

Tuesday 2 November, 2021 9.00am - 2.45pm**For MoE, RTLB, RTLit, LSC, SENCOs, teachers, TA's and families****Venue:** Ministry of Education—Learning Support, 49 Lincoln Road, Masterton**Cost:** \$50 (family members free of charge)

This cost includes a two year one user licence of both Flashcards and StoryMaker. Numbers will be limited to allow for individual support, so register early. Family members wishing to use the software can run a trial for 30 days and then purchase the software online.

About the software

This interactive software has been developed for students who have significant language delay in reading and writing. Success has been achieved with those who are non-verbal or who have failed to make progress with literacy skills. You can quickly create customised reading and writing materials using photos and videos so that students are highly motivated by personalised stories based on their interests. The stories can be printed.

The software has been developed collaboratively with specialist teachers, speech language therapists, other professionals and parents from multiple countries. This development has been pragmatic and responsive to those using the software. The software is multisensory appealing to visual, auditory and kinaesthetic learning styles. Users have the ability to design resources to meet the students skill levels and motivate them with success.

Our background

Trevor is the computer whizz who has designed the software along with son-in-law, Reuben. Helen is a trained primary school teacher with many years' experience teaching students with special needs. Trevor and Helen have a son with an intellectual disability and complex learning needs, who began their interest in language learning for those who have difficulties.

They make the software available at very affordable prices and are motivated to see more students succeeding in gaining literacy and spoken language skills. They can advise on suitable laptops and can assist in deals for affordable devices with PB Technology.

**Software Titles**

StoryMaker - allows students and those working with them to collaboratively and quickly create personalised interactive stories using pictures from various sources including the internet and cell phones and also incorporating videos from these or other sources. Students can recall prior experiences through their saved stories and share these with others. It also enables you to create activities to enhance and test comprehension. Students can write their own stories using customised sets of words which can be dragged and dropped to create sentences.

Flashcards - an interactive learning tool for developing sight vocabulary and a great way to build vocabulary in categories. This is reinforced with lotto boards which can be picture to picture or word to picture.

Alphabet - teaches the Alphabet through sounds, pictures, games and videos.

MoveAhead Spelling - learning to spell in an interactive and non-stressful way.



Bring either a Windows laptop or a tablet PC with Windows 7 or later installed, or for touch screen laptops Windows 10 is required. Bring a mobile phone or camera (tablet camera will do) with relevant photos and video for use in books and flash cards and also include a cable to connect the phone to your computer. The software will also run on a Mac computer if Microsoft Windows is installed. Morning tea and hot drinks are provided, but bring your own lunch.

To Register <http://moveaheadsoftware.com/training-days>. Payment required to complete registration, details on the webpage.

For more information contact Helen: helen@mahead.com, ph 0212539321.

What others are saying about this software



I was very fortunate to be introduced to Storymaker Software in 2016 when I was a specialist teacher at my school. I was teaching a Year 3 boy who had not moved from reading level 3 (red) since he was 5 years of age. For writing he would draw dinosaurs. After 6 months of using the Storymaker software this student was reading at Level 12 and creating stories about dinosaurs, Batman and his naughty sheep on his farm called Boris. The ability to create personalised stories that were meaningful for this pupil made him engaged and motivated to learn.

Since 2016, I have used this software with a variety of pupils with incredible success from Year 1 to Year 5. I just love watching children being supported by an adult to be able to read and write with success. The Storymaker software uses predictive text which helps the child to encode and decode - skills that are needed for both writing and reading.

The ability to create personalised stories by using pictures and video clips to stimulate ideas is very motivating for students. The functions of clicking on words and recreating the story like a high tech cut up story is fantastic for re-learning and retention. When the Storymaker software reads back the story it is slow, clear, and in a kiwi accent. When there is new vocabulary that the software doesn't know such as a child's name it then gives the child an opportunity to record their voice in the actual story. Students love this.

I would highly recommend this software for any learners that are needing support with literacy.

Sarah Vink

RTLb, Dunedin August 2021

Storymaker is a highly engaging programme that the children enjoy using. The quality and quantity of writing that is produced is beyond what the children could write in their books. The programme produces interactive activities from their writing so the activities are relevant to the children.

Helen is incredibly generous with her time and will volunteer to come into school and work alongside the child, teacher and/or teacher aide to enhance the learning.

Andrea Thorburn

DP and SENCO at North East Valley Normal School August 2021