



## Assistive technology with reading and writing

Many pupils with dyslexia or general difficulties in reading and writing find it difficult to cope with school work. The most important support the school can provide all pupils with is a good learning environment with **security**, clarity and a lot of time. Therefore technology and adaptations are necessary to enable pupils with difficulties in reading and writing to fulfil their studies.

### In school

At Störvreta School we offer our pupils the opportunity to use a computer during lessons in order to facilitate and compensate for their difficulties.

**Claro Read** is a highly efficient programme with speech synthesis to support pupils who struggle with reading and writing.

With Claro Read the pupils can easily scan a text, from a book, a paper or Internet, and listen to someone reading it for them. When writing own texts, a speech synthesizer speaks when words are written, letter by letter, word or sentence. Spell checking, word prediction and a glossary is also a good support.

Claro Read is user friendly for pupils of all ages, regardless of their ability or difficulties.

A **mouse scanner** is a scanner, small as a mouse. With a mouse scanner the pupil, or the teacher, can reduce the text amount to read just by pressing a scan button and dragging it over a part of the text. The text will then be read with the speech synthesizer in eg Claro Read.

This will make it easier for the pupil to fulfil the tasks.

Our pupils have also access to scanned textbooks in eg Maths, Geography, History and so on. That helps them to work more independently.

### At home

With the help of access to a speech synthesizer on your own computer, homework need no longer be a huge problem for pupils with dyslexia. The pedagogue scans the texts or tasks in school and mails it to him or her. A special license gives the pupil access to Claro Read on the



computer at home. So, the pupil opens the mail, listens to the text and will then, hopefully, do the homework.

These technical aids make our pupils feel more comfortable, independent and self-going in the school situation. It also affects their possibilities to reach their goals.

Keywords: technical aids, speech synthesizer, Claro Read, mouse scanner