



"There is no such thing as a child who hates to read; there are only children who have not found the right book." ... or right format!

News You Can Use



Get Ready for Summer Reading

The more relaxed schedule of summertime is the perfect time to nurture those habits of reading for enjoyment and establishing lifelong good habits. Summer reading helps win the battle of the summer slide which frequently affects students with print disabilities. Reading for enjoyment is often not first on the list of fun activities for our students who struggle with literacy. They choose the easy route to avoid reading. As educators, we realize there are many benefits to reading, but how do we make sure our students have the opportunity to make the choice to read?

[Read More](#)

Knowledge at Noon



Webinar - Universal Design for Learning with Guest Speaker Dr. Anya Evmenova

Universal Design for Learning (UDL) is a set of principles that give all individuals equal opportunities to learn. In this webinar guest speaker Dr. Anya Evmenova, associate professor of Assistive and Special Education Technology at George Mason University, will discuss the UDL principles and ways to design UDL-based instruction in various learning environments.

[Register for Dr. Evmenova's Webinar](#)

Spotlight



Meet Stacie! AIM-VA Training and Technical Assistance

Stacie joined the AIM-VA training team in 2016 after completing her master's degree in assistive technology at George Mason University. Having worked in the public-school system as a speech-language pathologist supporting students with language and literacy difficulties using a multi-sensory instructional framework, Stacie brings a new perspective to AIM-VA. She enjoys traveling to school divisions throughout the state of Virginia, meeting with educators and discussing the importance of reading support through assistive technology. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, cooking, gardening, yoga and spending time with her three children.

Did You Know?



To use AIM-VA's accessible PDFs with the Read and Write extension effectively on Chrome you may need to install multiple extensions or apps. TextHelp recently released an additional extension



and APP to make PDFs more effective on their powerful Read and Write extension. For users that are installing Read and Write for the first time, you will be prompted with a pop-up to also install the TextHelp PDF reader, which works in tandem with the main extension. If you don't have the extension or are having trouble with PDFs loading effectively into Read and Write, visit [TextHelp's online troubleshooter for PDFs](#). It will make sure you have everything you may need installed as well as certain settings checked off!

External Resources



For every critical reading skill there is a [technology](#) with demonstrated potential to support learning. Check out these free software applications that can support readers this summer.

[Kami](#) is a pdf annotation software program. Upload an accessible PDF, students can then annotate and take notes right on the page. Kami also supports organization skills by keeping all pdfs in one place, therefore, books and reading logs are stored all

together for easy access.

[Read and Write's](#) text-to-speech allowing readers to hear and see the words at the same time. Sign up for a free 30-day trial to use this software over the summer. When the trial ends, you will still have access to text-to-speech.

[Visor](#) is a screen dimmer and reading aid. Visor has overlays and a point of focus feature to assist individuals with visual perception difficulties.

[Beeline reader](#) uses a color gradient to guide eyes toward the end of the text line. Beeline reader supports a reader's fluency skills.

[Stay focused](#) supports students with attention difficulties by limiting the amount of time that can be spent on identified websites.



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