

## Section 3: Assistive Technology

### Benefits of Assistive Technology

Assistive Technology (AT) offers a powerful means of supporting those who experience challenges with literacy. These tools can help your child plan, organise, stay on task, and engage more confidently with reading and writing activities. By integrating AT into everyday learning, your child can access content in ways that suit their individual needs and learning styles. Assistive Technology tools can help promote confidence and independence.

Below is a list of some AT features that can help your child when producing work at home and in school.

This list is not exhaustive and may vary depending on individual needs and available resources:

- Text-to-Speech
- Speech-to-Text
- Word banks and spelling mats
- Digital pocket spell checkers
- Phonetic spell checkers
- Talking dictionaries
- Auto-correction
- Screen-masking for eye strain
- Reading rulers
- Digital highlighters
- Audio books
- Voice notes
- Grammar check
- Specialist equipment e.g. laptops

## **Non-Digital Assistive Technology and Support Tools**

Assistive Technology doesn't always mean computers or apps. It can be simple tools like reading rulers, sloped writing boards, or pencil grips - anything that makes learning easier and more comfortable for learners.

- Pencil Grips
- Magnifiers
- Sticky Notes
- Writing Slopes
- Highlighters
- Magnetic Letters
- Whiteboards
- Reading Rulers

## **Assistive Technology free for NI pupils with C2K**

Thanks to a partnership between EA and C2K, families can now access powerful assistive software completely free of charge to support children's literacy at home.

Whether your child needs help with reading, writing, spelling or staying focused, these tools are designed to make learning more accessible and enjoyable.

The following software is available for free both at home and school on up to five devices:

- Everway Read&Write and OrbitNote (formerly TextHelp)
- Clicker and Clicker Writer
- Microsoft O365

## **Free Software to Download**

### **Clicker**

Contact your child's school and ask them to provide you with the EN182 document from the C2K exchange. This document provides the serial number, passwords and details to install Clicker/Clicker Writer on a personal device for free.

### **[Installing Clicker on a Personal Device - Literacy Inclusion Toolkit](#)**

### **Microsoft**

O365 apps are free to download to devices from the app store or login online. Users can download the software on up to five devices at home. Please note you will need to know your child's C2K username and password to activate all of the features. When logging in make sure to use the format [username@c2ken.net](#). Once signed in click on Apps on the left-hand side panel.

### **[Microsoft Portal Login](#)**

### **Everway**

Available at home and at school on up to five devices using your child's C2K account. Please note you will need to know your child's C2K username and password to activate all of the features. When logging in make sure to use the format [username@c2ken.net](#).

### **[Supporting Pupils Across EANI - Everway](#)**

## Clicker & Clicker Writer

Clicker and Clicker Writer are powerful tools designed to support pupils with learning difficulties through a highly accessible, multisensory approach to reading and writing.

Core accessibility features include:

- Pre-made templates that scaffold writing tasks
- Customisable fonts and background colours to reduce visual stress
- Text-to-Speech: Reads aloud words, sentences, or entire documents aloud
- Planning boards and visual mind maps
- Curriculum-aligned resources
- Word prediction with image support
- Symbol and image library
- Available across multiple platforms

## Northern Ireland | Crick Software UK

### Microsoft Learning Tools & Microsoft Lens

Microsoft Learning Tools and Microsoft Lens are transformative technologies designed to break down barriers and unlock potential for pupils with learning difficulties.

These tools empower learners to read, write and communicate with confidence, using intuitive, accessible features that adapt to individual needs.

- Converts speech to text: [EA Guidance: Microsoft Dictate Help Sheet | Literacy](#)
- Reads documents and emails aloud
- Reading Progress and Reading Coach facilitates independent learning
- Offers grammar and spelling suggestions
- Translation feature supporting over 100 languages
- Available across multiple platforms

- Breaks down text into manageable chunks, reads aloud, highlights syllables and offers line focus
- Microsoft Lens app digitises printed materials, which can be read aloud, translated and makes diagrams accessible

### **[How to improve reading skills with Microsoft Learning Tools | YouTube](#)**

#### **Read&Write and OrbitNote**

Read&Write and OrbitNote are powerful, inclusive tools designed to empower pupils with learning difficulties in reading, writing and spelling.

Read&Write and OrbitNote offer personalised assistance across a range of devices including laptops, tablets and iPads, ensuring accessibility and flexibility in any learning environment. Whether it's helping decode text or organisation, Read&Write and OrbitNote provide the scaffolding needed for success.

#### **[Read&Write for Windows: Support Tools for Students with Dyslexia](#)**

- Converts speech to text and reads documents aloud
- Math tools
- Vocabulary list builder
- Offers grammar and spelling suggestions
- Translation feature supporting over 90 languages
- Annotates PDFs and reads them aloud
- Provides talking dictionaries and picture dictionaries
- Research tools

#### **[Texthelp Academy | Everway](#)**