

ASSISTIVE  
TECHNOLOGY &  
THE EXCEPTIONAL  
CHILD

What is an  
"exceptional  
child?"

-An exceptional child is a child who is somehow different from the "average" child. The term includes children who have learning disabilities, physical disabilities or a mental or emotional impairment.

What is "assistive  
technology?"

-Assistive technology is any technology that provides assistance to individuals with disabilities or special needs.

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## Education Newsletter Spring 2007

### Announcing Our New Quarterly Newsletter!

We are happy to provide you with our first newsletter for 2007. Our quarterly newsletter is to provide you, the educator, with information about Franklin products and how they relate to issues in education today.

Our Spring 2007 newsletter is all about assistive technology and the exceptional child. Franklin provides many portable assistive technology products that bridge the gap for students with disabilities.

In every newsletter issue, you will not only find product information and related articles, but the following regular features:

- Interviews and quotes from teachers who use Franklin products every day.
- An upcoming events schedule of where our representatives will be available to answer your questions and give you a hands-on demonstration.

- A special offer just for educators to receive a discount on Franklin products.
- And much more...

If you have any questions regarding the content of this newsletter, or would like to share your ideas for upcoming issues, please contact us. We would love to hear from you.

Our complete contact information is listed on the last page of this newsletter.

### A Literacy Aid for Visually Impaired Students

Blind or low-vision students can easily correct their spelling, look up definitions and play word games with the Speaking Language Master Special Edition (model #LM-6000SEV). The Special Edition has special accessibility features to enable blind students:

- A QWERTY keyboard with locator dots provides instant user familiarity.
- Full keyboard echo allows students to hear everything a sighted person would see on-screen.

All users can customize the dictionary by inputting their own personal word list and by adjusting contrast, type size and voice speed.

The Speaking Language Master

Special Edition also features a custom message list that allows the dictionary to function as an augmentative speech device. A student can save up to 26 custom messages (one for each letter of the alphabet) and access them at the touch of a button. For example, a student can enter a quick

message, save it and access it later. This feature not only allows blind or visually impaired students a way to "take down" and retrieve information quickly, but it also allows speech impaired students to have messages read aloud for others to hear.

In addition to those accessibility features, the Special Edition has a Merriam-Webster dictionary with definitions for 110,000 words, a Franklin thesaurus with 500,000 synonyms & antonyms and our famous phonetic spelling correction.

The Speaking Language Master Special Edition (model #LM-6000SEV) comes with headphones, a soft, zippered pouch, AC adapter and instructions on an audio CD.



**The Speaking Language  
Master Special Edition**

# Into the Future with Portable Assistive Technology

On March 2, 2007, The National Council for Technology Innovation (NCTI) hosted a live web event entitled "Into the Future with Portable Assistive Technology." The free event featured speakers from several companies who introduced innovative technology products that make assistive technology portable.

Franklin Learning Resources was proud to be invited to share how our products are a perfect fit in the world of portable assistive technology.

During our presentation, we presented our Speaking Language Master Special Edition and highlighted this product's unique accessibility features (see page 1) that allow this product to be used by blind or visually impaired users.

Also highlighted was the Speaking Spanish English Language Professor, a complete Spanish and English speaking dictionary that can be used for Spanish-speaking English Language Learner (ELL) students or an English-speaking student

who wishes to learn Spanish.

The response from participants across the country was very positive. For more information on the event, and to hear audio from the speakers, please visit the NCTI homepage.

**For information about the National Council for Technology Innovation, visit [www.nationaltechcenter.org](http://www.nationaltechcenter.org)**



***NCTI is funded by the U.S. Office of Special Education Programs and promotes opportunities for students with disabilities.***

## Upcoming Events

**Franklin representatives will be exhibiting at the following state and local conferences. Stop by to see a demonstration of our products and to enter a drawing to win a free speaking dictionary!**

**May-**

**New Jersey Council for Exceptional Children Conference - 5/4/07 - Raritan, NJ**

**Florida Teachers of English as a Second Language Conference - 5/10/07 to 5/12/07 - West Palm Beach, FL**

**International Reading Association Conference - 5/13/07 to 5/16/07 - Toronto, Ontario, Canada**

**New Jersey Teachers of English as a Second Language Conference - 5/22/07 to 5/23/07 - Somerset, NJ**

**Florida Parent-Educators Association Homeschool Convention - 5/24/07 to 5/26/07 - Orlando, FL**

**June-**

**Education Network of Christian Schools - 6/1/07 to 6/2/07 - Edison, NJ**

**Florida League of Middle Schools Conference - 6/8/07 to 6/10/07 - Sarasota, FL**

**Florida Special Education Conference (Family Café) - 6/8/07 to 6/10/07 - Orlando, FL**

**Alabama Technology Conference - 6/12/07 to 6/14/07 - Birmingham, AL**

**Texas Council for Exceptional Children - 6/21/07 to 6/23/07 - Houston, TX**

**July-**

**National Federation of the Blind Conference - 7/1/07 to 7/6/07 -**

**Atlanta, GA**

**Alabama Mega Conference - 7/8/07 to 7/12/07 - Mobile, AL**

**August-**

**Florida K-12 Reading Leadership Conference - 8/5/07 to 8/8/07 - Orlando, FL**

**Texas Homeschool Coalition Conference - 8/16/07 to 8/18/07 - The Woodlands, TX**

**Are you having a school or district-wide conference, open house or training session?**

If you are interested in providing your guests with information regarding Franklin products, please contact us! We can provide catalogs and information for you to distribute and may be able to provide a product demonstration. Please call 1-800-525-9673 and choose option '2'. Your request may also be submitted by email to [education@franklin.com](mailto:education@franklin.com), or by fax to (609) 239-5950.

