



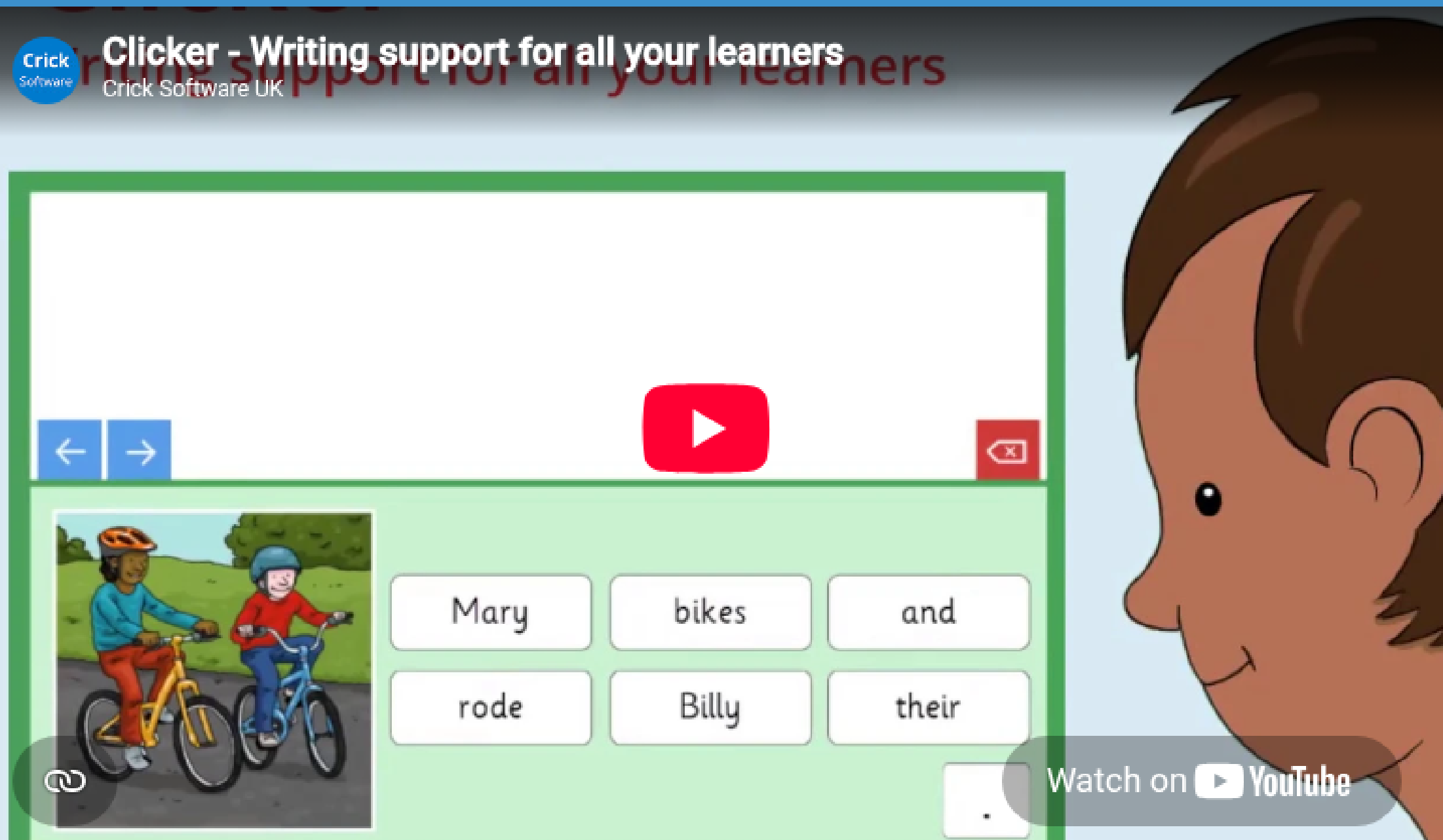
ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY: CLICKER

