Using Assistive Technology to Enhance the Learning of Basic Literacy Skills for Students with Learning Disabilities

By

Faridah Serajul Haq & Hala Elhoweris
Faculty of Education, United Arab Emirates University
Department of Special Education, Faculty of Education, UAEU, Al-Ain City, UAE,
P. O. Box 15551 Email: halae@uae.ac.ae

Abstract

An important component of special education is the provision of quality education for all students with disabilities irrespective of the severity of the disability. Quality education in both primary and secondary schools emphasize access to the general and functional curriculum with appropriate adaptations and modifications made to promote and enhance learning. Almost all students with learning disabilities are taught basic literacy skills which are essential for independent living and employment. However, for many students learning reading, writing, and mathematical skills is challenging because of difficulties related to memory, language deficits, and poor study skills. Therefore, this paper attempts to highlight the potential of using assistive technology in the classroom to improve students with learning disabilities academic performance. Additionally, this paper will provide guidelines for all teachers, specifically for selecting appropriate assistive technology to meet their students’ individual needs.

Keywords: Assistive Technology, Learning Disabilities, Literacy, Mathematics, Instruction