

**RERC-ACT R4 Project:
Assistive Technology Enhancement of Written Expression for Individuals
with Neurodevelopmental Disorders**

Purpose: AT Intervention Efficacy Study

The purpose of this project is to carry out an intensive training program in subjects with a broad range of neurodevelopmental disabilities to assess the efficacy of assistive technology intervention.

Background

There is a lack of research efficacy concerning the use of assistive technology in individuals with cognitive deficits. Approximately 3% of the U.S. population has mental retardation with varied etiologies. The most common inherited cause of mental retardation is fragile X syndrome, whereas the most common chromosomal cause is Down Syndrome. In addition, approximately 1 in 100 individuals in the general population is affected with fetal alcohol spectrum disorders, perhaps the most common know cause of mental retardation.

Current Information

In this study, we have targeted the use of two assistive technology programs developed by Don Johnston, Inc., CO:Writer® 4000 and Write: OutLoud®, which can enhance the written language expression of those with mental retardation. These tools have not been appropriately utilized among individuals with neurodevelopmental disorders, and our research will help to rectify this problem.

Our poster will present an update of the subjects in the study, including research issues, subject diagnoses and diagnostic trends as assessed through baseline and follow-up testing.

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