

# Support the use of digital text as a learning tool

A suggestion for implementing the strategy

'Support independent access to learning

materials' from the Guide: [Digital](#)

[technologies](#)

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## **Includes:**

Benefits at Parkvale Primary

Offer digital versions alongside print

Suggestions for using text-to-speech

Text-to-speech tools

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Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Digital technologies](#)

Strategy: [Support independent access to learning materials](#)

Suggestion: [Support the use of digital text as a learning tool](#)

Date

20 January 2019

Link

[www.inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/digital-technologies/support-the-use-of-digital-text-as-a-learning-tool](http://www.inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/digital-technologies/support-the-use-of-digital-text-as-a-learning-tool)

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## Benefits at Parkvale Primary

Teachers explain how a digital writing environment removes barriers to literacy. It increases engagement and enables students to demonstrate hidden skills and talents (part of a longer video).

Source: [Enabling e-Learning \(NZ\)](#) Closed Captions

Source:

[Enabling e-Learning \(NZ\)](#)

<http://elearning.tki.org.nz/Teaching/Curriculum/Learning-areas/English/A-1-1-netbook-programme-makes-a-difference-for-all-learners>



Play video

Video hosted on Vimeo <http://vimeo.com/64591489>

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## Offer digital versions alongside print

Students can customise digital text to suit their needs and preferences.

- ▲▲ The style, size, and colour of fonts and background colours can be adjusted to enable easy reading.
- ▲▲ A text-to-speech tool can be used to provide a listening or read-along option to support understanding.
- ▲▲ Embedded supports, including definitions and background information, are easily accessible.
- ▲▲ Text can be accessed or revisited anywhere with Internet access, removing time and distance restrictions.

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## Suggestions for using text-to-speech

Encourage the use of text-to-speech across the curriculum.

- ▶▶ Listen and read along with unfamiliar texts to develop reading fluency.
- ▶▶ Access texts beyond the students' reading level.
- ▶▶ Listen to audio while doing another activity, such as exercise, travelling, or resting the eyes.
- ▶▶ When editing writing, select sections of text and listen back for errors and fluency.

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## Text-to-speech tools

Offer free text-to-speech tools to all students across the curriculum.

- ▲▲ [Natural Reader download](#) – This is a floating toolbar. Selected text will post into toolbar window. Text is highlighted in short sections and read aloud. It can sync with Google Docs.
- ▲▲ [Natural Reader Online TTS](#) – To use: upload a document, highlight text in short sections, which will be read aloud. It can sync with Google Docs.
- ▲▲ [Mac text to speech](#) – A built-in text to speech program. It "speaks" selected text in all applications including text on internet pages.
- ▲▲ [Read and Write for Google Docs](#) – This toolbar opens at the top of a Google Docs page. Selected text is highlighted yellow. Each word is tracked in blue as it is read aloud. Note: After 30 days of registering, premium features are reduced and users have access to the basic TTS tool.

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## Useful resources

Universal Design for Learning iPad  
strategies: Text-to-speech

Publisher: Kit Hard

[Visit website](#)

Cross curricula apps

Publisher: Allannah King

[Visit website](#)

How text-to-speech technology can help  
journalists avoid copy errors

Read time: 5 min

Publisher: Poynter Institute

[Visit website](#)

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