Thinking outside of the box is exciting. Let’s take a tour of some low tech ways to support student needs.
Let’s begin by considering reading strategies. The first one is using color to support reading, attention and comprehension.
For some individuals, the issue is seeing versus reading. What is the challenge facing the student? For some individuals the time it takes for the brain to receive and process information is different for black text on white background versus a color background.
There has been a great deal of research that focused on using color to support reading, writing and attention. This slide provides some basic information.
The See it Right organization developed a test to determine if color filters really make a difference. This slide and the next slide illustrate how a student performed a writing task when provided with a color filter.
The difference is amazing.
The text on the left is what students were able to copy when looking at black text on a white background.
The right side is the work of the student 30 minutes later when they had a color filter.
Here we have a wide variety of color filters that can support student learning.
This slide highlights the use of a variety of colors of highlighters and erasable highlighters can assist in reading and study skills activities.
Students can use Highlighter Tape to accentuate text in books or places that can't be permanently altered. You can even write on the wide highlighter tape and use it like a post-it. Use Highlighter Tabs to index or mark books; they're like Post-it Tape Flags only better.
This slide showcases a vertical book stand. How many of you read with the material in a vertical orientation? Have you ever considered that your students might as well?
The EZ Book clip enables you to stand up any book by placing the device into the book’s spine. EZ!
Page Ups, whether homemade with Model Magic or purchased are another way of getting reading and copying material vertical.
Magnifying can assist students in attention and focus.

There are a wide array of magnifiers available through Onion Mountain Tech, the local office supply store or even the local craft store. Be sure to check out the embroidery aisle. You will be amazed.
There are a wide variety of pens on the market. Do you fuss at your students for sharpening their pencils to a nub! Stop! Many students with writing challenges have difficulty with longer shafts on pencils. See how the smaller pens help with the grip. Think outside of the box. Use the Onion Mountain website for their fabulous resources.
Specially designed paper can help kids who struggle taking class notes. A proficient student can take notes, creating an extra copy on an attached NCR paper. At the end of class, notes (original and copy) are available to the note taker and his struggling "buddy." Some writing paper comes with raised lines, tactile reminders for persons who need help staying within the lines as they write and knowing when to stop their pencil stroke. You can purchase a variety of paper online or make it yourself using the Microsoft Word Table feature.

Consider
Right Line Paper [www.proedinc.com/store](http://www.proedinc.com/store)
Stop-Go Right-Line paper [www.proedinc.com/store](http://www.proedinc.com/store)
Raised line graph paper [www.pocketfuloftherapy.com](http://www.pocketfuloftherapy.com)
LoTTIE [www.onionmountaintech.com](http://www.onionmountaintech.com)
Pencil grips are all over the place. Even using the small golf pencils is a benefit to some.
When the students are unable to use a standard writing utensil, do not be afraid to have them use rubber stamps!
This homemade slant board is just one way to assist with writing. Don’t forget about using large-empty D ring notebooks. They work great!

Check out this homemade slant board. It is amazing what a clipboard, shelf liner and an empty canister can do.
The stay put folder is one of my favorites. The shelf liner on the back prevents the folder from moving. Using removable glue stick holds the paper on the front. For those kids who need a cushioned surface, the folder works great, especially when they use it for organizing their papers.
The signature template provides a structured frame in which the student can write their name.
How about expanding the concept of the signature template to the whole page. Easy to use support. Keeps writing within the lines.

www.onionmountaintech.com
The editing tool supports proof reading through the CUPS program. Capitalization-Usage-Punctuation-Spelling. Students can learn a sequenced method for proof reading their work.
Spaceman has been around for a long time. This one is homemade for helping kids learn to space between words. Make your own or purchase from www.reallygoodstuff.com
Do you sit still when listening to a lecture? Do your kids sit/stay still during instruction? They may need a fidget. They come in all sizes colors and shapes. This is another chance to think outside of the box.
The Franklin Language Master series is a handheld electronic reference tool which includes a speaking dictionary & thesaurus. Please don’t forget the Franklin series. They’ve been around for a long time, but they are inexpensive, tried and true!
Portable writing tools or word processors are important for the struggling writer. The Writer is a basic word processor. The Fusion/Forte also includes a talking word processor. We are still using these products, although the advent of the tablet technology is fast becoming the front runner!
Timers are important in helping students learn time management skills. Check these out at Onion Mountain.
Resources

- www.onionmountaintech.com
- www.beacon-ridge.com
- www.reallygoodstuff.com
- Color Support: www.seeitright.com
- www.pencilgrip.com
- www.pocketfuloftherapy.com/writing/tools4.htm#Tri-go
Resources

- http://www.zippen.com/
- Portable Word Processors
  - The Writer
  - The Fusion
    - http://www.writerlearning.com