options that Inspiration has such as text to speech and wonderful graphics but the CmapTools program empowers users to construct, navigate, share and criticize knowledge models represented as concept maps.
- **MindMeister:** [www.mindmeister.com](http://www.mindmeister.com) supports all the standard features of a classic mind mapping tool - only online, and with as many simultaneous users as you like. The basic version is a free download.
- Another on-line collaborative mapping program is **FreeMind:** [freemind.sourceforge.net/wiki/index.php/Main\\_Page](http://freemind.sourceforge.net/wiki/index.php/Main_Page) which is written in Java.
- **VYM (View Your Mind:** [www.insilmaril.de/vym](http://www.insilmaril.de/vym)) is a tool to generate and manipulate maps which show your thoughts. Such maps can help you to improve your creativity and effectively. You can use them for time management, to organize tasks, to get an overview over complex contexts.

### **Math Support**

There are endless amounts of math support on-line. These are some of my favorites. I hope you find them useful but do know that I have not included all the resources available. It is a start.

- **Efofex:** <http://www.efofex.com/empower.php> is designed for students with physical disabilities who find mathematics and science extremely difficult to write. The equations and graphics are

too difficult to construct with standard tools. Their products are designed to make mathematics and science teacher's jobs easier but many students with special needs have found that they also provide the assistance they need.

- **Calculator Home Page:** <http://www.calculator.org/default.aspx> for Windows high functioning calculator. Free download.
- **MiddleSchool.net:** <http://www.middleschool.net/MainFeatures/caculate.htm> offers a wide assortment of all types of calculators, ranging from 1885 Felt & Tarrant "Comptometer" Adding Machine and a Vector Calculator to an Astrophysical Calculator and a Linear Algebra Matrix Calculator.
- **National Library of Virtual Manipulatives:** <http://nlvm.usu.edu> encourages active engagement in mathematical thinking and learning – helping students visualize relationships and applications.
- **MathFlash!:** [http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/thurgoodmarshalles/java-applets/mathflash/mathflash\\_small.html](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/thurgoodmarshalles/java-applets/mathflash/mathflash_small.html) Provides a flashcard interactive program with a choices of the 4 operations or mixed of all 4, easy to difficult, game or practice modes and in 1, 2 or 3 minutes portions.
- **Graph Paper-** never buy it again! There are many sites that offer free graph paper or programs to develop your own. Great to use with students who struggle lining up their problems. Try varied forms of graph paper at [Print Free Graph Paper: http://www.printfreegraphpaper.com](http://www.printfreegraphpaper.com)
- **Incompetech:** <http://incompetech.com/graphpaper> offers on-line graph and grid paper in PDF format. There are various links from this site to support your graphing needs.
- **Talking Calculator:** <http://www.readingmadeez.com/products/TalkingCalculator.html> by Premier Assistive Technology, offers a free full functioning "talking calculator" that can be used with or without a screen reader. Every button and edit area talks. It has large keys with contrasting colors. When students are required to show their work, they can simply cut and paste the steps into a document.

### **Modification Checklist**

- **Great Schools:** <http://www.greatschools.net/LD/school-learning/accommodations-IEP.gs?content=713> provides a list of accommodations that can be used during team meetings for later referral when writing the I.E.P. It's a quick, easy reference that can be filled out at the team meeting with input by all the service providers.
- From the **A.D.D. Center:** <http://www.addcentre.co.uk/modificationchecklists.htm> this list contains a sampling of classroom modifications/accommodations for students with ADD/ADHD.

### **Mouse Support**

- **ToggleMouse:** [http://www.softpile.com/Desktop/Desktop\\_Uutilities/Review\\_01645\\_index.html](http://www.softpile.com/Desktop/Desktop_Uutilities/Review_01645_index.html) lets you assign a keyboard action to anything the mouse does, so you can point and click with your keys. It also lets you change your pointer and it hides the mouse pointer while you type. You

can record a mouse click and assign it to a keyboard stroke-- you could even surf the Web or use Microsoft Word without ever touching your mouse. It has many, many features for controlling mouse function. Programming the "Panic Stopper" will allow you to ignore those repeated little mouse clicks some students insist on. Do a search to find this Freeware as it is available but the company has quit producing it.

- **BabyMouse and BabyBoard:** <http://www.download32.com/babymouse-and-babyboard-i35500.html> - 3.30 Block right mouse click menus, wheel scrolls, windows key, alt tab, etc. BabyMouse is runs in the background and catches all right clicks, mouse wheel scrolls before they reach the program you are working with. Merge all mouse buttons to one!

