

Inclusion Times

**Technology for
Children & Youth with
Disabilities**

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FROM INCLUSION TIMES

Afforda Speech SmartSpeaker

While walking through the Exhibitors Hall at Closing the Gap 2006 my eye caught a speaker attached to an Alphasmart 3000 which really piqued my curiosity. On closer examination it turned out that Afforda Speech had developed a text to speech solution for the Alphasmart 2000 and 3000 using a high quality DECTalk synthesizer. The Afforda Speech SmartSpeaker is

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battery operated (4 AA batteries) and plugs into the Printer port on the Alphasmart 2000 or 3000. I had a chance to evaluate the unit and after connecting the cable from the Afforda



SmartSpeaker could be just the right tool for

someone who needs to have high quality text to speech output. Readers of Inclusion Times can purchase the Afforda Speech SmartSpeaker from the company for an

introductory price of \$xxx dollars. For more information:

Speech SmartSpeaker to the printer port, I simply turned on the synthesizer, typed a phrase and pressed the Print button to have my text read aloud. The Afforda Speech SmartSpeaker uses some conventions that direct the DECTalk on what to say. To have the Afforda Speech SmartSpeaker recognize the text you want spoken you first Press the Tab key, then type your text with a period at the end of the sentence and then hit the Enter key. Now to have your text spoken you simply Press the Print key and your text is spoke with high quality DECTalk Speech output. There are built in software controls to allow one to adjust the volume and there is a jack to plug in a headset. The Afforda Speech SmartSpeaker worked as stated and comes with everything you need to get started. The Afforda Speech SmartSpeaker can read selected word, the selected paragraph or the entire text in the file. The With so many Alphasmart 2000 and 3000's available the Afforda Speech

introductory price of \$xxx dollars. For more information:

<http://www.affordaspeech.com/SS200.htm>