CLICKER

CrickSoftware

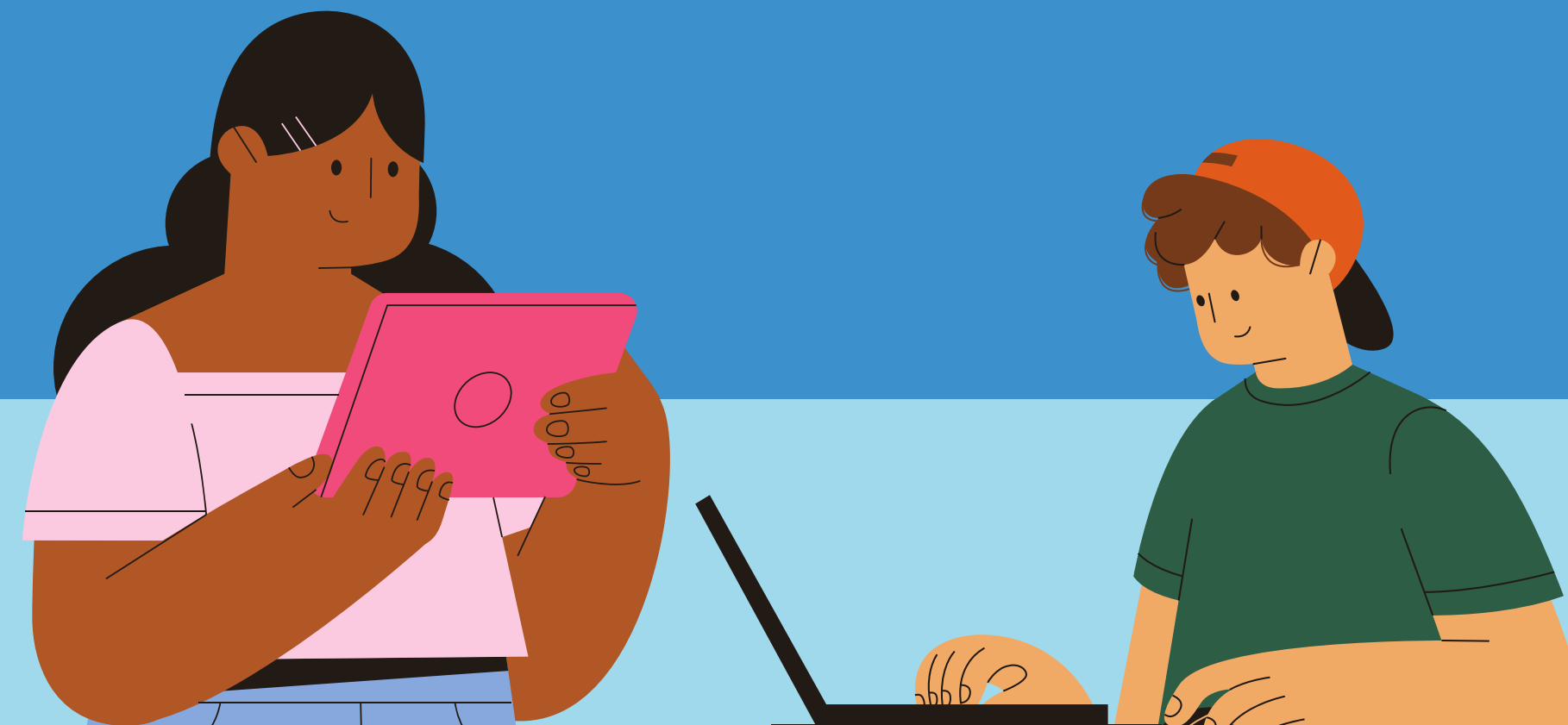
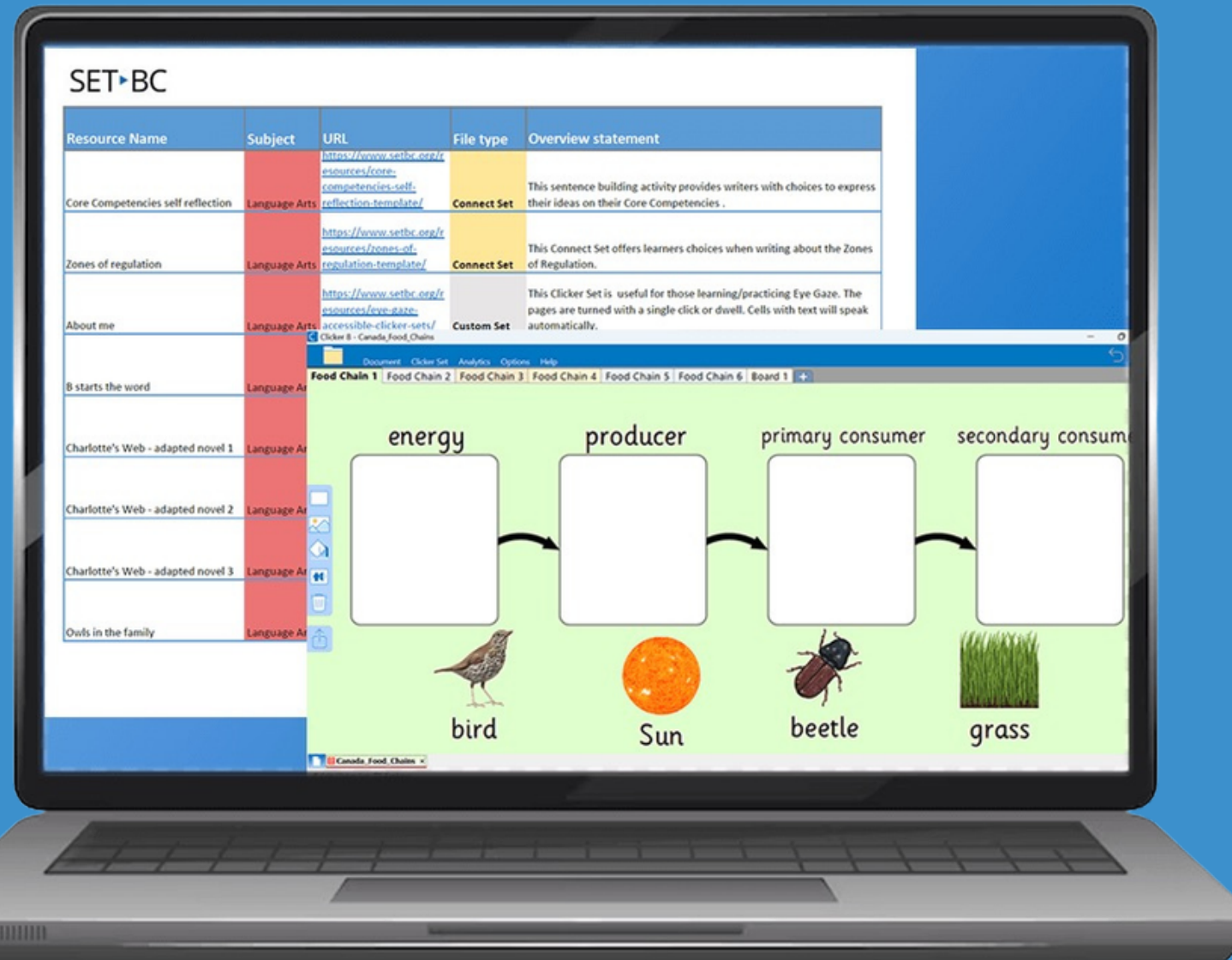
Clicker is an assistive technology that combines a user-friendly word processor with literacy support tools to help students develop their reading and writing skills. Although it is commonly used in elementary classrooms, it can also support older students who benefit from additional reading and writing assistance. Clicker uses picture supports (symbols), writing grids, and sentence-building activities. Crick Software also offers DocsPlus, which is designed for older students with word processing and essay writing.

