

Using a HandHeld as part of your Assistive Technology Toolkit

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For this session...

- Assume you accept that Handhelds are important to education and to students.
- Focus on how students with special needs can use handhelds.

Some students do better when:

- **The stylus doesn't slide around the screen** so fast. Most new Handhelds come with a screen protector. Order a kit of 4 from CoolWrite for \$5 <http://www.holditpda.com/coolscreenpr1.html>
 - This helps slow down the movement of the stylus on the 'slippery' screen of the handheld

Some students do better when:

- **The stylus is easier to hold.**
 - Try using Wikki stix www.wikkistix.com (\$2.75 for 24 pieces) It is wax covered yarn that could be wrapped around the stylus for a better grip. May not slide into groove of stylus holder...
 - Building the stylus up with **putty** may help students grip the stylus more firmly. This will also allow the stylus to be stuck to the handheld so it doesn't get lost.

Hint: Using a protective film allows the user to tap the screen with any writing tool. A student could use a dull pencil or a pen (with the cartridge retracted.)

Some students do better when...

- **They use a larger keyboard.**

- There are wireless keyboards that attach to a handheld for around \$60+
<http://www.palmone.com/us/products/accessories/peripherals/>
 - Dana (\$379) has built in large keyboard
<http://www3.alphasmart.com/products/dana.html>
 - Tungsten C (\$400) has thumb keyboard built in
<http://www.palmone.com/us/products/handhelds/tungsten-c/>
- Or you can purchase a thumb keyboard to attach to your handheld (Palm™ i705 Mini Keyboard)

Some students do better...

- **With larger text.**

- OfficeOnTheGoGo Magnifico Combo PDA Magnifier \$40 is an external magnifier from Palm.
- Teal Magnify from Teal Point is an internal magnifier \$9. Download and try it for free at: <http://www.tealpoint.com/softlens.htm> (toggle the magnifier on/off via the “find” button)

Make text larger in Memo pad

- Hint: to make text larger in Memo pad, after opening the application, tap on “Memo” and then tap on “Options”. Select “Font” and tap on the largest “A”. This change in size will remain even after the Handheld is turned off.

Some students do better when...

- **They have longer than 3 minutes before the Handheld shuts off.**
 - Set Auto Power Off Gold v1.03 (free) allows the Palm to stay on for longer periods of time before automatically shutting off. Set it for 5 minutes, 15, an hour or even “Never”.
<http://www.freewarepalm.com/utilities/setautopoweroffgold.shtml>

Warning: The handheld will have to be charged a lot more frequently! If the handheld stays “dead” for very long, all the information on it will be lost until it is hot synced.

Some students do better when...

- **They have auditory or visual reminders** for assignments.
 - Set alarms in the date book for studying tests (alarm can be set to ring days ahead of time), returning books (alarm can be set to ring hours ahead of time), taking medicine (alarm can be set to ring minutes ahead of time), therapy sessions, meetings, etc...

- The handheld can be set to vibrate or give auditory alarm which includes a full screen note describing the activity.
- **Diddlebug** allows you to handwrite a note with an alarm. The alarm will pop up on screen even if the student is working in an application.
<http://diddlebug.sourceforge.net/>

Some students do better when...

- **Text is read out loud for them.**
 - **Speak** (free) uses text-to-speech technology so that students can listen to their memos and other documents. <http://www.freewarepalm.com/utilities/speak.shtml>
 - Once text is highlighted, the user has to press a button to get the text to read out loud.
 - This is new technology that will be getting better as time goes on.

Calculators can read out loud too! KidzCalc is a simple talking calculator for the Palm Tungsten. \$5
<http://www.toysoft.ca/kidzcalc.html>

Some students do better when...

- **They have a spell checker.**
 - **AardMemo Pad/spellchecker v1.8** will let you know what words are misspelled in their Memo Pad. Free download at:
<http://user.tninet.se/~ecf599g/aardasnails/palm/index.htm>
 - **AardSpell** works with AardMemo to help with spelling. It will find the word using the SOUND of the word - it will give you a list of words which are phonetically related to the word you entered.
\$15

Some students do better when...

