

# Tech Tip of the Week



## Adapted Books

There are several ways to adapt a book that makes it more accessible and understandable for children with learning, vision, communication and motor difficulties. Talking books using voice out-put devices, redesigning the book to decrease the amount of visual distractions on the page and scanning a book to the computer, can increase access to enjoying the book. Here are some more ideas.

- 📖 Changes in text size/space/color/background color
- 📖 Book adapted for page turning  
(e.g. with page fluffers, 3-ring binder and folders)
- 📖 Use of pictures with text (e.g., *Picture It*, *PixWriter*)
- 📖 Talking electronic devices for single words  
(e.g., *Reading pen*, *Franklin Bookman*)
- 📖 Scanner with OCR and talking word processor
- 📖 Electronic Books (e.g., *Start to Finish*)

## Check out these websites too:

Valdosta University and the Georgia Project for Assistive Technology (GPAT) has a 2 minute video on reasons why to adapt books and two examples of ways to adapt books.

[http://coefaculty.valdosta.edu/spe/ATRB/video\\_1/at63/at-63\\_files/default.htm](http://coefaculty.valdosta.edu/spe/ATRB/video_1/at63/at-63_files/default.htm)

Baltimore City Public Schools has a list of over 700 books that have been adapted. They range from K-12. There is a link on the main page to view all of the books, in alphabetical order, rather than go through page by page. It is filed on Microsoft Excel.

[http://www.bcps.k12.md.us/boardmaker/adapted\\_library.asp](http://www.bcps.k12.md.us/boardmaker/adapted_library.asp)

**DID YOU KNOW?** Scanning and redesigning a book for improving access for children is legal as long as there is a hard copy that accompanies the adapted book. In this case it's better to own the book rather than use books borrowed from the public library.