Watch the video to learn more

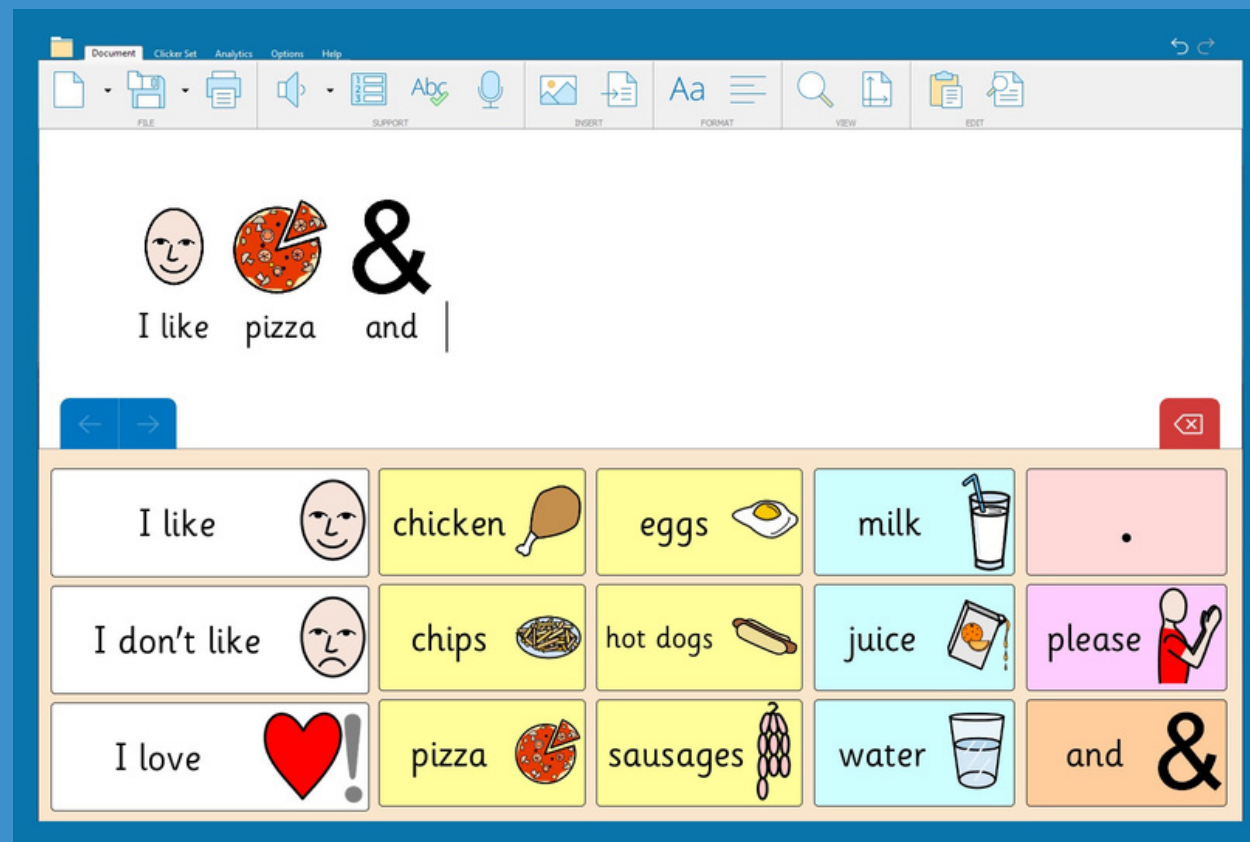


OVERVIEW

- Clicker can be used on Windows, Mac, iPad and Chromebook devices.
- Includes word prediction, speech-to-text, text-to-speech, and picture-supported writing.
- Various subscription options: by school, district-wide, one-to-one support.
- Commonly used in BC Schools
- Allows teachers to create or adapt activities (Clicker Sets) to match students' learning goals and curriculum outcomes.
- SET-BC Resources: Provides a searchable bank of ready-made Clicker Sets connected to the BC curriculum, allowing teachers to easily access and adapt literacy activities for students.
- Clicker supports inclusive practices by providing multiple ways for students to access and demonstrate learning, aligning with Universal Design for Learning principles (CAST, 2024).



