April 2005

Dear SENCO

I am writing to you to inform you of the two upcoming courses that AbilityNet are running in the eastern region in May 2005.

Please find enclosed information regarding:

"Successful Computing with a Physical Difficulty" – 12th May 2005

"Successful Computing with Dyslexia" – 19th May 2005

Both of these courses will provide you with a wealth of information and tools to give your students opportunities for greater independence, higher achievement and real inclusion.

The courses run from 10am to 4pm at our comfortable conference facilities in Papworth Everard, Cambs. Refreshments will be available throughout the day and lunch will also be provided. Each delegate will receive an extensive information pack to take away with them.

There are 16 places available for each day so please book early to avoid disappointment. If you require more information please do not hesitate to contact us on 01480 839091.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Roz Gale
Administrator

April 2005

SUCCESSFUL COMPUTING WITH A PHYSICAL DIFFICULTY
Thursday 12th May 2005 - 10:00 – 16:00 pm - Papworth Everard, Cambs

AbilityNet is the country's largest charitable organisation dedicated to helping people with all types of disabilities lead fulfilled and independent lives through the use of adaptive computer technology, in education, at home and in work.

Changes in legislation mean more and more pupils with SEN are being educated in mainstream schools. Physical access issues have, or are being covered by most schools, with ramps and special aids so that a person with the physical disability can get in and around the building. "Reasonable adjustment" to I.T. is not as well known about but is just as important a consideration.

"Successful Computing with a Physical Difficulty" is a course that will be of interest to anyone who works with pupils who have physical difficulties using a computer keyboard or mouse. This is a practical course with hands-on sessions, which will allow attendees to explore a range of ways to help pupils with physical difficulties. We will be demonstrating a range of products, adjustments and strategies, including many which are freely available.

A delegate who has attended the course will be able to help those with a physical difficulty obtain access to I.T., thereby improving their access to the curriculum and helping to unlock their academic potential. The course will certainly help you to improve the inclusion of your pupils with physical disabilities within your school.

At the end of this course attendees will be familiar with:

- A range of practical, freely available adjustments to resolve some of the commonest issues that occur when physical use of a computer keyboard or mouse is problematic
- A range of 'reasonable adjustments' to comply with DDA and SENDA legislation
- The options available through a variety of alternative keyboards and mice
- On screen keyboards, switch input systems and voice recognition
- Word prediction and on screen vocabularies

Who should attend?

SENCOs, LSAs, Headteachers, LEA Representatives and ICT Coordinators

To book, complete the booking form enclosed.

AbilityNet East – April 2005

April 2005

COMPUTERS AND DYSLEXIA - A one day seminar and workshop
Thursday 19th May 2005 – 10:00 – 16:00pm - Papworth Everard, Cambs

As we become more aware of how widespread dyslexia is and how limiting its effects can be, there is a need for earlier identification and more effective remedial action. Computers can help.

But there is also a need for dyslexic people of all ages to be able to express themselves fully and accurately, *despite* the dyslexia, *by-passing* the dyslexia, connecting ability more directly to an end result on paper. Computers can be an extremely effective tool in making this possible. A range of computer techniques, from the very simple to the very sophisticated, provides practical alternatives that can respond to the differences between individuals.

A computer, set up to meet an individual's needs, can be an effective alternative to pen and paper, enabling the user to write more quickly and more accurately ... and to have fun doing so. And the effects are not only seen on paper but also in the self-image and self-confidence of the child or adult concerned.

AbilityNet ... and Dyslexia.

AbilityNet is a charity whose aim is to make the benefits of computers available to people with disabling or limiting conditions. Through its national offices and regional partners AbilityNet provides a freephone information and advice line, individual assessments and awareness training.

Their independent, non-profit status enables them to evaluate and compare all available alternatives without bias. Their approach is practical and pragmatic, judging the value of an idea by its real usability rather than its technical sophistication.

In the field of dyslexia, AbilityNet has brought together a "tool kit" of ideas, approaches and software, from the use of facilities already available on standard computers but too little known, to modern voice recognition systems.

Course Content

The course consists of a seminar interlinked with hands-on sessions. There will be explanation and demonstration of a "dyslexia toolkit". Including:

- Why a computer can help ... and useful free "adjustments"
- Better spell checking and automatic correction ... without cost
- Effective options for presenting text on the computer screen ... without cost
- Useful help with homophones and other confusions
- Word prediction and word banks, Planning tools and mind mapping
- Scanning and optical character recognition
- The computer reading text back ... simple utility or more automated
- Voice recognition ... potential and reality, current systems and criteria for choice

The hands-on work will be in groups of three or four. Each group will work on three areas, reinforcing knowledge through direct experience. The hands on sessions will be focussed around free and cheap solutions, word banks and multi function packages.

