

Chapter 11: Use of Technology for Literacy Learning

Teachers are faced with a bewildering array of possible technological applications for their literacy classrooms. They need to understand the range of technology available, how to evaluate the different applications, and how to make technology an integral part of core learning.

Among the many technological tools that can be applied to literacy instruction are instructional transparencies, television programs, audiotapes, videotapes, CD-ROMs, DVD-ROMs, videodiscs, and other computer applications. Various combinations of technological tools are also used for multimedia applications. These tools can be used to present information and to allow students to do research and create presentations and written products. Computers are used in literacy instruction for word processing; for desktop publishing; to access databases, electronic books, electronic reference works, and the Internet; for electronic communications such as electronic mail, electronic mailing lists, electronic bulletin boards, and electronic videoconferencing; for computer-assisted instruction, including drill-and-practice, tutorial, simulation, and educational game programs; for computer-managed instruction; and for multimedia applications for classroom presentations and projects.

There are computer applications and materials that make possible the participation of students with special needs. Synthetic speech and large print on computer screens and printouts, as well as special input devices and output systems, are available today.