

Tech-Supported Literacy in Students with Disabilities

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1/12/07

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Why Tech? (email, blogs, digital books)

- For kids:
 - Motivation
 - Authentic writing
 - Another opportunity for writing and reading
 - Emails printed out—opportunity for repeated readings
 - Way to share writing and reading with families
- For pre-service teachers:
 - Tech is NOT the curriculum. It supports the curriculum.
 - Get to know kids with disabilities as kids.
 - Explore impact of tech on learning and motivation.
 - Electronic communication allowed for more frequent interaction.

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E-Pal Project (www.gaggle.net)

- Structure of student emails
 - Greeting
 - Answer pen pal's questions.
 - Provide new information and ask question.
 - Salutation
- Structure of preservice teacher emails
 - Write the quantity and level of your e-pal.
 - Get to know them, so that you can make a book for them later this semester.

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Pen Pal Project

- Structure and monitoring
- Assistive Technologies
 - New Co:Writer attaches directly to email
 - Clicker for beginning writers (screen shots in PP I sent you)
- Other technologies
 - Sent digital pictures of themselves
 - i-Chat (I have example of Kirsten and Diana) and instant messaging
 - Video email (great for encouraging good speech intelligibility)
 - E-cards for birthdays and thank you's at hallmark.com

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Blogging

<http://www.blogger.com>

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Blogs

- Why?
 - Another opportunity for authentic writing and reading
 - "Published" work
 - Predictable charts (I wish... I predict...)
 - Reinforces responding to questions
 - Work on skills important to reading such as compare/contrast and prediction
 - Motivator for getting kids to library to show parents blog on library computer

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Blog: Virtual Authors

- Post new question every week
 - Encourage ASU pen pals and parents to comment
 - Writing without standards
 - Audio blogging—gabcast.com
 - Video
 - Movies from AltaVista, Google, Springdoo
 - Digital pictures—kids can take pictures with \$8.00 camera and write about them (Mall of America field trip)
- Stat Counter—teach kids to read charts and geography

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The screenshot shows a Blogger blog interface. At the top, it says "Virtual Authors" and "VIRTUAL AUTHORS". Below that, there's a post from Monday, January 08, 2007, titled "What is your dream?". The post content includes a photo of Martin Luther King Jr. and text about his birthday and a famous speech. There are navigation links like "Home", "About", "Contact", and "Archive". At the bottom, it says "1/12/07" and "4 Blocks Leadership Conference".

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Blogging Comments

The screenshot shows a Blogger blog post titled "Book Review" with 13 comments. The post content includes a "Book excerpts" section with text about Minnesota. Below the post, there's a "Leave your comment" form with fields for "Choose an identity" (Blogger), "Username", and "Password". There are also "Login and Publish" and "Preview" buttons. At the bottom, it says "1/12/07" and "4 Blocks Leadership Conference".

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Statcounter

The screenshot shows a Statcounter website interface. It displays a bar chart showing traffic statistics for "Summary (Virtual Authors)". The chart has tabs for "Daily", "Weekly", "Monthly", "Quarterly", and "Yearly". The Y-axis represents the number of visitors, ranging from 0 to 35. The X-axis shows days of the week. Below the chart, there are "Select Date" and "Select Graph" options. At the bottom, it says "1/12/07" and "4 Blocks Leadership Conference".

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Implications for Teaching

- Email as regularized component of writing curriculum (gaggle.net)
- Integration of other motivating (and free) information communication technologies
 - Blogging (and Audio Blogging and Video Blogging)
 - Email (and Audio Email and Video Email)
 - Instant Messaging, internet telephone, audio and video conferencing
- Inclusion supports
 - Technology environments in some cases offer more level playing, learning, and social environments.

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