BENEFITS

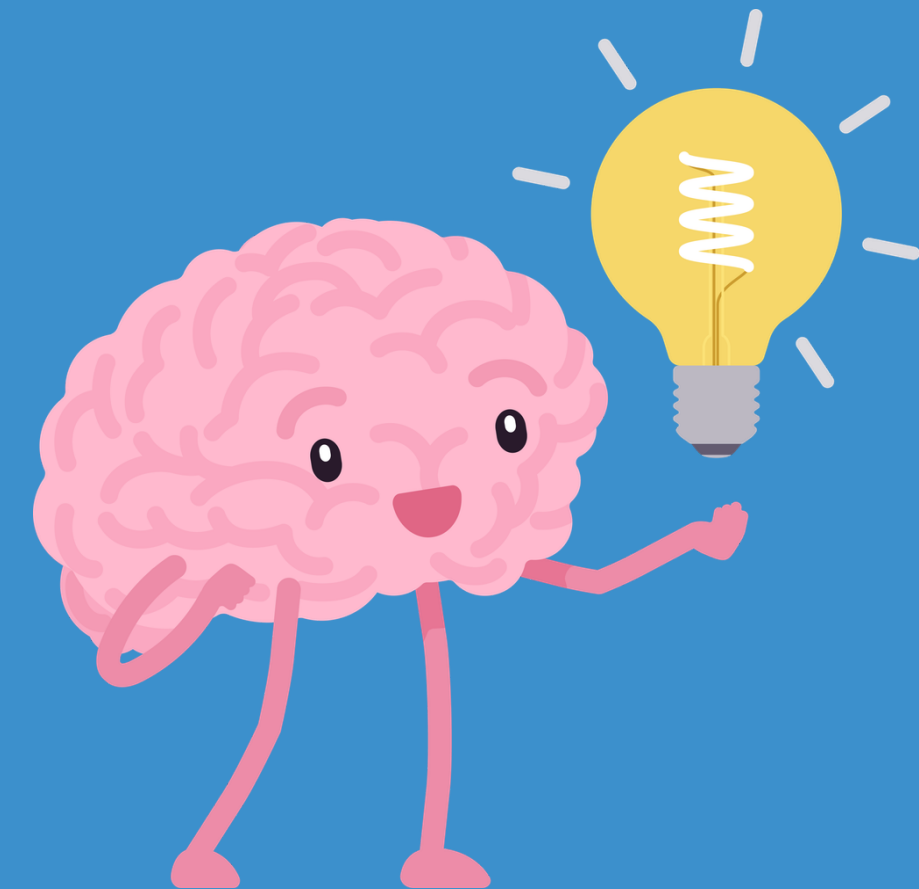


- Students with learning disabilities who need support with reading, spelling, or written expression.
- Students with dyslexia who benefit from tools such as text-to-speech and word prediction.
- Students with autism who may benefit from visual supports, structured writing activities, and predictable routines.
- Students with communication needs who require alternative ways to express their ideas.
- Emerging readers and writers who need scaffolding to develop literacy skills.
- English Language Learners (ELLs) who benefit from picture supports, vocabulary development, and language assistance
- licker allows students to create written work while using supports such as speech features, pictures, and structured writing activities to build early reading and writing skills (Parette et al., 2008).



