

building futures



Editorial

by Jo Ford

Welcome to our final edition for 2005. We hope that Paula-Jane's ideas for Christmas software will keep you entertained over the Christmas period. She has tried to source as many new ideas as she could for software that provides alternate access to Christmas activities.

This month has seen some staff changes in our seating team. Peter Chapple finishes his secondment with us and returns to his fulltime role in the Adult Resource Program. Gail Shepherd has joined us and will be working fulltime as a seating consultant. She has many years of experience working in seating services in the UK and we look forward to Gail working with us.

Finally, as 2005 draws to a close the TASC team would like to wish our readers all the best for the festive season. We have enjoyed sharing ideas with you this year and look forward to keeping you up to date with the latest in assistive technology in 2006.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!

Jo

Merry Christmas from TASC



Christmas Software Ideas

by Paula-Jane Robinson



Well, it's that time of year again, and time to start thinking about those Christmas gift ideas! We at TASC have tried to make that task a little easier for you by providing you with some accessible Christmas toys and software ideas!

SwitchIt! Christmas - by Inclusive Technology



This program contains animated cause and effect / simple scanning Christmas activities, e.g. watch Santa come down the chimney, build a snowman, pull a cracker, decorate a tree, put up a stocking and watch New Year's fireworks. Sound effects accompany each picture. Visit the supplier websites for further details.

Access: use one or two switches, touch screen, mouse or an IntelliKeys keyboard. Customisable features include:

- Choose how many steps it will take for each scene to be completed.
- Set the length of reward after each switch press.

System: Macintosh or Windows 95, 98, ME, XP. If you are a switch user, a switch interface will be needed.

Approximate price: \$108 for single user license (MAC / Windows). Multiple user licence also available.

Suppliers:

- Technability,
- Spectronics
- NovitaTech

(see the end of this article for details).

The following information was taken from the NovitaTech site:

www.novitatech.org.au/product.asp?p=247&id=1647&start=16

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Picasso Series - by Simtech Publications



This program features cause and effect activities for drawing and colouring pictures. This program introduces step scanning and auto-scanning. Use the paint palette to draw and colour pictures. Featuring art, music and animation. Visit the supplier websites for further details.

Access: use a mouse, trackball / joystick, single switch, touch screen and a switch adapted mouse.

System: Windows 3.1.1 or later MacOS 7.1 or later, 4MB of free RAM.

Approximate price: \$79 single user licence (MAC / Windows). Multiple user licence also available.

Visit the Simtech website: www.hsj.com/demos.html to download a fully functional three-minute demo version of this program.

Suppliers:

- Technability
- Spectronics

(see the end of this article for details).

Christmas Carol - by Crick Software



This program requires Clicker 4 or 5.

Visit: www.spectronics.com.au/product.asp?product=6750 for further details.

Christmas Carol is a Dickens classic talking book that has been developed by Paul Prestidge. This book contains illustrated pages with or without text. Visit the supplier websites for further details.

Access: Mouse / trackball / joystick, keyboard, single and multiple switches and touch-screen. If you are a switch user, a switch interface will be required.

System: To run Christmas Carol you will need Clicker 4 or 5. To run Clicker you will need Windows 98, ME, NT, 2000, XP. Macintosh: Clicker 5 for Macintosh will be available later in 2005.

Approximate price: \$69 for a single user licence (MAC / Windows). Multiple user licence also available.

Supplier:

- Spectronics

(see the end of this article for details).

Therapy Friends: Christmas Theme Kit - by Therapy Friends



www.spectronics.com.au/product.asp?product=3086

Requires Boardmaker for Windows. Visit: www.spectronics.com.au/product.asp?product=3086 for further details.

Therapy Friends: Christmas Theme Kit contains interactive and communication activities about Christmas. This kit contains a variety of activities for use within a variety of settings eg the classroom or therapy clinic. Visit the supplier websites for further details. Activities include:

- Twelve Days of Christmas
- Christmas Bingo
- Christmas Shopping Game
- Christmas Dinner Story
- Mystery Present Game
- Christmas Mix-ups
- Decorate the Christmas Tree
- Vocabulary Cards
- Christmas Objects and Actions
- Communication Device Overlays
- Christmas Carols (Six song books, eg. Rudolph, Silent Night)

System: In order to run this Christmas Kit, you will require the program, Boardmaker. To run Boardmaker: Pentium Processor 133 MHz or better, Windows 95, 98(se), ME, 2000, XP (NT4 not supported), 64 MB RAM, CD ROM Drive, 250 MB free hard disk space and 16 bit hi colour display.

