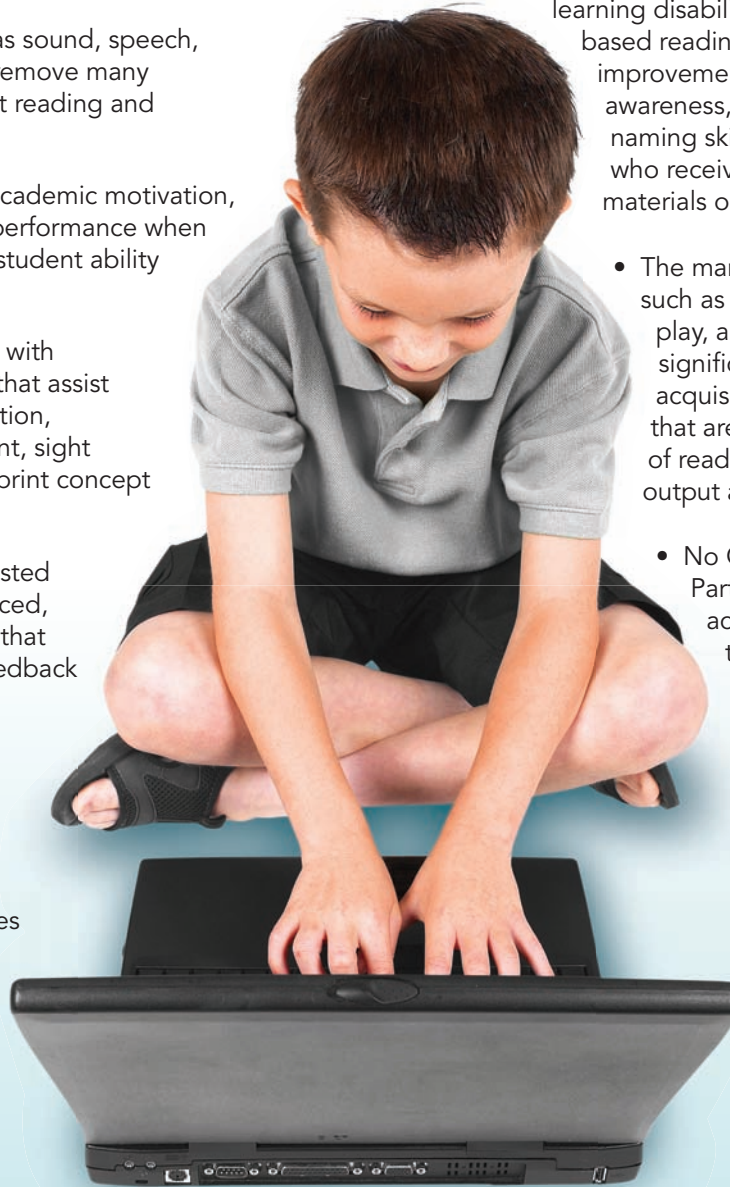




Validating the Use of Software

Students with special learning needs benefit from using technology and appropriate software programs. Here is the evidence you can use to support the use of technology in your program.

- Technology is a proven, effective method of giving children with learning disabilities opportunities to engage in basic drill and practice, simulations, exploratory, or communication activities that are matched to individual need and ability.¹
- Digital supports, such as sound, speech, animation, and video, remove many barriers to independent reading and comprehension.²
- Technology improves academic motivation, attitude, interest, and performance when applications adjust for student ability and experience.^{3,4}
- Young children interact with electronic text in ways that assist in story schema acquisition, vocabulary development, sight word recognition, and print concept development.²
- Effective computer-assisted instruction supports paced, individualized learning that provides immediate feedback and opportunities for practice.⁵
- Computer-assisted instruction and drill-and-practice software can significantly improve students' scores on standardized achievement tests in all major subject areas, preschool through higher education.⁶
- Children develop literacy skills through computer applications that sponsor decision-making, meaningful interactions, and skill scaffolding.²
- In a controlled study, children at high risk for learning disabilities who received computer-based reading intervention made significant improvement in their phonological awareness, word recognition, and letter naming skills as compared to their peers who received intervention based on printed materials only.⁷
- The manipulation of language entities, such as being able to hear, see, create, play, and replay auditory constructs, significantly reinforces reading skill acquisition. Technology applications that are significant to the development of reading include multi-sensory input-output and text-to-speech capabilities.⁷
- No Child Left Behind, Title II, Part D supports higher academic achievement through the use of technology in elementary and secondary schools.⁸



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