

Part II:

Activities and Outcomes

After a full range of testing confirmed a disability that substantially impaired Jackie's learning, an **Individualized Education Program (IEP)** was developed and reviewed annually. With support from her mother and a tutor experienced in helping children with learning disabilities, Jackie began developing other ways to learn, other ways to get her work done. As she reached the High School level, Jackie began to take responsibility for developing her own methods of study and learning. For example, now she creates her own tests on subject material and continues to quiz herself over and over until she knows the material.

Sheryl Burgstahler, Assistant Director from Project DO-IT, (Disabilities, Opportunities, Internetworking and Technology) helped Jackie discover an assortment of AT resources to accommodate her areas of difficulty.

RECOMMENDATIONS/STRATEGIES

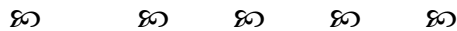
1. Jackie initially learned to use a **Day Planner** to aide in organization. She kept her schedule with class assignments and due dates. Check-ins from teachers and her parents ensured it was kept up date. When Jackie reached Jr. High School, a personal digital assistant (PDA) was purchased. The **Palm Pilot** was selected, which has the added benefit of an auditory reminder for classes, appointments, and meetings.
2. A large **monthly calendar** was posted in a visible area in Jackie's home, which helped the family and Jackie remember due dates for assignments, appointments and other special dates.
3. **Folders and binders** were made for each class, clearly labeled and color-coded to further aide in organization.
4. A **speech output system** was purchased. The scan/read software package selected, **Kurzweil 3000**, combines scanning/OCR and synthesized speech output to increase reading speed and comprehension. Jackie can read virtually any scanned document or other electronic file on her computer or the Internet, using high quality synthesized speech. The reading speed is adjustable and words are highlighted in a contrasting color, making tracking easier. New or unfamiliar words can be defined using an electronic dictionary, or broken down into syllables. Jackie is able to scan texts and reading material and have information read to her.
5. A **scanner** is used in conjunction with the speech output system, as noted above.
6. **Voice Recognition software**, in this case **Dragon Naturally Speaking Professional**, is used which allows Jackie to dictate reports and other documents, send email and work on the Web.
7. **Textbooks on tape** are provided by the school system. This reduces the amount of material to be scanned and read by the speech output system, and allows her to study at school during study halls and breaks.
8. **Note takers** are also provided by the school system.

COST ANALYSIS

1. The monthly calendar, day planner, folders and binders were provided by the family at nominal costs. The family also purchased the Palm Pilot. An entry level Palm Pilot such as the m105, with 8 MB memory, is currently available for \$149 and even more basic models start at \$99. Information regarding Palm’s full range of products is available at www.palm.com.
2. The Kurzweil 3000 was funded by the National Science Foundation, as part of a grant. This speech output system is available for \$1900. Additional information is available at www.kurzweiledu.com.
3. The voice recognition software, Dragon Naturally Speaking Professional, was provided through DO-IT by the same grant. They pay \$440 per user with a site license. Version 6 of this program is available for \$525 and can be found at www.dragonsys.com/.

FOLLOW –UP/OUTCOMES

Jackie is now a junior in high school and career counseling has been initiated. Several goals are being considered, with dental hygienist holding the most interest for Jackie. This is a fast growing occupation that requires an employee to work well with others, which is a strength for Jackie. Flexible scheduling is a distinctive feature of this job and full-time, part-time, evening, and weekend work is widely available, which is also appealing to her. Dental hygienists must be licensed by the State in which they practice, which requires a candidate to graduate from an accredited dental hygiene school and pass both a written and clinical examination. Most programs require an associate degree. Local programs are being evaluated.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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