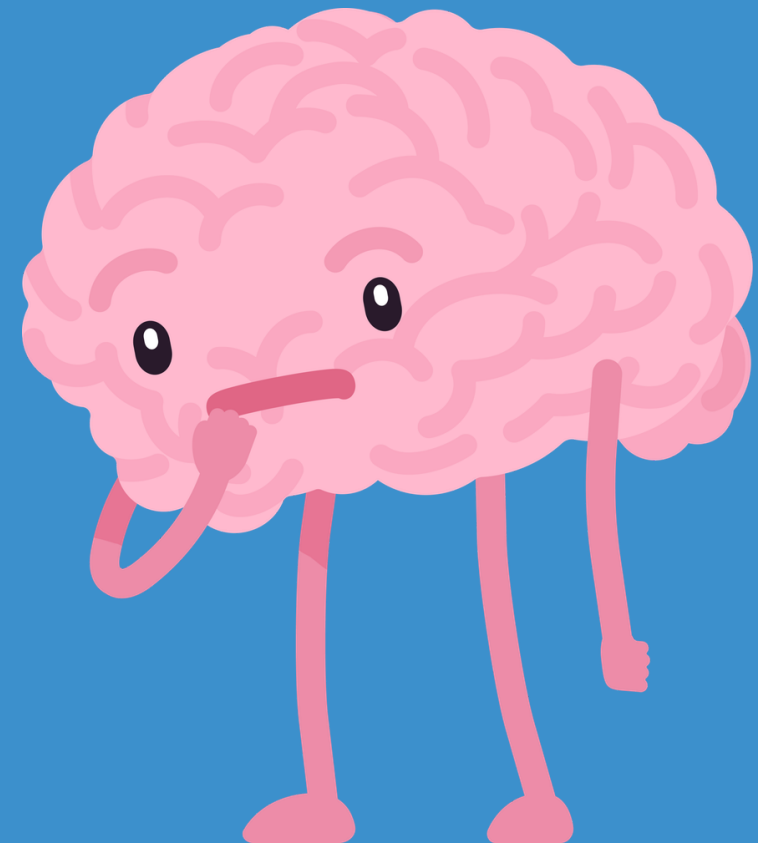
STRENGTHS & ADVANTAGES

- Word prediction
- Text-to-speech: Reads text aloud to support reading comprehension and allow students to hear their writing.
- Picture supports: Uses symbols and images to support vocabulary development and help students generate ideas.
- Writing grids and sentence support: Provides structured templates and sentence-building activities for students who need scaffolding.
- Customisable Clicker Sets: Teachers can create or adapt activities to match individual student needs and curriculum goals.
- Child-friendly interface
- SET-BC resources: Provides BC teachers with ready-made Clicker Sets aligned with curriculum outcomes



DISADVANTAGES & CHALLENGES

- **Cost and access:** Clicker requires a paid licence, and schools may need to consider funding, device availability, and access for all students who need it.
- **Learning curve**
- **Teacher preparation time**
- **Technology dependence**
- **Limited suitability for advanced writers:** The child-friendly interface and visual supports may not be appropriate for older students who need more sophisticated writing tools.
- **Risk of over-reliance**
- **Not a replacement for literacy instruction:** Clicker supports writing development but does not replace explicit instruction in spelling, grammar, reading, or writing skills.
- **Requires individualisation**
- **Although Clicker shows potential for supporting literacy development, more research is needed to understand how effective it is for different students, ages, and classroom environments (Parette et al., 2008).**



WOULD I USE THIS TECHNOLOGY AS A TEACHER?

Yes, I would consider using Clicker as an assistive technology in my classroom, particularly for students who experience barriers with reading and writing.

- Before using Clicker, I would first assess the student's needs and consider simpler built-in tools, such as text-to-speech, voice typing, and word processing supports available through Google accounts.
- Clicker could provide additional literacy support through features like word prediction, picture cues, and writing scaffolds.
- In a secondary classroom, I would also consider whether Clicker is age-appropriate or whether a more advanced option, such as DocsPlus, would better meet the student's needs.



RESOURCES

CAST. (2024). Universal Design for Learning Guidelines. <https://udlguidelines.cast.org/>

Crick Software. (n.d.). Clicker: Literacy software for learners. <https://www.cricksoft.com/clicker\>
Special Education Technology British Columbia. (n.d.). Clicker. SET-BC._
<https://www.setbc.org/resources/clicker-curriculum-resources/>

Parette, H. P., Hourcade, J. J., Dinelli, J. M., & Boeckmann, N. M. (2008). Using Clicker 5 to enhance emergent literacy in young learners. *Early Childhood Education Journal*, 36(4), 355–363.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10643-008-0288-6>

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