Comments from participants in previous dyslexia seminars

"I had no idea what was possible."
"... practical ideas, even for computer-phobes ..."
"I will be able to pass on some terrific ideas to colleagues".

Aims

The day is designed to give participants a working understanding of computer-based "get round" techniques for dyslexia. It will enable participants to:

- Ensure that facilities that are available on basic computers are used and not missed
- Help individuals to choose and use the techniques most effective for them
- Make good use of support and advice offered by charities, statutory bodies and suppliers
- Develop policy and practice to bring practical help to bear.
- Implement a range of `reasonable adjustments' towards compliance with DDA and SENDA legislation.

Who should attend?

- Special Educational Needs Coordinators
- Learning support and teaching assistants
- Representatives of LEA Support Services
- Disability Coordinators
- Teachers and tutors
- Educational psychologists
- Social workers, probation officers and others with a special interest
- Representatives of groups working with dyslexia

To book, complete the booking form enclosed.

AbilityNet East – April 2005

AbilityNet

Adapting Technology ▪ Changing Lives

AbilityNet Course Booking Form

Course fees per delegate £125 (exc vat)

Please tick the appropriate box:
Which sector are you from?

Education ☐   Healthcare/Community/Charity ☐   Commercial / Business ☐

Other (please specify)……………………………………………………………………………

How did you find out about the course? (Please circle one)

☐ Your Manager / Colleague   ☐   Literature Received   ☐
                              Advertisement

☐ Exhibition   ☐   Web   ☐   Other / Please specify: ....

Please return to: Course Administrator, AbilityNet, PO Box 94, Warwick, CV34 5WS OR
Tel: 01926 312847 Fax: 01926 407425 Email: courses@abilitynet.org.uk

Please book me a place on the following course: Date ....

Location ....Course title ....

☐   I enclose a cheque for £…………….. made payable to AbilityNet

☐   Please invoice – payment by BACS/cheque

☐   Please invoice – payment by credit/debit card (we will call for the card details)

Surname ....First Name ....

Job Title ....Name of Employer ....

Employer's Address...

....

Postcode ....Tel Number ....

Fax Number ....Email…...

Have you any special requirements?...

Authorised for payment by: PLEASE PRINT

Name ....

Job Title ....Your Purchase Order Ref..

Signature ....

If you do not want to be included in future mailings about AbilityNet services please tick this box &
send it back. ☐

AbilityNet SEN Relevant Courses

This year AbilityNet East have a series of courses that aim to help those involved in the Education sector deal with potential problems faced when dealing with SEN students and ICT. Delegates will be introduced to new adaptive technology and shown how to use it.

- **Using ICT to Support Literacy Difficulties among Primary Pupils**: some primary level pupils exhibit literacy difficulties which are commensurate with the early signs of dyslexia. Unfortunately, the needs of younger pupils are often not catered for on standard dyslexia courses. This course, however, hopes to address that balance by focusing on primary level pupils and the role that technology can have in both addressing the literacy difficulties and giving them the tools to bypass their problems. The morning session of the course looks at the didactic role that computers can play in addressing spelling, reading and writing difficulties, whereas the afternoon session looks at get round solutions which can help these students achieve success despite their difficulties.

    9th June 2005 – Papworth Everard

- **Successful Computing on a Low Budget**: this course is a great introduction to adaptive technology and looks at cost effective solutions to ICT access. At the end of the course you be able to go away with simple, practical adjustments that can be made, to make the computer safer and easier to use.

    20th October 2005 – Papworth Everard

- **Improving Curriculum Access through ICT for SEN Students**: There should be no barriers to any pupil with a disability being able to fulfill their potential. A computer can help students regardless of their physical, sensory, reading or writing difficulties. This course aims to give a broad, impartial overview of the technology available, offering practical solutions to help meet the requirements of SENDA and the SEN Framework within a school setting.

    10th November 2005 - Papworth Everard

- **Successful Computing with Dyslexia or other Reading & Writing Problems**: the course will equip delegates with information on software & hardware that helps those who have a reading & writing difficulty. At the end of the course, you will have a greater awareness and practical knowledge of how the computer can be used to help address reading and writing difficulties.

    17th November 2005 – Papworth Everard