

## Where to find free (or nearly free) software to support the education of pupils with additional support needs

The following list details sources of free (or nearly free) software and guides that can be used to support the education of pupils with additional support needs. We acknowledge the work of Becta in producing an earlier version of the software described below.

### AbilityNet

Information sheets on using ICT to provide access to education. There are also skill sheets on configuring systems to ensure accessibility. <http://www.abilitynet.co.uk/>

### Ace Centre – North

Information sheets on augmentative and alternative communication (AAC), switches and general access, aimed at teachers, carers and parents. <http://www.ace-north.org.uk/>

### ACE Centre Advisory Trust

Demo versions of ACE Centre access software, a free version of Switch Access to Windows plus Windows shareware. <http://www.ace-centre.org.uk/html/software/software.html>

### Adaptive Technology Resource Centre

Part of the University of Toronto, this research centre provides a wide range of information and resources including the web accessibility verifier 'A Prompt'. <http://www.utoronto.ca/atrc/rd.html>

### Adobe

Information on how to make Adobe Acrobat files accessible plus plug-ins to enable access to this commonly found file format. <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/solutionsacc.html>

### Advisory Unit: Computers in Education

Concept Keyboard overlay exchange. Download files to run on Concept software from the Advisory Unit. <http://www.advisory-unit.org.uk/ck/ckoe4.html>

### Assist-IT

Resources, demos and free software, e.g. text readers, games, access tools. <http://www.assist-it.org.uk>.

### BBC Education Scotland

Lots of online games and activities for school and home, Bitesize revision guides. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/scotland/education/>

### Brillsoft

Demos of single switch games designed for switch users. <http://www.brillsoft.com/>

## CALL Centre

Downloadable communication, BoardMaker, Clicker and PowerPoint resources.  
<http://www.callcentrescotland.org/resources>.

## CBeebies

BBC web site for younger children with lots of online games. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/>

## ChecktheMap

Fun activities no need to download, play direct from the site, loads are accessible at  
[http://www.checkthemap.org/links/fun\\_sites](http://www.checkthemap.org/links/fun_sites)

## Children's BBC (CBBC)

BBC web site for children with lots of online games. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/>

## Crick Software Ltd.

Download free Clicker Grids, CClosePro and Wordbar files. A special section is available on access and communication. You need software from Crick Software to run these files.  
<http://www.cricksoft.com/cgfl/> and <http://www.learninggrids.com/uk/>

Though the grids may be switch accessible they are unlikely to have been created for switch users so the cells might scan in a funny order and would need to be changed.

## Dolphin Computer Access

Free software from Dolphin of versions of their products, plus utilities.  
<http://www.dolphinuk.co.uk/download/index.htm>

## Don Johnston Software

Download files that run with this company's Buildability and Co:Writer software.  
<http://www.donjohnston.com/downloads/downloads.htm>

## Dyslexic.com

Suppliers of hardware and software for dyslexic people. Excellent site with information and downloadable demos. <https://www.dyslexic.com/>

## Granada Learning/SEMERC

SEMERC information service. Access demos and activity sheets.  
[http://www.granada-learning.com/special\\_needs/](http://www.granada-learning.com/special_needs/)

## IBM

IBM accessibility centre, plus newsletters and trial versions of Microsoft software.  
<http://www-3.ibm.com/able/>

## Inclusive Technology

A selection of free switch and other access software plus free images from some of their software. Extensive free information service. <http://www.inclusive.co.uk/downloads/downloads.shtml>

### **Intellitools Inc**

Activity exchange area detailing how teachers have used Intellitools products. Materials available for all their products at <http://www.intellitools.com/>

### **Interactive Resources Primary Games**

Online games for school and home. These work really well with an interactive whiteboard. <http://www.primarygames.co.uk/>

### **Learning and Teaching Scotland**

Activities, clipart and other resources. <http://www.ltscotland.org.uk>

### **Kingsbury School**

Great switch-accessible site, with lots of activities and downloads for switch users. <http://www.sldonline.org/Kingsbury/Kingsbury.htm>

### **Meldreth Manor**

Meldreth Manor School has downloadable PowerPoint and Illuminatus switch activities. <http://atschool.eduweb.co.uk/meldreth/textandinfo/comp.html>

### **Microsoft**

Accessibility resources, tutorials and information on how to use access facilities in Microsoft products. Information is available in accessible formats. <http://www.microsoft.com/enable/default.htm>

### **OneSwitch**

Ideas, games and resources for art, music and playing video and computer games using switches. More than 70 switch-accessible games now available. <http://oneswitch.org.uk/>

### **Project Gutenberg**

Over 13,000 free downloadable books (e.g. classic novels, textbooks) in text, HTML, PDF and MP3 formats. <http://www.gutenberg.net/>

### **Northern Grid for Learning**

Wide range of free information plus free software. It includes SENSwitcher, a suite of programs designed to help teach early ICT skills to people with profound and multiple learning difficulties, those who need to develop skills with assistive input devices and very young children new to computers. A free CD-ROM is also available. <http://www.northerngrid.org/sen/dbsenmain.htm>

Priory Woods is a great site for switch accessible resources. Check out switch operated pop videos. It's constantly changing so it pays off to keep a regular check.

<http://www.priorywoods.middlesbrough.sch.uk/resources/program/programres.htm>

### R J Cooper

Demos of single switch games designed for switch users plus a small selection of free software.

<http://www.rjcooper.com/index.html> Go to the free page where you'll find Battle of the Gods and Reign of the Flowerpots.

### Simsoft

Single switch games; demos available. <http://www.hsj.com/index.htm/>

### Softease

Links to many web sites with downloadable TextEase activities and resources.

<http://www.softease.com/externalres.htm>

### Trace Centre

Contains an area called 'Designing more usable computers and software'. This has technical information plus some downloads (free and shareware).

[http://trace.wisc.edu/world/computer\\_access/index.html](http://trace.wisc.edu/world/computer_access/index.html)

### Widgit Software Ltd

Downloadable software, worksheets and guides to use with Widgit products.

<http://www.widgit.com/>

### And more...

#### Arcess

Three free accessible computer games. Alien invasion is really good. <http://www.arcess.com/>

#### Flash format games

Great classic games on the web. They're in Flash format so you'll need the flash plug-in for them to work (most computers will have this installed but otherwise you can download it from a link at the top of the page). <http://www.80smusiclyrics.com/games.html>

#### Harry Potter

Play Quidditch with switches! <http://harrypotter.warnerbros.com/home.html>

#### Shockwave

Free on-line games (with adverts). <http://shockwave.comm>

#### Miniclip.com

More free on-line games, with adverts. These games are really good for co-operative games: switch user clicks to fire and other child sets things up. Some good cooperative games include Canon fire, Ski jump and Bug on a wire. <http://miniclip.com>

### Mac Users

Really great switch games, colour book and CD player. <http://www.switchintime.com>

### NAACE Primary (formerly MAPE)

Downloadable educational primary activities and games. <http://www.mape.org.uk/activities>.

### SEN Teacher Resources

Activities, links and resources. <http://www.senteacher.org/>

### University of Virginia Electronic Text Centre

Over 2,100 free downloadable books (e.g. classic novels, textbooks, the Bible) in text, HTML and PDF formats. <http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/ebooks/>