Switch Accessible PowerPoint Book Templates for Students with Significant Disabilities, Including Deaf-Blindness

(Hanser, 2009)

ALL Students Need Books!

Children without disabilities are given books long before they even know what they are or before they can successfully hold them. They have hundreds of opportunities to learn what books are, how to use books and to just simply see the print. All of those critical experiences support students in learning how to read and write. When it comes to using books, students with multiple disabilities, including deaf-blindness have incredibly different experiences. Many students have severe physical disabilities and are unable to hold books, limiting a crucial, fundamental way to learn about print. Using PowerPoint software to creating computer-based books can be an ideal solution to this problem. (PowerPoint is part of the Microsoft Office package). Students with significant disabilities, including deaf-blindness can access PowerPoint books in a number of ways, including switches and the IntelliKeys.

A fantastic resource for computer books is Tar Heel Reader (www.tarheelreader.org). Tar Heel Reader is an excellent website for getting already made books or for making your own. There are hundreds of free books that you can read online or download as PowerPoint books. The PowerPoint templates below offer slightly different options with pre-set features, such as finger spelling pictures on the book pages.

Make Your Own PowerPoint Books Using Book Templates

When making your own PowerPoint book, a template can be a helpful time saver. The templates below are for creating ABC books and personal books for students with significant disabilities, including deaf-blindness. The templates have high contrast backgrounds and some have finger spellings. (The finger spelling photos come from Pics4Learning.com. They are free!). The templates have also been setup so that there is an auditory click and some movement when students turn the pages in the book. In all of the downloadable templates, the pages and the text boxes have already been made. Teachers, therapists and/or parents can spend time adding pictures and text, rather then the technical aspects of starting from scratch.

Cool Template Features

The book templates have been set up to do the following things:

- *Rereads Book:* The book has been set up so that when students get to the end of the book, it will automatically start over again on the beginning page. To make this setting on other books: Goto Slide Show and then to Setup Show. Check "Loop Continuously until "Esc"
- *Visual Feedback During Page Turning:* When the student advances to the next page, there is movement as the page turns. This has been included for students with CVI who often respond to movement. Visual feedback can be adjusted by going to Slide Show, and then to Slide Transition.

- *Auditory Feedback During Page Turning:* There is also a slight click to let students know that they have changed the page. This may be helpful for students who can't maintain visual gaze on the page. Auditory feedback can be adjusted by going to Slide Show, and then to Slide Transition.
- *Setting Up Book to Automatically Open in Slide Show Book Mode*: After you have put all of your pictures and text into the book, change the file extension from .pptx to .ppsx. When you do this, the book will automatically open to full slide show/book reading mode. This is helpful for others who may not be as familiar with PowerPoint.

Downloadable PowerPoint Templates

- **PowerPoint ABC Book with Finger Spellings**

- **High Contrast Power Point ABC Book with Finger Spellings**

- **Simple ABC Book**

- **High Contrast Book Template**

- **Simple Book Template**