- **They aren't distracted by other applications.**
 - **Today** gathers information from the built-in applications Date Book and To Do List and displays them with current time and date and owner of the handheld device. Change the preferences to "Always run Today". Now every time the handheld is turned on it will show the days schedule.
<http://www.freewarepalm.com/utilities/today.shtml>

- Create a category just for your student that only has their applications in it.
- Change the hard keys to open an application.

To Create a Category for your Student:

- Go to the home screen and tap on the name of the category in the upper right corner. Select "Edit Categories..." Tap on "New" and enter student's name. Tap on OK. Tap on the time in the upper left corner of the home screen. Select "Category". All of the applications loaded on the handheld will appear in a list. The column on the right tells what category each application is in. By tapping on the down arrow, the application can be

placed in a category. Select the student's name as the category for all of the applications you want the student to have access to. By default, all of the applications are permanently located in the "all" category.

To Change the Hard Keys

The hard round buttons along the bottom of the palm can be "reprogrammed" to open any application that is installed. If a student frequently uses a palm to practice math facts, he/she could press one button to make the palm turn on and go directly to the math application without being distracted by all the other "stuff" on the palm.

- Open "Preferences"
- Tap on "Buttons"
- Tap on an arrow next to the name of the button you want to change.
- Select an application from the drop down list
- Tap "Done"
- Turn off the palm and try out the hard button you reprogrammed.

Some Cool, Free Software that might come in handy...

- Practice your spelling, Create word groups, add words to each group.
Beam a word group to another user. (Spellit)
<http://www.freewarepalm.com/educational/spellitbystephen.shtml>
- This won't correct your spelling test, but it's a great way to study a list of spelling words.
- To help with comprehension, each word can be used in a sentence. The sentence can be read out loud with the "speak" application.

More cool stuff...

- Create your own **flash cards** for studying. (Lexi)
<http://lexi.agrino.org/> Manual gives directions for using on handheld or on the computer.
- Create your own electronic vocabulary notebook by creating your own **dictionary**. Add your own words and definitions including adding an example of that word in a sentence. (Dicmake or change address book)
<http://www.freewarepalm.com/educational/dicmake.shtml>

More...

-- Palm4Kids: Learn basic math operations and create slide shows by drawing pictures.

- Animate me: Create slide shows through drawings. This one has different speeds for the slide show and allows the user to create 10 different shows.
- Doctor DB: A medical database that helps keep track of Physicians, Appointments, Medicines, allergies, etc...
- Homework Assistant: Keeps track of homework assignments for each subject, their due dates, reminders, etc...
- Time Investment: Calculates how much time is spent doing an activity. You have to select the time the activity started and the time it ended-it figures out how long you spent on a task (in minutes)...
- All of these are free from: <http://www.rodigosoftware.tk>

Social time:

- Games for 2:
 - Tic-tac-toe: draw any shape/color inside the tic-tac-toe grid.
 - Dice: 2 dice roll with tap of screen
 - Timbiriche: connect dots to form boxes.

All of these games are free and can be found at:

<http://www.rodigosoftware.tk>

Now for some applications that cost \$\$ but may be worth it to you...

- Inspiration-\$22 (30 day free trial). Best on the Dana. http://www.inspiration.com/freetrial/index.cfm?fuseaction=form.insp_palm
- Diagrams? is the free alternative and can be found at: http://www.freewarepalm.com/graphics/diagrams_shtml
- Word Prediction for the Palm \$19 -free trial <http://www.alphapad.com/PredictionInfo.htm>
- Pebbles has the free alternative for word prediction at: <http://www-2.cs.cmu.edu/~pebbles/assistive/>
- Write out Loud to go-\$210 talking word processor for Palm. Reads out loud as you type, powerful spell checker.
- SpeakMemo is the free alternative that will read memo's out loud. It won't talk as you type.

<http://www.mapopolis.com/free.jsp?s=1099683816312965&p=&q=0>

Great Activities To Get Students Motivated

- Figurative Language using Palm4Kids, Sketchy, AnimateMe or any other application that students can create slide shows.
 - After discussing multiple meanings of phrases such as “you’re pulling my leg”, “Don’t jump the gun” etc...have students create 3 slides. Slide one has the phrase, slide 2 has a picture of the literal meaning and slide 3 explains what the figurative meaning

is.

Write!

When given a choice of what “tool” to use when writing—a pencil/pen, a computer or a palm...my students choose the handheld EVERY time.

