

Access Tomorrow: Using E-mentoring And Assistive Technologies To Increase Academic and Transition Outcomes

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Presentation Overview

Three Components

- E-Mentoring Transition Curriculum
- SmartDrive to launch AT
- Mentoring Supports

Results

- Improved reading achievement
- Increased internal locus of control

What is Electronic Mentoring?

- Uses technology to connect mentors and students through Internet tools.
- Mentors and students communicate through
 - Goup listserv
 - One-to-one email
 - Online Conferencing
 - Face-to-Face Meetings



E-Mentoring Transition Course

Mentors support students as they:

- Gain IT skills – Internet, Email, etc**
- Complete Transition Assessments**
- Establish Employment Goals**
- Establish Postsecondary
Ed/Training Goals**
- Develop Self-Directed Transition
Plans**

E-Mentoring Transition Course

Students engage in learning relevant content

- **21st Century IT Skills**
- **Transition assessment surveys**
- **Completion of online job/college app's**
- **Taking control of their future**

Curriculum also

- **Incorporates UDL supports**
- **Uses open source CMS - ATutor**
- **Aligned with Academic Standards**

Self-Directed Transition Portfolio

Students in the E-Mentoring Curriculum create a self-directed Transition Portfolio that includes:

- 1. PowerPoint Presentation**
- 2. Job or College Comparison Chart**
- 3. Resume**
- 4. Cover Letter**
- 5. Career Narrative**
- 6. Job & College Applications**
- 7. Interviews with Professionals**
- 8. Job or College Checklist**
- 9. Bookmarks of websites visited in career search**

Student Comments on E-Mentoring Curriculum

- “Before E-Mentoring, I had no idea what I wanted to do, I was interested in so many different things. It helped me decide what careers best suited my skills.”
- “E-Mentoring allows me to have some flexibility to change my mind in the future.”
- “Before I wasn’t searching the Internet in the right way, but E-Mentoring taught me how to search differently.”

SmartDrive Assistive Technology

- **Removes barriers such as cost, firewalls, etc.**
- **Completely portable**
- **Completely customizable for user**
- **Easy to learn and use**
- **Compatible with MS Office software, PCs, public computers, VISTA**
- **Developed by Steve Jacobs, CEO of IDEAL Group, Inc with project support**