## Speech/Language Pathologist Uses Franklin Products Every Day

Recently, the EdTech Show Daily publication featured an interview with Edna D. Cook, a Speech/Language Pathologist and Language Arts instructor at Arthur Robert Ashe Middle School. In the interview, Ms. Cook discusses how Franklin products help her students learn spelling and reinforce vocabulary every day.

Q: Which Franklin products do you use in your classroom, and how do you use them?

EDC: I am using the Spelling Ace and the Talking Dictionary. I use them for our daily vocabulary lessons which include the Synonym, Antonym and Word in a Sentence features. Students are also permitted to use the Spelling Ace and Talking Dictionary when doing any assignment.

Q: What makes their products unlike others you have tried?

EDC: Students are very receptive to handheld games. More students are on task, in their seats and concentrating on their assignment.

These dictionaries are sort of personal because no one knows whether a student cannot spell a word or words except for the student. I do have two computers in my classroom, but I also have seven Spelling Ace units. Students do not have to leave their seats to go to the computer to use spell check.

Q: How did your students first respond to the products? How did you implement them?

EDC: The students accepted the dictionaries as a challenge. The response was very positive. Students use the dictionaries as a warm-up before class to do their vocabulary, and students use the dictionaries at the end of class as a free-time learning activity.

Q: How long have you been using their products, and where did you first hear about Franklin?

EDC: I have been using the Franklin products since August 2006. I first heard about Franklin at the end of the last school year when I

went to the International Reading Convention.

Q: What procedures do you have in place for the units? When and how are students allowed to use them?

EDC: Students are instructed on proper care of the units. Units must be properly put back on my desk so that they can be secured for the night. Students are not allowed to take them home because we only have seven and they are used in all of my classes.

Q: How do the Franklin products help you teach more effectively?

EDC: Students are able to set up their own word bank and learn more words in less time. It takes less time to use the Franklin [dictionary] than it does to use a hardcover dictionary.

Q: Have you ever designed a lesson around your Franklin units?

EDC: Every day a lesson is designed around the Franklin [dictionary]. Students know the routine. If the Franklin [units] are not out, students ask for them.

***"More students are on task, in their seats and concentrating on the assignment...every day a lesson is designed around the Franklin."***

## New! Spelling Ace® Spelling Corrector & Thesaurus

For years, students who need spelling assistance have been utilizing a Franklin Spelling Ace® handheld spelling corrector.

The Spelling Ace features Franklin's patented phonetic spelling correction, where a student can enter a phonetic spelling (such as "nolij") and instantly receive the correct spelling, "knowledge". The thesaurus entries allow students to verify

that the word provided was indeed the desired word.

The New Spelling Ace includes all of the features of the existing Spelling Ace line, including 110,000 word phonetic spell correction, 500,000 synonyms and antonyms along with new features: a **spelling bee list** with five levels of spelling bee words, a **reading timer** to help students gauge their reading time,

and **introductory Spanish & French phrases**.

At just \$19.95, the Spelling Ace is an affordable way to provide additional assistance for any student, especially students with dyslexia or other learning disabilities who need extra assistance with spelling.



**The NEW Spelling Ace®  
Spelling Corrector & Thesaurus**



**Franklin**<sup>®</sup>  
Learning Resources

**Learn. Communicate. Achieve!**

One Franklin Plaza  
Burlington, NJ 08016  
Phone: 800-525-9673  
Fax: 609-239-5950

E-mail: [education@franklin.com](mailto:education@franklin.com)

**Visit us on the web:**  
[www.franklin.com/education](http://www.franklin.com/education)

## Special Offer!

Just in time for end of school year purchases, we would like to provide you with a special offer for your next purchase of any Franklin product. Simply provide ordering code EMYENLIO and receive:

- **10% off** Education prices
  - **Free** batteries
  - **Free** shipping

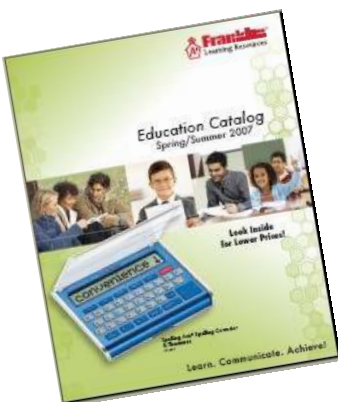
Orders may be placed by phone... 1-800-525-9673

...on the web - [www.franklin.com](http://www.franklin.com)

or fax a purchase order - (609)239-5950

Just be sure to enter ordering code EMYENLIO

Limited time offer. Offer expires June 30th, 2007. Shipping and handling outside the continental US or expedited shipping will incur additional cost. This limited offer cannot be combined with any other offer, promotion or previously placed order(s).



**The NEW Franklin Learning Resources  
Spring/Summer 2007 Catalog  
is now available!**

For a copy, please call 1-800-525-9673 and  
request an education catalog.