Their writing is neater compared to pen/pencil. A handheld is more personal, the person next to you can't read what you wrote.

Example of a writing activity:

- Take pictures (using Zire 72 or a digital camera)
 - For example, have students take pictures of things that represent: the color pink, the color brown, spring is coming soon, round, 5, food.
- Write about the pictures—why did you choose the objects...

Read!

- Students love to read from a handheld!
 - Download ebooks (Amazon, Barnes & Noble, ipicturebooks.com, and more)
 - Create your own ebooks (there are a variety of applications that let you change text into etext that can be viewed on a Palm)
 - Make silly sentences (Tony Vincent) <http://www.learninginhand.com/palmsoftware/languagearts.html>

Research then Create Quiz

- When researching a topic on the Internet or discussing a new topic in class
 - Have students learn how to create a quiz using Quizzler (there is a certain format to use)
 - Have students write questions about the topic for a quiz in their memo pad using the correct format for Quizzler.
 - Students beam the teacher their question.
 - Teacher compiles the questions, beams the full quiz to each student.
 - After they take the quiz they can choose to give the quiz to one staff person (principal, ancillary, another teacher, etc...)

Simulations

- If you like Cooties, you'll LOVE PDA Participatory Simulations... <http://education.mit.edu/pda/instructions.htm>
- They have over 5 different simulation games where groups of handhelds users interact with each other via beaming to create or solve problems. They are free for now...Download them soon!

Great web sites to help integrate Palm into the curriculum:

- Real academic activities that use handhelds <http://www.columbia.k12.mo.us/she/mvillasa/activities.htm>
- Education World looks at the experiences of four schools experimenting with integrating handhelds into the classroom. http://www.education-world.com/a_tech/tech083.shtml
- Mr. Vincent has created a great website with a ton of ideas for integrating handhelds into the curriculum! <http://learninginhand.com/>
Click on Lesson plans or software for a great place to start integrating a handheld into your life and classroom. This site is not too overwhelming and nicely organized.

Free eBooks for PDA's

- <http://www.manybooks.net/>
 – Sorted into nice categories and available in a variety of formats including eReader, isilo and PDF

What to do when your Palm Crashes (and it will...)

- Make sure you are comfortable hot syncing your palm on one computer.
- Hot syncing saves all of your files onto your computer so you can retrieve them if your palm crashes...and it will.
- When your palm crashes (did I mention that it will??) you have 3 types of "reset" that can be done.

Soft reset

- This is a simple reset that keeps your files and just resets the Palm.
- IF you can't turn your palm off, or you see something weird on your screen, try the soft reset.

- Use a paperclip to stick in the “reset” hole.

Warm Reset

- If the soft reset didn't work, try the warm reset.
- The Warm Reset tells your device to stop what it's doing and start over again, bypassing any system extensions.
- Your format, preferences and other settings remain intact.
- To perform a warm reset: press and hold the up button while doing a soft reset.

Hard Reset

- Resets the handheld to it's original, from-the-factory default settings.
- To perform a hard reset: hold the on/off button down while you do a soft reset.
- The screen will read: Are you sure? Press the up button for yes, press any other button for no.

One more trick to try before the complete hard reset:

- If you still don't want to totally loose all of the hard work you put into hot syncing new applications, accepting beams from people, etc...try this:
- Hold the on/off button down while pressing reset. But when it asks “are you sure”, press the reset again and then the up button (in that order).

The last step to a major crash:

- Make sure you hot sync your palm again after a reset. If you still have problems, the hot syncing may be putting the bad file back on your palm.
- If you're still having problems, go to your C drive on the computer that you hot sync your palm with. Find the “Palm” folder (open it) and open the folder with your username. Go to the file named “Backup” and rename it to: “Backup.old” without the quotes.
- Now hot sync your palm again. A new folder named “Backup” will be created. You can go through your “Backup.old” folder to see all of the applications you use to have on your palm. Try them one by one to find the bad one.
- I have 3 old backup folders...

Thanks for Attending!

- This handout can be found in an electronic form online, so that you can just click on the links to get to the software and web pages listed. <http://www.acdclab.alleganisd.org/handheld.htm>
- I can also beam it to you if you have a Palm with Documents to go...