Keyboard Assessment Guide

Quick Guide

Observation

Investigate...

The user can hit keys on the keyboard but...

...often hits the wrong key seating and positioning

vision

keyguard

increasing input acceptance time

expanded / overlay keyboard with big keys

turn off key repeat, or increase repeat time and ...gets letters repeated by mistake

delay

...tremors or hits the key several times increase post-acceptance delay

...can't hold two keys down at once 'Sticky' keys

...has difficulty knowing when a key

has been pressed 'Key beeps'

...suffers pain when typing seating and positioning

wrist rests

Dvorak/ergonomic layout

ergonomic keyboard

voice recognition

'word prediction' software to reduce keystrokes

...can't reach across the whole keyboard seating and positioning

arm supports

small laptop-size keyboard

miniature keyboard



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...has the use of one hand only one handed keyboard layout

chording keyboard

...cannot see the keys clearly seating and positioning

lighting

high-contrast key stickers

expanded keyboard

'chording' or Braille keyboard

on-screen keyboard

voice recognition

...types very slowly practice, using appropriate software to teach

keyboard familiarity

'word prediction' or 'abbreviation expansion'

software

...is not literate overlay keyboard with pictures or symbols

on-screen keyboard with pictures or symbols

using a symbol-based VOCA as a keyboard

The user cannot use fingers, hands or feet

to operate the keyboard... seating and positioning

vision

hand/finger/wrist splint

hand-held pointer

head or chin pointer

voice recognition

expanded or overlay keyboard operated by knuckle,

fist or foot

on-screen keyboard access by pointing device or

switches

Morse Code