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READY, SET... AIM

*All Children
Can Be Successful*



February 2009

LeaderLink

eNewsletter

• FORWARD TO A FRIEND

www.donjohnston.com

Education is in the News

The Federal stimulus package signed recently includes \$80 billion dollars of new spending for education. Of this, \$13 billion will be spent on special education services to improve educational outcomes for children with disabilities. With this funding comes some incredible opportunities to ensure equal access to education. Wow, we're on a roller coaster, and what a ride: a historic new president with great hope for a bright future and \$\$\$ for education! In the coming months we'll do our best to keep you informed on the latest news and developments.

For now, let's talk about AIM...Get ready, set and go with this timely article by Mary Jo Barry to guide you into a discussion about accessible learning materials and the technologies that fuel this charge. And, check out Don's new Blog to engage in some compelling conversations.

Accessible Instructional Materials - Are You in the Know?



by Mary Jo Barry

IDEA 2004 requires educators to provide access to, and progress in, the general education curriculum for all students.

In essence, IDEA is saying that we need to; more proactively provide equitable and flexible access to concepts and ideas, in a timely manner and regardless of students' ability levels. One aspect of IDEA is the Accessible Instructional Materials-AIM-initiative. AIM serves to include all your students who struggle to make progress using traditional print, not just your students with physical disabilities who are exempt from copyright laws. If you are thinking about AIM, but have not taken steps to learn more about it...now is the time! How can you learn more about this important initiative?

The question is, what about the larger population of kids who need more support? **According to national statistics, the**

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Don hopes this blog will facilitate ongoing, informal conversations about world issues as they relate to education.

[Join the conversation](#)

remaining 87% of students that have IEPs are reading below grade-level. These students are not exempt under copyright law. But, shouldn't they have those alternate formats too?

[Are you ready to take AIM and change the world? Read more...](#)

DON JOHNSTON HAPPENINGS

Join the Conversation

NEW - Don's Blogging!

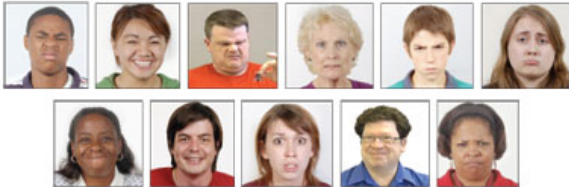
"As I write this blog, it occurs to me that there are many people out there that I've never met. What if we could talk here..."

[Read Don's Blog](#)

Recent posts

[The Case Against Assistive Technology Is Universal Access a Civil Rights Issue?](#)

FACELAND for students with autism now available



Over 1,000 faces help students generalize facial expressions across ethnicity, age and gender

FACELAND helps students with autism learn to recognize facial expressions of emotion. Single copies are \$179. Licenses for 5 or more are available ONLY from Don Johnston Incorporated and start at \$125.30. [Read more about FACELAND.](#)

USING TECHNOLOGY IN THE CLASSROOM

Closing the Gap Publishes Article by Mary Jo Barry

READ Mary Jo's article **Ready, Set, Goal--Universal Access** about Accessible Instructional Materials, NIMAS, tools to support initiatives and implementation tips featured in this month's [February/March Edition of Closing the Gap](#)

Available in print or online, **Closing The Gap Solutions** answers the most common questions in special education and rehabilitation: What products are available? What do they cost? Where can I get them? How do I use them?

QUICK TIPS

More Resources

New Co:Writer Topic Dictionaries

Cell Biology
Jane Goodall

[American English](#)
[British English](#)

March is Women's History Month:

Amelia Earhart
Helen Keller
Jane Austen
Marie Curie
Michelle Kwan
Rosa Parks

[AE-Famous People](#)
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Watch our product demos

Co:Writer, Write:OutLoud, Read:OutLoud, Draft:Builder, Start-to-Finish, and now including Simon S.I.O.!

[View Now](#)



ATIA Video Contest - Showcase Your Creativity!

ATIA (The Assistive Technology Industry Association) Announces a YouTube Video Contest... Submit a Video of Your Students Using Don Johnston Programs

Show the education world the innovation you bring to your student's learning environments using assistive technologies. ATIA invites you to submit a short video (2 to 4 minutes) that presents an inspiring story about how assistive technology has helped you change the life of an individual with a disability and empower them to change their world. This is a great opportunity to showcase your creative teaching abilities and your students' success on the popular YouTube network.

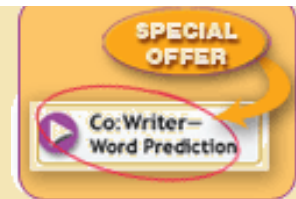
Find the details [here](#).

Prizes are awarded based on the "most viewed" video criteria.

Grand Prize - FREE trip to the ATIA 2009 Chicago Conference (October 28-31, 2009) including travel and hotel expenses.

Sub-Category winners receive \$400 gift certificate (American Express or Visa) and runners up receive complimentary registration to ATIA 2009 Chicago or ATIA 2010 Orlando (January 27-30, 2010).

Let us know if you are interested in to submitting a student success video to ATIA, and we'll double your exposure! Email our Press Manager, Valerie Cherneck, at vchernek@donjohnston.com and get more "free press" for you and your school. You deserve it!



Watch our 5-minute product demo and save \$80 on Co:Writer!

Offer limited and may end at any time without notice.

Read [Other Issues](#) of the LeaderLink eNewsletter or subscribe if this email was forwarded to you.

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