

ABOUT TARGET AUDIENCES FOR THE VIDEO...

The *I Can Soar* video was developed with four key groups of IDEA stakeholders in mind:

- **Families**, whose children with disabilities can be effectively supported by assistive technology;
- **Teachers, therapists and other practitioners**, who have assistive tools in their schools and classrooms;
- **Principals and school administrators**, responsible for local technology programs; and
- **State administrators**, responsible for overseeing state-wide technology programs and services.

IDEA stakeholders who view the video and read the accompanying information kit will learn about:

- **Real life challenges** faced by four students with disabilities;
- **Important benefits** to using assistive tools that support students' independence, active learning, and high achievement;
- **Proven strategies** for effectively integrating assistive tools into the daily lives of students; and
- **Integration of assistive technology** within their own homes, schools, and local communities.

HOW TO GET A COPY

The *I Can Soar* video kit is available at

- NCTI's website (<http://nationaltechcenter.org>). Once you have registered and logged on at the site, you can link to the video by clicking on the *I Can Soar* button on the top toolbar of the NCTI homepage.
- Mountain Plains Regional Resource Center (MPRRC) website at <http://www.usu.edu/mprrc/>.
- VHS copies of the video kit can be ordered through the Council for Exceptional Children's (CEC) Spring Catalog at <http://www.cec.sped.org/bk/catalog2/computer.html#P5555>.

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I CAN SOAR
HOW TECHNOLOGY HELPS
STUDENTS TAKE OFF
AN AWARD WINNING VIDEO
AND INFORMATION KIT

ABOUT THE VIDEO...

I Can Soar is a 26-minute documentary of four students with disabilities and how assistive technology has been effectively integrated into their daily lives. The synthesis report -- **The Selection and Use of Assistive Technology** -- identifies seven *best practice* principles that are integral to the effective use of assistive tools. The video brings these seven principles to life:

1. Providing leadership;
2. Supporting stakeholder collaboration;
3. Monitoring impact;
4. Building capacity;
5. Reducing fear and becoming comfortable with technology;
6. Acknowledging diversity; and
7. Focusing on supporting student learning.

The students' families, teachers, therapists, and other educators talk about how they followed the seven principles when they gained access to assistive tools and made these tools work.

HOT TOPIC FORUM ON *I CAN SOAR*

Check out the "Hot Topic" forum on NCTT's website (<http://nationaltechcenter.org>) to pose questions or engage in dialog with families, educators, and administrators across the country who have viewed and are using this video.

ABOUT THE FOUR STORIES ...

- **Angie** is a 5-year old Korean-American girl with mild cerebral palsy. She uses an augmentative communication system to communicate with her parents and siblings at home and her teachers and classmates at school.
- **Aaron** is a 13-year old boy with multiple physical disabilities. He uses a power wheelchair and an alternative keyboard to help him move and interact with the computer, both independently.
- **Stacey** is a sixth grade student who was diagnosed with an educationally significant hearing loss. She uses an FM amplification, which has supported her academically and has helped her to develop positive social relationships.
- **Sean** is an African American teenage boy who lost his sight at the age of 10. He utilizes computer software that converts text to speech, and a Braille scientific calculator to help him learn the same content as his non-disabled classmates. Sean is pursuing his goal to be a lawyer.

The *I Can Soar Video* received The Award of Distinction from the 2001 Communicator Awards.

ABOUT THE INFORMATION KIT...

A series of materials has been developed to accompany this video. The information kit includes

- **User's Guide-** This guide provides suggestions for video use with families and state and local educators. The guide also presents general facts about assistive technology (AT), including a description of the benefits of AT and principles for the appropriate selection and use of AT.
- **Four Stories-** The vignettes included in this kit build on the stories told in the video and describe how the stakeholders involved selected, gained access to, and implemented AT with each student.
- **Executive Summary-** This section identifies and describes seven principles for the effective of use AT, as identified in the *Selection and Use of Assistive Technology* synthesis report.
- **Fact Sheet-** This fact sheet explains how the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act defines AT and what the law requires of schools, with respect to providing AT for students with disabilities.
- **Resource Guide-** The guide includes a listing of selected government agencies, national organizations, technical assistance providers, resource centers, and researchers. It also provides information about how to contact each of these resources.