


Bett Round-up 2010

Did you make it to Bett earlier this month? It was as busy as ever with over 30,000 visitors. There was lots to see and here is a round up of some of the key products. First there were [my top ten products](#), ranging from Skin Deep by Northumbrian company Shoofly to My Zone, the nearest thing to a VLE for people with learning disabilities. 


Then there was [I Progress from Rising Stars](#). This was launched on stand at BETT and showed some really good resources for maths for gifted and talented pupils

Have a look at [my review](#) in the Guardian which is a round up of suppliers showing the latest products for pupil assessment and for literacy:

Those of you who are working with pupils with profound and multiple learning difficulties and communication difficulties, might like to read about Laura Cryer's class at Norfolk Park in Sheffield. They have built really good modules of work round a new piece of software called [Pretty Things](#).

Don't forget – next stop is the [Education Show](#) 4-6 March at the NEC in Birmingham.

Bett – The seminar ...

 Last week I did a seminar at BETT. Because of the heavy snow I was quite confident I would have an audience of about 6 people, duly bedraggled and damp, and would struggle to keep going in an atmosphere of gloom and despondency. well I was wrong. There were about a hundred people in total,

including those sitting on the floor and standing at the back and they were an interested, interesting and knowledgeable crew so I learnt some new stuff as well.

The seminar was called Technology and the Future of Literacy
It was based on the findings of the Niace book [Screens and Pages -Technology and Reading for Pleasure](#) •

It looked at iPods, e-readers, the internet and digital literacy and you can read a review [here](#).

I will be doing it all again at the Education Show at the National Literacy Association Campaign for Reading Conference: The Future of Reading? on Friday 5th March at 3pm

[Communication and PECs](#)

✘ There was so much information and so many new products for BETT this year that I could not include them all in my Guardian article but some of the best of the rest will feature on the blog over the next couple of weeks.

It seems that some parents have created wonderfully innovative solutions for communication. Speaks4me® was created for Callum who has severe autism and learning difficulties and cannot speak. It has images which the user drags and drops to form a “virtual” sentence Click on “Speak” and Speaks4me® will speak the words. It is similar to the Picture Exchange Communication System or PECS™; so most users will adapt to using it quite easily. <http://www.speaks4me.com/>

‘Logan was a great user of PECS, the well known picture ✘ exchange communication system, but he had no speech and I wanted him to be able to order his own burger when we went out at the weekend.’ said Glen Dobbs, who has a 12yr old son with

autism 'There was nothing on the market that was easy enough for Logan to use or robust enough to withstand the rough handling I knew he would give it' so says the creator of Logan ProxTalker. It is portable, very robust and easy to use, ticking all the boxes for use by people with autism, their families and school.

Logan Technologies is keen to set up some key user trials and like to hear from prospective customers who would like to try before they buy. To arrange to try a Logan ProxTalker or for more information contact sandra@logan-technologies.com or visit www.logan-technologies.co.uk

Here comes BETT

Kids have only just gone back to school and already BETT preparations are in full swing. Last week I was down in London at the BESA offices judging one of the awards. It was a great day out and I don't know what was better- the discussions with my fellow judges or the brilliant banquet at the floating Chinese restaurant afterwards.

<http://www.lotusfloating.co.uk/>