### **On-Screen Keyboards**

There is an On-Screen Keyboard bundled in with Windows XP. There are limitations however. If you need more than what it can offer, you might try one of these:

- **Dasher:** <http://www.inference.phy.cam.ac.uk/dasher> is a text-entry interface, driven by natural continuous pointing gestures to be used when operating a computer one-handed, by joystick, touchscreen, trackball, mouse, by head-mouse or by eyetracker, or on a palmtop computer.
- **Click-N-Type:** <http://www.lakefolks.org/cnt> is an on-screen virtual keyboard designed for anyone with a disability that prevents him or her from typing on a physical computer keyboard. As long as the person can control a mouse, trackball or other pointing device, he or she can send keystrokes to virtually any Windows application or DOS application that can run within a window. Click-N-Type is a 32-bit application that requires Windows 95 or later. Freeware
- **KeyStrokes:** <http://www.assistiveware.com/keystrokes.php> for Mac OS 9 and Mac OS X is a fully-functional advanced virtual on-screen keyboard that allows you to type with a mouse, trackball, head pointer or other mouse emulator to type characters into any standard Macintosh application. Demo version available.

### **Productivity**

Not everyone can afford MS Office. This is a wonderful alternative!

- **Open Office:** <http://www.openoffice.org> is a multi-platform office productivity suite. It includes the key desktop applications such as a word processor, spreadsheet, presentation manager and drawing program with a user interface and feature set similar to other office suites. Sophisticated and flexible, it also works with a variety of file formats, including those of Microsoft Office.

### **Sign Language**

These are a few of the sites available to help learn sign language. There are more out there... worth searching through.

- For \$5 a month you can have access to **Hand Speak:** <http://www.handspeak.com> with over 2,150 signs, Baby Sign, International Sign, Stock Trader Sign, Animal Sign sections and Sign Stories Articles.

- Want to learn how to **finger spell**: <http://www.asl.ms> quickly. This site will provide a word, you type in the answer and check to see if you are correct. Great practice if you already know your letters.
- **ALS Lesson Tutor**: [www.lessonstutor.com/ASLgenhome.html](http://www.lessonstutor.com/ASLgenhome.html) will help students or staff to learn American Sign Language (ASL) and Signed English (SE) by working through lessons.
- **A Basic Dictionary of ASL Terms**: [www.masterstech-home.com/ASLDict.html](http://www.masterstech-home.com/ASLDict.html) offers a few American Sign Language terms to help those of you who are trying to communicate with a person who signs. Also included is the basic alphabet and numbers 1-10.
- A list of sign language sites is available on **Linda Burkhart's site**: [www.lburkhart.com/elem/sssign.htm](http://www.lburkhart.com/elem/sssign.htm). This is a list of Web sites that have online Signs. Look up a sign for a word or learn to fingerspell. Some sites even offer a quiz feature so you can test your skills.

### **Symbol Support**

- **Symbol World**: [www.symbolworld.org](http://www.symbolworld.org) has many on-line stories, some recipes, poetry, news stories, etc. written and supported with picture icons. Wonderful!
- **Imagine Symbols**: [www.imaginesymbols.com](http://www.imaginesymbols.com) is designed for communication use and as clipart for worksheets or wherever you may need visual support. They advertise to have 4000 symbols.
- **Tangible Symbol Systems**: [dotolearn.com](http://dotolearn.com) has printable resources for schedules, picture cards and activities. There are many developed resources ready to be printed for your use.
- Use Visual Strategies for Autism: [www.usevisualstrategies.com/Welcome.aspx](http://www.usevisualstrategies.com/Welcome.aspx) has pictures available in the following categories: hygiene, housekeeping, schedule cards and emotions & self management. These are realistic pictures that would be great to use with older clients.
- **Tinsnips**: [www.tinsnips.org/index.html](http://www.tinsnips.org/index.html) is a special education resource that strives to share a variety of specialized teaching tools, techniques, worksheets, and activities with teachers of students who have autistic spectrum disorders and related developmental disabilities. Many of these activities may be appropriate for Pre-K and Kindergarten children.

