



U Mass Amherst Partnership

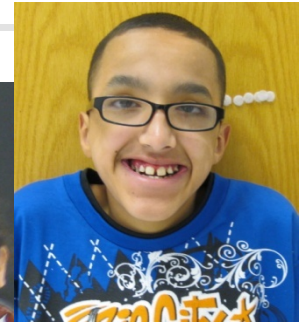
Providing electronic systems to
help students with special needs

West Springfield Middle

- West Springfield, MA
- 6th to 8th grade
- 980 students
- Diverse community -
ELL students, special
education, AAP and
FAP



The Students



Our needs

- Varying levels (pk – 4th)
- Words, pictures, and symbols
- Extra adult supports
- Lots of time to process and produce work
- Communication aides
- Fine motor



Technology

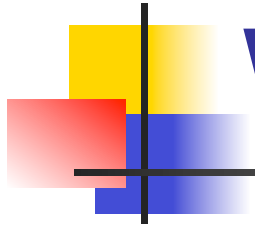


Communication



more

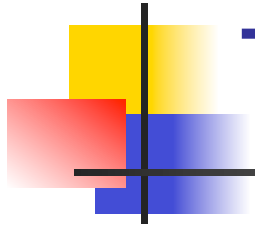




What we teach



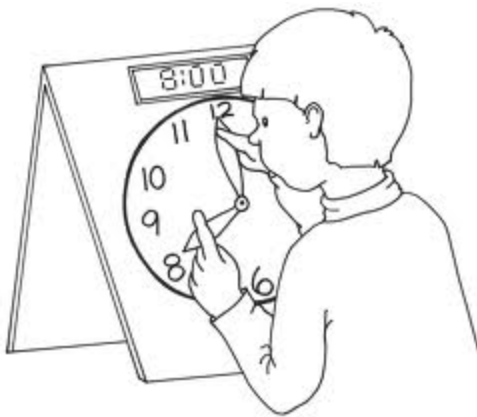
- English, Math, Science and Social Studies
- Life skills – hygiene, getting along with others, rules of the world, safety, etc.
- Therapies
- INDEPENDENCE!



Teaching Methods

- Students require lots of repetition on the same skill.
- Use various inputs – auditory, visual, kinesthetic
- Find ways to increase independence in all tasks
- How to generalize knowledge learned in class into “outside” world.

Problem 1 Telling Time



Increase independence
With auditory feedback



What time is it?



Talking classroom clock
Only on the hours



Individual Practice
Clock manipulatives
No feedback

Problem 2



Listening to Music



Not radio stations,
Preprogrammed music



Need help with spelling



Fine motor needed

Lunch Numbers



Enter code to pay for lunch



Loud environment



Over stimulating, distracting

Time to practice?



Possible Projects

- Talking clock with two components
 1. Students can manipulate as learning tool.
 2. Use as classroom clock, students can press a button to find out the time instead of asking teachers.
- Radio that finds stations via voice (human and voice output)
- Lunch code machine that will allow students time to practice entering their lunch codes – give auditory response when correct/incorrect – programmable with different numbers as students change



Contact Info

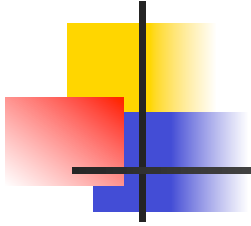
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Visits to school...

Need to have CORI done to have interactions with students during school hours. Takes 3-4 weeks to process.

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Questions?