

Ten ways to use Clicker to support writing

The clicker is a whole class, group, and one-to-one resource equally useful for those who struggle with writing and those gifted and talented pupils who want to take their writing to a higher level.

It comprises three main tools:

- Document (used to create the child's work)
- Predictor (suggests words for pupils to use which can be supported with pictures/symbols)
- Virtual keyboard and grid (word bank to support document creation)

With these three tools set up and customised for the child, most pupils can make a good effort at writing something. It is a multi-sensory tool as they can hear everything, they write and read back to them and pictures can be imported instantly to support many words.

- 1 Sentence construction – support with the **sentence set templates** to:
 - Support left to right directionality
 - Correct punctuation – as the child punctuates the sentence it is read back instantly enabling them to review and self-correct. This supports the development of independent learning skills
 - Sentences can be rehearsed using **voice note**
- 2 Use of vocabulary – support with the **word bank templates** to:
 - Expand vocabulary – learning high-frequency words and pre-teaching topic words
 - Structure writing
- 3 Word banks can be used as a standalone resource to support writing in other situations and other aspects of the curriculum – for example: writing up a science experiment
- 4 Spelling – support with:
 - Use of the **predictor** individualised for the child
 - Use of the spell checker
 - Use of a customised **word pool**
- 5 Providing a legible copy of the child's work
- 6 Writing stamina - slow effortful handwriting and task completion:
 - Clicker enables a child to produce work quickly
- 7 Sequencing and structuring ideas, remembering the order of events:
 - Use of **word banks**, **sentence sets** and **Clicker boards**

- 8 Working with mind maps – support by using **Clicker boards** to:
 - Create a revision tool
 - Remembering ideas
 - Organising ideas
 - Planning and presentation of a task
 - Easily create a word or picture bank (Clicker 7 onwards)
- 9 Individualised reading and project books – **book-making tool**:
 - Child can create own talking books
 - Teacher can create reading and writing books for child
 - Development of editing skills
- 10 Browse the Crick website: www.cricksoft.com/uk to access:
 - Downloadable free guides to using Clicker
 - Bank of free learning grids
 - Success stories from schools using Clicker

Most importantly Clicker is a motivational tool which makes writing fun and gives confidence to the child, enabling them to produce a piece of writing and experience success.

Useful References and Links

www.cricksoft.com/uk