



Sitech Systems N.Z. Ltd

future proofing learning

Gizmos and Gadgets for Oral Literacy: A Sitech Think Sheet

Oral literacy is integral to literacy per se and there are an increasing range of “gizmo’s and gadgets” available to support the development of oral literacy through primary to early secondary.



Easi-Speak

Well known across New Zealand these days is the “Easi-speak”.

It is an attractive MP3 recorder/player with a built-in USB. We have come across teachers using it simply to record student’s reading for achievement data, or for collaborative story telling (a student listens to what has been recorded so far then adds a sentence and passes it on).

Outside the classroom it is taken on field trips to record

reactions and now we often see it being used in conjunction with a radio station as cheap and effective way of pre-recording outside broadcasts and interviews.

Latest developments!

It is now available in a colour-coded set of six with a docking/charging station. Plus, there is the Easispeak-Pro which has an LCD display screen making scrolling through to find the different tracks easier if playing back on the device.



Talk Tracker

In a similar vein but designed more for collaborative round-the-table discussions is the “Talk tracker.” If you have no other way to assess children’s

speech development than physically being with the student, this tool is a great classroom resource. It frees up the teacher and also captures students talking more naturally.

It can be used in roleplay, debating and discussion, and we are increasingly seeing it being used in modern language and Te Reo classrooms to listen to the language that students are using, and to play back for further analysis and discussion.

Like the Easi-speak it is rechargeable, records up to four hours and can be set up to record WAV or MP3 files.

Recordings can be played back on the device or downloaded via built-in USB.



Sound Shuffle

This is a sound recording sequencing device for creating stories, sequencing and sound effects. Students or teachers can enter multiple recordings up to 4 minutes total time, and these will play back in random for you to piece together your original pattern.



We have seen these been used for 'jabberwocky' style stories, for unpicking number sequences and puzzles, for drilling basic facts or for setting fast paced P.E. activities.

Teachers can even use them for step-by-step instructions for groups or individual students by setting playback to sequential rather than random.

Talking Photo Albums

Moving down the school to the juniors, there are still more gizmos and gadgets to help develop the oral language skills that underpin reading and writing.

Talking Photo Albums are a wonderful way of combining these skills. Simply insert drawings or photographs into the plastic wallets and record up to a 10 second message on every page to support the image / text. Drawings or photographs

can be changed as often as required and the 10 second messages can be re-recorded when needed.

For example a group can insert a photo sequence or presentation and each student can record the commentary for each page. Each individual voice message can be played back at any time, simply with a push of a button. Whole classes can create books and these can be left out for parents and other classes to peruse.



Story Sequencer

Along the same lines, there is a Story Sequencer that allows students or teachers to slot in up to six of their own images or words, record a corresponding 10 second message per slot, and then just press to play back.

Classes can create talking sto-



ries, class timetables, question and answer games or sequencing activities. One classroom that we visited was using it to create cartoons with voice-overs, which were continued week after week by a different group as part of their literacy task board.

Recordable Pegs



These pegs can either attach to a "washing" line running across your classroom ceiling or you can use the magnet to attach to any metal surface then simply press to play back your recording. Here are some ideas:

- Use for dens
- Talking number lines and timelines
- Clip next to pieces of work to hear a description
- Make a talking display
- Place near an activity so that children can follow instructions
- Take outside and use on fences
- Go on treasure hunts, listening to the clues each time you find a new peg

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