Approximate price: \$129.00 (Windows).

Supplier:

- Spectronics
- (see the end of this article for details).

FREE Software Download Elf Bowling

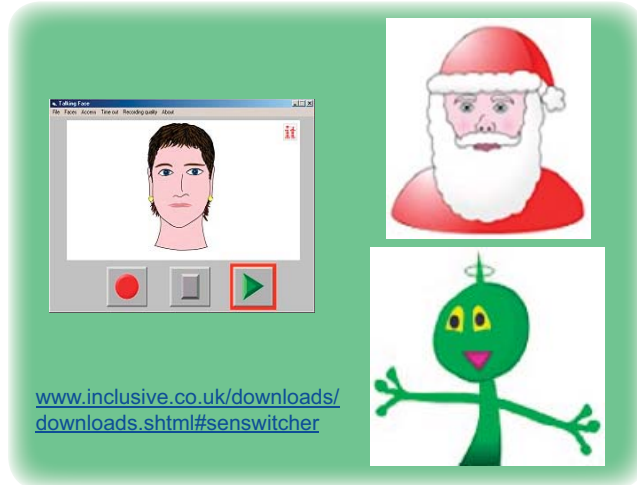


www.nstorm.com/games/game_detail.asp?game_id=2

NStorm have a series of games that can be freely downloaded and require repeated switch use. To download this game go to: www.nstorm.com/games/game_detail.asp?game_id=2. Many of the titles, including Elf Bowling, can be played with a switch-adapted mouse. The aim of this game is to help Santa compete and bowl down his elves! Visit the supplier websites for further details.

System Requirements: PC-Pentium 133, 32 MB Ram, 1 MB Ram, Win95 or Win98. File Size: 1.1 KB PC

Talking Faces - by Inclusive Technology



www.inclusive.co.uk/downloads/downloads.shtml#senswitcher

A free switch accessible program. Record your voice and hear it played back while a face animates. Visit the supplier websites for further details. To download this program go to: www.inclusive.co.uk/downloads/downloads.shtml#senswitcher Choose from seven faces:

- Alien
- Female / male
- Robot
- Simple face
- Clown
- Santa Claus

Access: One or two-switch scanning, mouse or touch screen and keyboard shortcuts.

System: A Windows PC running Windows 95 or later, a sound card, speakers or headphones and a microphone.

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Suppliers details:

Technability www.technability.com.au
189 Allambie Road
Allambie Heights NSW 2100 Ph: 02 9975 8240

NovitaTech www.novitatech.org.au
171 Days Road
Regency Park SA 5010 Ph: 1300-85 55 85

Spectronics www.spectronicsinoz.com
PO Box 88
Rosedale QLD 4123 Ph: 07 3808 6833

Other ideas:

There are usually a large variety of Christmas software CDs / DVDs commercially available that contain songs and stories that can be watched / listened to through the computer.

Some suggestions on shopping ideas you may wish to explore include:

- ABC shop <http://shop.abc.net.au>
- Tec Solutions <http://www.tecsol.com.au/Toys2005.pdf>
- Large department stores such as Big W, Myer, David Jones, Kmart and Targets etc.



We welcome any feedback, good or bad, that you have on our service. Please feel free to contact us by phone on 02 9972 8183, email at tasc@tscnsw.org.au or in writing at the address below.

TechnoTalk is available free from www.thespasticcentre.com.au/news/index.htm or by subscription for \$27.50 (GST \$2.50 incl)

To all our readers, SEASONS GREATINGS!

The TASC Team would like to wish you all a safe and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

Best Wishes,

Jo, Kerrie, Liza, Catherine, Katherine, Peter, Gail, Paula-Jane, Natalie, Rachelle, Britta and Judith.