### **Switch Support**

- **Carbon Lehigh Intermediate**: [209.18.54.57/se/assistive\\_technology.aspx](http://209.18.54.57/se/assistive_technology.aspx) is a great resource. There are several already made PowerPoint presentations designed for switch users. (Many other great resources available here also.) This is a free resource.
- On the **ARCESS.com**: [www.levelgames.net](http://www.levelgames.net) site, by signing up, you may download 3 free accessible games.
- On this site you will find various links, many directly linked to switch activities. A **good site**: <http://www.breakspeare.herts.sch.uk/Resources/parentspage.html> to explore further.
- This site was designed by a mom... **Hiyah**: <http://hiyah.net> is used to express greeting of another person and is the name of her site. This educational software is made for children 18 months to 4

years of age (or higher for children struggling with language delays due to autism or other causes).

### **Text-To-Speech**

- Please Read: [www.readplease.com](http://www.readplease.com) English, Spanish, German, French, UK English for Windows 95/98/ME/NT/2000/XP Freeware. Works in word processing programs and in e-mail.
- [BrowseAloud](http://www.browsealoud.com/page.asp?pg_id=80096): [http://www.browsealoud.com/page.asp?pg\\_id=80096](http://www.browsealoud.com/page.asp?pg_id=80096) by TextHelp reads web pages aloud for people who find it difficult to read online. Reading large amounts of text on screen can be difficult for those with literacy and visual impairments.
- [Convenience Ware](http://www.convenienceware.com): <http://www.convenienceware.com> introduces GhostReader is a multilingual speech solution for Mac OS X that allows you to listen to your documents with naturally sounding voices in a language of choice. Or use it to create your own personal podcasts or your own audio books by exporting to iPod ready iTunes tracks. Or just use it to speak selected text in a handy reader window with play, fast forward and rewind functionality. It even allows you to listen to text by just pointing your cursor at the text as you sit back and relax while TextParrot reads the text under the cursor.
- Talk-To-Me: [www.talk-to-me.net](http://www.talk-to-me.net) for Windows. Will read your E-Mail, Instant Messages, web pages, letters and documents. Send Animated Messages to friends. Greet you daily with the date, time, and a personal message and set alarms to remind you of events.
- Mac Users try [Text-Edit Plus](http://www.tex-edit.com): <http://www.tex-edit.com> is a styled text editor that fills the gap between Apple's bare bones SimpleText and a full-featured word processor. (Shareware)
- [Natural Voice Reader](http://www.naturalreaders.com): <http://www.naturalreaders.com> software that converts text into voice. Reads text directly from other applications, without copying or pasting. Can also convert text files into MP3 or WAV files for use on portable devices like iPod, CD players and PocketPCs.
- [Cyber Buddy](http://www.thecyberbuddy.com): <http://www.thecyberbuddy.com> at has Microsoft Agents that are animated characters that can move around the screen and talk to you. Keep reminders and get your attention when a reminder is due, Instant Message (like ICQ) with speech and animation, Send Voice Messages and more.
- [Spoken Text](http://www.spokentext.net): <http://www.spokentext.net> allows you to record PDF, Word, plain text, PowerPoint files, RSS news feeds, emails and web pages, and converts them to speech automatically. You can download your recording as an iPod book or mp3 file. And every member gets a personal podcast URL , which you can use to download recordings to iTunes or your iPod. You can also easily share your recordings on your web site or blog using SpokenText Badges or individual recording players.

### **Tools**

- [WordWeb](http://download.cnet.com/WordWeb/3000-2279_4-10003201.html?tag=sptlt_s): [http://download.cnet.com/WordWeb/3000-2279\\_4-10003201.html?tag=sptlt\\_s](http://download.cnet.com/WordWeb/3000-2279_4-10003201.html?tag=sptlt_s) is a Thesaurus and dictionary for Windows which includes a comprehensive English thesaurus and dictionary, and can be used to look up words from within most programs. WordWeb works from a small icon in your system tray. To look up a word in almost any program just double-click on the word to select it, then click the WordWeb icon or use the keyboard shortcut. If you are editing a document you can select a synonym and replace the look-up word.

