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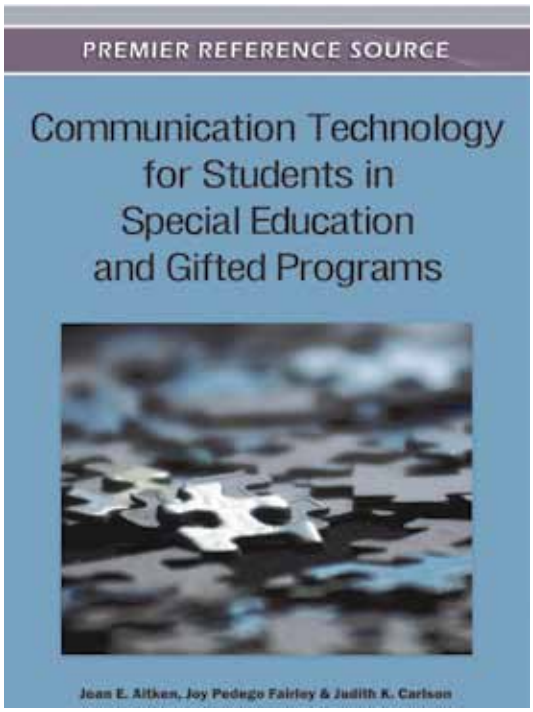
Communication Technology for Students in Special Education and Gifted Programs



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Joy Pedego Fairley (University of Missouri - Kansas City, USA)
and Judith K. Carlson (Rockhurst University, USA)

Communication technology provides new opportunities for individuals with special needs, facilitating assistive communication, increasing mobility, offering a different model of engagement, and allowing new forms of exploration. However, many people learn about these new technologies haphazardly through teachers, social workers, therapists, and networks of people who have similar needs.

Communication Technology for Students in Special Education and Gifted Programs collects ideas about new communication technologies and innovative ways of using them to enhance education for students with exceptionalities. These case studies are based on the experiences and expertise of the teachers, researchers, and other professionals who have used them. By learning about the experiences of professionals with diverse specialties, others will gain information and ideas for how to better serve individuals with special needs across the educational spectrum.

Topics Covered:

- Assistive Communication
- Assistive Technologies
- Augmentative Communication
- Communication Technology and Gifted Education
- Communication Technology and Special Education
- Communication Technology for Alternative Education
- Distance Learning
- Educational Technology and Special Programs
- Technology Assessment and Response to Intervention (RTI)
- Technology for Students with Special Needs

Market: This premier publication is essential for all academic and research library reference collections. It is a crucial tool for academicians, researchers, and practitioners and is ideal for classroom use.

Joan E. Aitken is Professor, Arts and Communication, Park University. She has a B.A. in Communication Theory from Michigan State University, an M.A. in Special Education from the University of Missouri-Kansas City, and an M.A. and Ed.D. in Communication and Administration from the University of Arkansas. She joined the Park faculty in 2005, after teaching at the University of Missouri, University of Louisiana, and University of Arkansas. Aitken's emphasis in scholarship has been computer-mediated communication and communication education. She has authored eight books, which include the following: • *Interpersonal Concepts and Competences*, by Berko, Aitken, and Wolvin. (2010). Rowman & Littlefield Press. • *Cases on Online Discussion and Interaction*, by Shedletsky and Aitken. (2010). IGI Global Press. • *Human Communication on the Internet*, by Shedletsky and Aitken. (2004). Boston: Allyn & Bacon/Longman. Aitken has authored five instructor's manuals (three in the second edition or later), provided Web development for four publishers, and published 50 articles and reports. Aitken was editor of the National Communication Association's The Communication Teacher and served on the editorial board of NCA's Communication Education. She has obtained $3.5 million in competitive grant funding, including $1.5 million as the primary grant writer and others as a collaborative team member. Aitken has worked internationally in Jamaica and the People's Republic of China.

