

Literacy Learning and Minspeak

Several literacy products are available from the Prentke Romich Company that support the teaching of literacy with the Unity program. Go to www.prentrom.com for more information on these programs.

- The ***Literacy Through Unity*** curriculum is designed to provide systematic instruction that integrates the learning of Unity with the teaching of literacy. Specifically, lessons support students in learning the meaning of the words on their communication device, how to say them and how to read them while using Unity. The curriculum consists of 3 different instructional components: Word Wall Lessons, Making Words with Icons lessons, and Making Words with Letters lessons. Each component is supported by 25 structured lessons and the package includes a CD that contains printable color support materials. Designed for use with Vantage, Vanguard and Pathfinder.
- The ***Unity Reading Project*** takes the core vocabulary available in the Unity MAP and breaks it up into 40 units of word banks. Practice sentences are also included for the user to practice the vocabulary in context. Included on this disc are all instructions and visual supports for ECO-14 Unity 45-, 84- and 144-location programs; Vantage and Vanguard Unity 45 Full and Unity 84 Sequenced; and Pathfinder Unity 128 Sequenced communication devices.

Many general resources are available on the subject of literacy development with individuals using AAC systems. The Center for Literacy and Disability Studies at the University of North Carolina is one source specifically focused on literacy development with individuals using AAC systems (<http://www.med.unc.edu/ahs/clds>). Accessible books are another resource available at <http://tarheelreader.org/> (Tarheel Reader).