- **Fact Monster:** <http://www.factmonster.com> is an on-line Atlas, Almanac, Dictionary, and Encyclopedia.
- With Google Calendar, you can see your friends' and family's schedules right next to your own; quickly add events mentioned in Gmail conversations or saved in other calendar applications; and add other interesting events that you find online. Go to Google and then to more and to Calendar.
- There are several [desktop clocks and alarms](http://www.download32.com/clocks---alarms-33057-category.html) available. More than anyone ever thought possible. <http://www.download32.com/clocks---alarms-33057-category.html>
- **Child Control 2005:** <http://www.download32.com/child-control-2005-i12660.html> is an optimal parental control for all Windows-PCs (incl. XP). Set time limits for the PC and/or the Internet and block/filter unwanted Internet contents. Limit access to internal Windows components and personal folders.
- **Adobe Reader:** <http://www.adobe.com/products/reader> with the Read Out Loud component feature reads aloud the text in a PDF, including the text in comments and alternate text descriptions for images and fillable fields. Read Out Loud uses the available voices installed on your system. If you have SAPI 4 or SAPI 5 voices installed from text-to-speech or language applications, you can choose them to read your PDFs.
- Although Adobe Reader is a free download, Adobe Writer is not. **CutePDF Writer:** <http://www.cutepdf.com/products/CutePDF/writer.asp> is the free version of commercial PDF creation software. CutePDF Writer installs itself as a "printer subsystem". This enables virtually any Windows applications to create professional quality PDF documents .

### **Visual Support**

- **Bavisoft:** <http://www.bavisoft.com/index.htm> has changed the computer gaming industry. In place of graphics, audio games are powered purely with sound imagery, opening a world of entertainment for the blind and visually impaired. Bavisoft provides game players with music and sound quality, creating a gaming experience.
- There are many [magnifying software](http://www.download32.com/magnify-software.html) programs available that are completely free. Each one is a little different and the descriptions are pretty good. You can also break it down for Mac, PC, Linux or Palm OS. <http://www.download32.com/magnify-software.html>
- **Lens - Magnifying Glass:** [www.abf-soft.com/lens-magnifying-glass.shtml](http://www.abf-soft.com/lens-magnifying-glass.shtml) is a free tool enhances Windows built-in zoom feature by magnifying anything on your screen up to 64 times. The cleverly designed interface looks exactly like a real-world magnifying glass and lets you zoom in or out by clicking an icon or pressing a hot key. However, you'll need to right-click to access some of this application's settings; we would have preferred a button on the main window. In addition to the default look, Lens - Magnifying Glass also comes with several skins, including one with huge controls that some folks may find easier to use.
- **Magnifying Glass 1:** [http://download.cnet.com/Magnifying-Glass/3000-2072\\_4-10487494.html](http://download.cnet.com/Magnifying-Glass/3000-2072_4-10487494.html) is a simple utility which zooms region of screen under mouse cursor. Magnifying Glass useful for PC connected to TV-set or to the monitor with old phosphor. This utility differs from many others by

set of unique features various contrast modes, various position modes, transparency. Platforms: Windows 9x/2000/XP.

- **BlindSoftware:** <http://www.blindsoftware.com> offers free activities of several programs. Example: Funk in the Trunk is a free full-version download of a virtual car stereo, which teens will love.
- **Perky Duck:** <http://www.duxburysystems.com/freeware.asp#dbf> is a computer based Perkins Braille emulator. It is designed to be used for distance education programs, particularly Internet-based situations. It allows Windows and Macintosh users to create electronic Braille files on their computer through six key input. These Braille files can then be printed, embossed or emailed to an instructor, proctor, etc. for examination and grading. Perky Duck has no translation capabilities and very little formatting -- essentially space bar, back space, and return key.

### **Final Word**

Don't forget that each operating system comes with its own supports, "To enable people and businesses throughout the world to realize their full potential." To learn more about the built-in solutions that is available on your computer: [www.microsoft.com/enable/products/default.aspx](http://www.microsoft.com/enable/products/default.aspx) for PC computers using Microsoft products. <http://www.apple.com/accessibility> for Macintosh users. A great site for Mac users regarding AT: <http://atmac.org/>

### **Final, Final Word...** Other links for AT Freeware

If this didn't give you what you need, try the following (these are great resources!):

Macintosh - [trace.wisc.edu/world/computer\\_access/mac/macshare.html](http://trace.wisc.edu/world/computer_access/mac/macshare.html)

Windows - [trace.wisc.edu/world/computer\\_access/win95/win95sha.html](http://trace.wisc.edu/world/computer_access/win95/win95sha.html)

For even more: [http://adaptech.dawsoncollege.qc.ca/fandi\\_e.php](http://adaptech.dawsoncollege.qc.ca/fandi_e.php)

<http://atclassroom.blogspot.com/>

### **Tech Tip:**

*This cool online voice recording service is super easy to use (and it doesn't require a login or password.) After you've recorded your voice, you can email the audio file to someone, embed it into your blog, wiki, or webpage, or save it to your hard drive.*

### **Vocaroo**

<http://vocaroo.com>