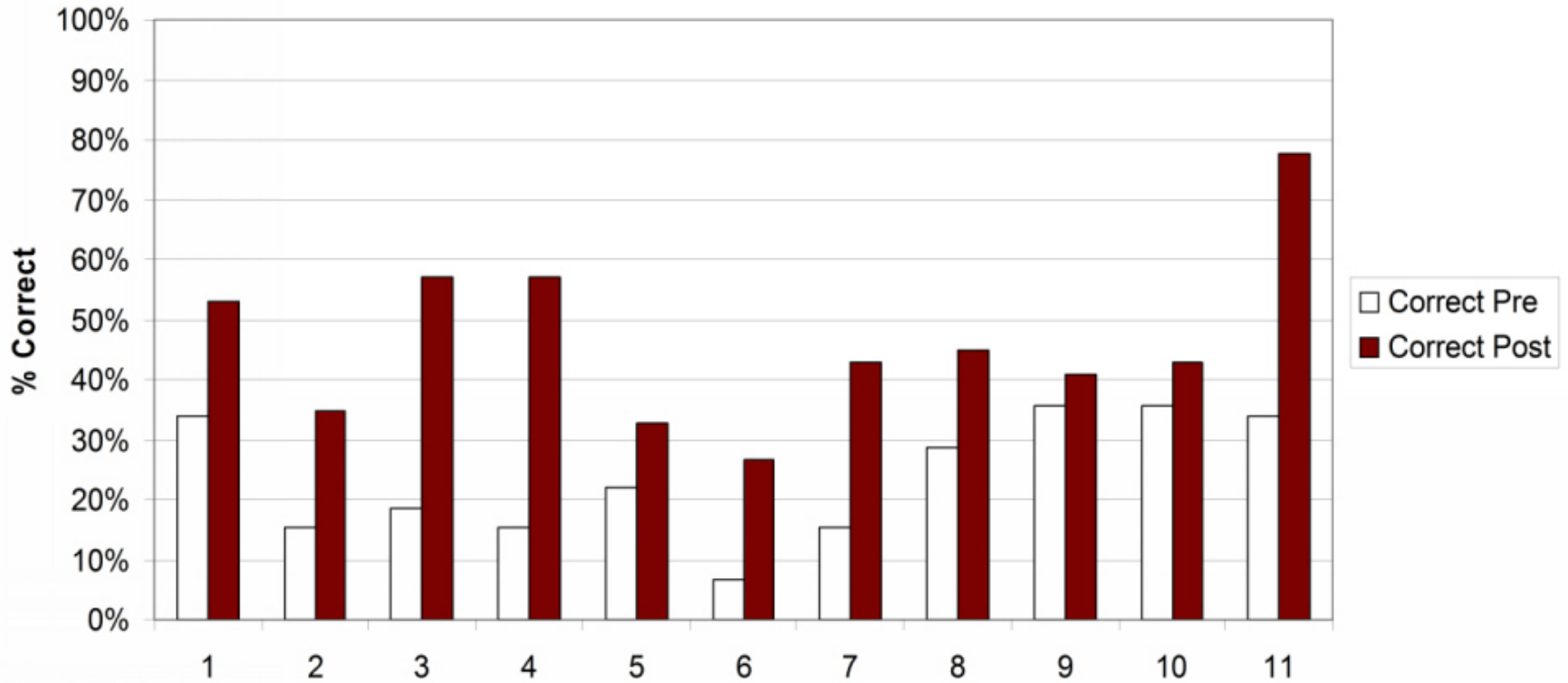
SmartDrive AT Applications

- **CLiCk,Speak: Text-to-speech: Internet**
- **NVDA: Screen reader similar to JAWS**
- **Balabolka: Text-to-speech Word docs**
- **LetMeType: A word prediction**
- **Nextalk: Text conversation**

Increases in Reading Ability

- AIMSweb administered pre/posttest
 - Benchmark: Read independently at 8th
 - Strategic: Reading independently at 6th
 - Intensive: Reading below a 6th grade
- Range of improvement was 5 – 44%
- 3 or 11 students moved from intensive to benchmark; all others moved up one level.

Pre-Post Reading Results



SmartDrive User Satisfaction Surveys

I think this application was EASY TO LEARN HOW TO USE.

Application	N	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree
iZoom	5	3	2			
LetMeType	5		5			
NVDA	5	4	1			
CLiCk, Speak	14	8	3		3	
NexTalk	6	2	4			
Balabolka	1	1				

I would RECOMMEND the SmartDrive with the applications I use to a friend.

Application	N	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree
iZoom	5	5				
LetMeType	5	4	1			
NVDA	5	3	2			
CLiCk, Speak	14	13				1*
NexTalk	6	2	3	1		
Balabolka	1	1				

Student Comments on SmartDrive

- “This application allows for better comprehension of difficult web material. “I LOVED it. I used it in 4 different locations. It’s easy to access, it’s portable and very easy to use.”
- “It was extremely easy to use.”
- “I found a setting on i-Zoom that makes my visual impairment oblivious. What I mean is the settings helped me find a good vibrant color, a large pointer, a thicker curser, and enlarged enough text for me to see far back.”

Access Tomorrow Partners

- **Margaretha Vreeburg Izzo, PhD**
<http://nisonger.osu.edu/Transition/>
- **Steve Jacobs, President, IDEAL Group, Inc.**
www.ideal-group.com
- **Dr. Lynne Anderson-Inman, National Center for Supported E-Text**
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