

TECHNOLOGY! AAK!!!

As busy professionals, we don't want to spend much time trying "stuff" that "might" help us be more efficient or "could" work for "some" students. We want applications that are easy to learn, practical, affordable, and most especially fun. We want tools that will work for kids that are struggling with our old methods. Not only that, we want fast, effective training on how the software is used. A TALL ORDER!

That said, this issue of the Pacific Coast Speech Services, Inc. newsletter focuses on the favorite technology tools, links and materials of our staff. We would LOVE your feedback on your favorites! This issue is packed with good ideas, so you may have to scroll down to get to the ever popular Jokes for Kids section!



FAVORITE TECHNOLOGY TOOL #1: The Point 2 View USB Camera \$69!

Wow! This penlight-style document camera plugs into your computer USB port. In a nutshell, you point it at whatever you would like to see bigger on a computer monitor or an interactive white board. It comes with a clever weighted stand so it can also stand alone on a desk if you don't want to hold and point. The quality of the auto focus is excellent, and it has full zoom capacity.

The possibilities are endless for application. Some ideas that immediately jumped into our heads: classroom collaboration with a book or demonstration, a bigger view of a student's mouth for stuttering or speech production therapy, and snapshots for a social skills book. In writing this review, we searched "document camera lesson plans" on Google and there were ideas galore! The best part of the Ipevo is its price, only \$69 on Amazon!

IPEVO CDVU-03IP P2V USB Camera



FAVORITE TECHNOLOGY TOOL #2: The Switch Easy Mike for 4G Nanos, iPhones and iTouches

This little mike, which literally resembles a thumbtack in size and shape, is a great way to record language samples, students stories and more. If you need good sound quality for any application, you will love this tiny mike! Lisa Chattler, an SLP and musician, indicated that it is wonderful for recording music as well. Available for \$12.99 at www.switcheasymikes.com



FAVORITE TECHNOLOGY TOOL #3: iPhone, iTouch Applications

Do you use an iPhone or iTouch? There are extensive educational applications available, both for you and your students. All applications are available at www.itunes.com. Some applications even work with the newer Nanos-be sure you check compatibility with your device before purchasing the applications. A sample of some terrific apps includes:

iTalk Recorder Premium: Fidelity is great and the recording length is nearly unlimited. \$1.99!

Percentally: Created by the man whose blog is featured below, this is a tally counter that automatically converts tallies to percentages. This tally system can measure, for example, percentage accuracy of comprehension of questions and accuracy of a sound production. It can also be used for other activities, such as sports. Mr. Sailers takes data on a complete group, and showed us how he easily transfers his percentage data to a spreadsheet document on his computer or an e-mail for recording in a student's file. \$2.99

Pairopix: Similar to a concentration game, students can use their own pictures or pictures provided to play a concentration type game with sound effects and varying levels of difficulty. \$1.99!

StoryKit: Create an electronic story using audio record, paint, typing text and then share it. Free!

Proloquo2Go: Full AAC solution with over 700 symbols, natural sounding voices, and more for \$189. This is a pricer application, but there is quite a "buzz" about this program-will it replace more expensive programs for kids who need an augmentative system and can handle small buttons?

White Noise Lite: Do you or a student need a break from the noisy hustle of the school environment? There are a number of white noise apps, but White Noise Lite fits the bill-free and highly rated!



FAVORITE SOFTWARE TEACHING SITE: lynda.com

This company's goal is to provide online training for a wide variety of useful computer software programs and commonly used applications, like Office 2007, Adobe Photoshop and iTunes. The founders have spent time and money hiring the best presenter for each software application. Many of the programs have an introductory portion of training for free. The entire software instruction library is available for a flat monthly fee, which is in the \$25 range. There are practice exercises and group/educational discounts available. Yes, software tutorials are offered directly by the manufacturers of most software programs, but we found the lynda.com training to be far more efficient and effective.



FAVORITE BLOG SPOT: Speech Language Pathology Sharing

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

This blogspot was started by Eric Sailers, a Speech Language Pathologist, who works for La Mesa-Spring Valley School District in San Diego, California. The purpose of his blog is to share ideas and information about technology with other speech pathologists. Be sure to check out the recommended resources, like the free technology for teachers link. We were lucky to get to spend some time directly with Mr. Sailers, who carries a case load of non-severe elementary and middle school students and is also the assistive technology specialist for his district. He is clearly passionate about integrating technology into every aspect of his school practice. Thank you Mr. Sailers for your time and inspiration!



Are you interested in hearing more about Pacific Coast Speech Services, Inc.? Click here to complete a [speech clinician inquiry](#) and we will contact you within 24 hours to discuss opportunities available for you! At publication, we currently have opportunities full and part time in the beach cities and the Anaheim Hills areas. We'd love to chat!

There are copies of [previous newsletters](#) on our website, including an article on evaluating social skills in conversation, methods and advice for middle/high schoolers, managing difficult IEPs, and a terrific recipe for chicken margarita! As always, feel free to forward this newsletter to others!

JOKES FOR KIDS!

Why did the banana go to the doctor?

Because it was not peeling well.

How do mad scientists freshen their breath?

With experi-ments!

What is the largest living ant in America?

An eleph-ant!

What do you call a grizzly bear with no teeth?

A gummy bear!