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Section 1: Foundations and Theory-Building

Chapter 1
An Overview of Inclusive Education in the United States
Hossain Mokter (University of Dhaka, Bangladesh and University of Nevada, Reno, USA)

Chapter 2
Technology to Facilitate the General Education Curriculum
Sherman Cindy K. (University of Maryland, College Park, USA)
De La Paz Susan (University of Maryland, College Park, USA)

Chapter 3
Integrated Technology for Culturally Competent Communication in Urban Schools
Linas Maura Wechsler (University of Kansas, USA)
Aitken Joan E. (Park University, USA)

Chapter 4
Understanding Students with Special Needs Self-disclosure in Internet Chat Rooms:
Punyanunt-Carter Narissra Maria (Texas Tech University, USA)
Carter Stacy L. (Texas Tech University, USA)

Chapter 5
Using Spatial Constructivist Thinking Theory to Enhance Classroom Instruction for Students with Special Needs
Bull Prince Hycy (North Carolina Central University, USA)

Section 2: Assistive Technology

Chapter 6
Wheelchairs as Assistive Technology:
Carroll Judy L. (University of Nebraska Medical Center, USA)

Chapter 7
Trial and Error with Assistive, Accessible, Augmentative Technology
Blaser Arthur W. (Chapman University, USA)

Chapter 8
Voice/Speech Recognition Software:
Kitchenham Andrew (University of Northern British ColumbiaCanada)
Bowes Doug (SET-BC, Canada)

Chapter 9
A Guide to Assistive Technology for Teachers in Special Education
Wang Harris (Athabasca University, Canada)

Chapter 10
Assistive Technology:
Spillane Mary (Bellevue Public Schools, USA)

Section 3: Perspectives

Chapter 11
The Student with Complex Education Needs:
Farrell Helen J. (The University of Melbourne, Australia)

Chapter 12
Communication Technology Integration in the Content Areas for Students with High-Incidence Disabilities:
Evmenova Anna S. (George Mason University, USA)
Behrmann Michael M. (George Mason University, USA)

Chapter 13
Signage as a Classroom Prompt:
Loverro Ian J. (Central Washington University, USA)
Majsterek David J. (Central Washington University, USA)
Shorr David N. (Central Washington University, USA)

Chapter 14
Using Social Bookmarking to Make Online Resources More Accessible
Brunvand Stein (University of Michigan-Dearborn, USA)

Chapter 15
Reflections on Teaching Students with Special Needs in an Online Master's Program
Cohn Lora (Park University, USA)

Chapter 16
Using Tactile Prompts to Increase Social-Communicative Skills with Children with Autism
Axe Judah B. (Simmons College, USA)

Chapter 17
Personal Reflections on the Educational Potential and Future of Closed Captioning on the Web
Zdenek Sean (Texas Tech University, USA)

Chapter 18
Parental Communication About the Needs of Their Children:
Aitken Joan E. (Park University, USA)

Section 4: Leading Change

Chapter 19
Are you SMARTer than a SMART Board™?
Sonnenberg Mandi (Rockhurst University, USA)

Chapter 20
Reading by Listening:
Jones Marni Gail (Dickinson College, USA)
Schwilk Christopher L. (Shippensburg University, USA)
Bateman David F. (Shippensburg University, USA)

Chapter 21
Integrating Accessible Multiplication Games into Inclusive Classrooms
Anderson Cindy L. (Roosevelt University, USA)

Chapter 22
Do You See What I'm Saying?
Meadows Bryan (University of Texas, Pan-American, USA)

Chapter 23
What Do You Do With A Digital Pen?
Carlson Judith K. (Rockhurst University, USA)

Chapter 24
Communication Technologies for Instructional Use:
Kang Seok (University of Texas at San Antonio, USA)

Chapter 25
Teaching What We Don't Know:
Harris Joy E. (University of Tampa, USA)

Chapter 26
Ten Hot Assistive Tech Websites That You Won't Want to Miss
Thompson Alex (Retired Consultant, USA)

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