

Case Study, Grace Cipressi

Typio Saves Time for Teachers, Customizable for Students of All Abilities

[Pull Quotes...]

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– Grace Cipressi, Assistive Technology Instructor

“Every report card season I’m thankful Typio has such great reporting capabilities. During class, I’m normally running around the room attending to my students, and I don’t have time to record on paper what they’re doing each day. They often play many typing games in each class period. It’s great that everything I need is right there in the Teacher Dashboard.”

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“I definitely plan to continue using Typio next year. It has been super helpful, and I plan to use more features with my students in the future. I’m excited to see how the platform continues to evolve. The customer service of this product is above and beyond anything I’ve ever used before.”

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Grace Cipressi teaches assistive technology and computers to students who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind or visually impaired. The school, located in Philadelphia, has around 40 students, aged kindergarten through eighth grade.

Students of Differing Abilities and Needs, All in One Classroom

Grace knew she would have several students of varying ages, grade levels and abilities in her classroom simultaneously. Some students were completely deaf, others hard of hearing; several had varying degrees of vision loss, and some would become overstimulated due to too much occurring visually on the screen. According to the students' Individualized Education Program (IEP) requirements and school curriculum guidelines, each student needed to learn to type. So when Grace accepted the job in the summer of 2019 she began to evaluate typing programs.

"I started looking at the free typing games online," said Grace Cipressi, assistive technology instructor. "A lot of them had too many graphics, or the content moved too quickly. Many of the programs accessible to blind and visually impaired students rely on auditory feedback. I knew that wouldn't work with my students who were deaf or hard of hearing. I wanted to find one solution for everyone."

After a Google search focusing on typing programs for students who are blind or visually impaired, Grace found an article listing Typio in the top three options. None of the other programs that Grace tried matched Typio's ease of use, flexibility and versatility.

Typio, a Program That Does It All

Typio is a web-based typing platform equipped with a screen reader. It is compatible with multiple devices, from Mac to Windows computers, smartphones to tablets. In addition to the lessons included with the program, individualized lessons can be created. Teachers can easily monitor progress, and the software generates reports in mere seconds. Typio's creator, Joe Jorgenson, was willing to make modifications to suit the needs and abilities of Grace's students.

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Since Grace's students who were deaf could not yet read, Joe customized Typio by adding graphics to the spoken menu items. He included other visual cues to indicate what was spoken, so the students who were deaf could work independently alongside their visually impaired peers.

Time Saver and Self-Esteem Booster

The biggest benefit Grace found by using Typio was the time savings. Students could use Typio independently, working toward their IEP goals. This allowed Grace to walk freely around the classroom assisting students and answering questions. She could later check the Teacher Dashboard to see what each of her students learned in the program that day. Since the range of dates was customizable, she could track a student's progress over time.

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Throughout the year, Grace's students increased their typing capabilities using Typio. What's more, they found the program fun to use and confidence boosting in other areas of life.

"Typio is something they can do on their own, without help from anyone else," said Grace. "I've noticed that kids have become more confident and are excited about attending computer class."

Typio proved invaluable during distance learning due to COVID-19, as students could continue using it at home on family computers and smartphones. The program is located in the cloud and automatically saves results upon log out, so students were able to pick up where they left off, no matter the device used.

"I definitely plan to continue using Typio next year," said Grace. "It has been super helpful, and I plan to use more features with my students in the future. I'm excited to see how the platform continues to evolve. The customer service of this product is above and beyond anything I've ever used before."

[Sidebar]

Customer

Grace Cipressi, Assistive Technology Instructor, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Results

- Had 32 Typio accounts for her students
- Could generate reports for each student in seconds using Typio's Teacher Dashboard

- Modified Typio to meet the individualized needs of students, resulting in greater student engagement and learning
- Students used Typio during distance learning due to COVID-19, continuing at home from where they left off at school

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