

Trainer's Guide Suggested Training Activities

After the group has completed Parts I and II of the case study, one or more of the following questions and follow-up activities could be used to discuss the accommodation and the process involved in greater depth. The Trainer's Guide is designed for trainers and normally would not be given out to participants. These materials usually work best as a total group discussion, ranging from a few minutes up to 10-15 minutes. Questions or activities are typically followed by information to assist in supplementing participant discussion. Trainers are encouraged to add other questions to focus discussion on specific learning objectives and local or state issues.

Reading medical reports, understanding terminology, and extrapolating practical application to vocational issues is a challenge rehab professionals must meet. Discuss terminology used in the background section and from a layman's perspective, review the restrictions and limitations.

This consumer used an electrolarynx while healing from his surgery. What is an electrolarynx, how does it work, and what are advantages and disadvantages of its use?

- An electrolarynx is a mechanical device that is used to help produce speech in individuals who have had a laryngectomy, or for some other reason cannot use their larynx. The electrolarynx is a handheld device about the size of an electric shaver that has a vibrating plastic diaphragm.
- In order to speak, the end of the electrolarynx is placed against the neck and a small button is pushed. The device causes a vibration at the vocal folds, which simulates a natural process. The speaker then articulates with the tongue, palate, throat and lips as usual.
- Advantages: 1.) The speech from an electrolarynx has a mechanical sound but can be very clear and easily understood, even on the telephone. 2.) No special care requirements are needed. The electrolarynx only has to be placed up against the neck and turned on. 3.) The electrolarynx can be used by almost everybody, however certain surgical procedures and treatments cause tone transduction issues which may affect how the electrolarynx works.
- Disadvantages: 1.) The mechanical tone does not sound natural. There usually is little change in pitch or modulation. 2.) One must have good hand control to use an electrolarynx.

Who might be a good candidate for a voice amplification system?

- Someone whose is able to articulate and produce sound at the vocal folds, although is not necessary that they be precise or consistent. Consumers with the following disabilities may benefit from voice amplification: *Parkinson’s Disease, Stroke, Cerebral Palsy, Traumatic Brain Injury, Spinal Cord Injury, Vocal Nodules or Vocal Fold Paralysis, ALS, MS, MD, Myasthenia Gravis, Dysarthria and Dysphonia, and consumers with ventilators or tracheotomies*. In addition, those in occupations, which require extensive speaking, such as teachers, can benefit from voice amplification, especially when speaking in lecture halls or auditoriums. Settings such as gymnasiums, playing fields, field trips, and playgrounds provide a good opportunity for voice amplification benefits.

In this case study Jack used the “Sticky Keys” feature to decrease the required number of keystrokes. What are some other accessibility features typically included on operating system packages?

- Macintosh has features that include Close View screen magnification software with the ability to also inverse the color of the display. It has Easy Access system software to include Sticky Keys (enables user to hold down several keys simultaneously), Slow Keys (enables the user to change the length of time it takes for a keystroke to be registered on the screen, which helps prevent unwanted keystrokes for a person with fine motor difficulties, Mouse Keys (allows mouse movements to be controlled by typing on the numeric keypad) and Text-to-Speech (allows computer to speak the alert message that appear on the screen). Electronic documentation, key-repeat disable, sticky mouse, and talking and visual alert cues are also available. (www.apple.com/disability)
- In Windows 95, accessibility features are selected using the “Wheelchair Icon” located on the desktop. In later versions, Windows 95 and above, you find these features in the Accessories program. There is a magnification feature similar to ZoomText as well as settings that can enhance the visual perception on the monitor. Alternative uses of the mouse are also available. The Mouse Properties icon in the Control Panel allows the user to enlarge the size and shape of the mouse pointer, change it’s color, adjust click speed, and locate the pointer using a “sonar” function. Features include StickyKeys and FilterKeys (computer ignores brief or repeated keystrokes, or slows the repeat rate). If a sound card is installed in the computer, it is possible to attach sounds (through the Sounds option in the Control Panel) to many Windows events, such as opening and closing a program or minimizing or maximizing the size of windows. Users can also change the size of icons and the size and color of some screen items, such as fonts, menus and title bars. (www.windows.com)

