Intellikeys

My name is Lindsey and I’m at the Brazos Valley for Independent Living and this is our AT lab. I’m going to show you right now the Intellikeys keyboard. This is an adaptive keyboard; there are several different overlays and they are going to go over this screen here, this touch sensitive pad. And so we will be able to use several different overlays based on what a person may need, what may work best for them.

We’re going to go ahead and open a word document just so we can show you how this works. This is just an alternative to the standard sized Qwerty keyboard. It’s going to be a little bit bigger and there are going to be several different options for things we can do on here. This first overlay is the setup overlay. We just slide these things and they have little microchips in them so it will be recognized once it slides in there. All the lights lit up to let us know that it recognizes which overlay we’ve put in there. And from this overlay we can monitor all the settings. The whole design of the Intellikeys is that a person who maybe only is just going to use the keyboard with just one finger should be able to do everything. And so a lot of times with the standard Qwerty keyboard you’re required to hold down multiple keys at a time and that’s very hard for people who may struggle with finger dexterity and being able to do that. The shift key you know is something that you usually have to hold down when you’re pressing other things, but with this the shift key can be programed so that if I press the shift key I just have to press it once and then I can press like an H and it will be capitalized. And then the next letter I press will go back the shift will be deactivated and it will go back to being lower case and that’s called latching, that’s the latching option.

The different overlays are catered to different things. This is the web access overlay, so this is really helpful for using the internet. So we’ll put this one in and I will use this as my mouse pad. This right here is the mouse pad with the arrows, so I’ll use this then I’ll come down here to Internet Explorer. And you have click here and double click so I’ll just press once and I’ll press the double click so it will open the internet explorer. So all these keys up here at the top are helpful and they’re things that you typically see at the top of an internet explorer or web browser. We have back, forward, stop, refresh, home. We have keys for www so it just makes it a little bit easier. We’ll type in our web address and then you have endings up here: .com, .net, .gov, and we are .org and then I will hit enter. And so then it pulls up the website. So this is just very helpful for using the internet.

Other overlays that we have is the Qwerty overlay and this is just standard. It’s the same keyboard that we have right here, it has all of the function keys so this is for the people who are
more advanced and could use a Qwerty keyboard and maybe are doing composition. But it has everything that this keyboard has it’s just bigger and it’s easier to use because you can use the one finger you can do the shift. Then we have the basic writing overlay so it has the Qwerty keyboard but it just doesn’t have as much clutter as this keyboard does and maybe things that are not needed by this student.

This one is for maybe the lowest level, younger kids and it has the keyboard in alphabetical order and it has very minimum keys. A little bit of punctuation and it doesn’t even have the mouse on it. It just has the arrow keys.

And then also for more specific use, this is the math access. And this is for if you’re specifically working on math assignments, you’re in math class, if you maybe have up the onscreen calculator so you could be using this or if you had a word document open you could be entering math problems using this one. So we’ll put this in. So if I do 2 + 2 I could do = and then 4. So this is just real easy to be working on math problems.

And then on the backside of this one is the mouse access. And this is for if you are using maybe games or some sort of program that requires mostly mouse use to be doing everything. So it’s just very large and you will be able to move your mouse all the different directions just using a finger in case you struggle with using the mouse. Also another thing is these pictures show there is right click and left click and single click and double click all by just using one finger and just pushing it once. So those are the different overlays.