

ELR-News

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Newsletter of ELR Software Pty Ltd

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ELR Software produces a range of computer programs designed by speech pathologists for speech, language & literacy intervention. Our programs may be used interactively within therapy sessions, to increase efficiency in service delivery, and to improve access to the Internet for people with special needs. We are also available as consultants to clinicians and research projects in the fields of literacy and accessibility issues associated with the Internet.

The aim of this newsletter is to inform you of developments and changes to our major products eLr (Extra Language Resources), Build-a-Sentence and Word Meanings. We welcome the opportunity for feedback and questions, and will be pleased to consider including reader contributions and announcements.

This Newsletter (and previous editions) as well as a "print-ready" PDF version of the current edition is available online at www.elr.com.au/news. An email version is also sent monthly to members of our mailing list (See [Subscribing/Unsubscribing](#)).

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1. Updated PCS Images in eLr

We have finally completed a long-promised update of all (almost 1,200) PCS (Picture Communication Symbols from Mayer-Johnson) used within eLr. The new symbols have "cleaner" lines and are often slightly less ambiguous. For the most part we've simply made direct substitutions, but the new image set offered many more choices so "people" symbols especially (such as man, woman, boy, girl etc) now use more natural looking characters.

We know this update was long overdue, and apologise to those users who've patiently informed us of the "awkwardness" of some of the symbols we've previously used. As brief background, eLr began in 2001 using the Australian COMPIC pictographs, which some of you may remember, and in subsequent years we offered a choice of COMPIC and/or PCS, Finally COMPIC was removed as an eLr choice but the programming compromises we'd made to ensure roughly comparable images for both persisted until this revision.

eLr continues to rely heavily on PCS for pictographic representation of many items and concepts because these symbols are widely used in the world of speech and language therapy. We now have the potential of using a large range of new PCS pictograph choices. If you happen to come across an image which you think could be better represented, we'd appreciate hearing from you.

2. Changes to eLr Subscriptions

From January 1st 2017 we have made 2 changes to our subscription processes which affect eLr subscribers.

1. eLr-Offline for Windows is provided on a USB key, instead of a CD, as many modern computers no longer even have a CD drive. The content of this installation USB key is essentially unchanged. If you absolutely need a CD version, please contact us.
2. We are phasing in a small charge for the physical version of eLr-Offline for Windows (the USB key). eLr subscriptions for all subscribers will continue to include unlimited web access for the subscriber and their clients, as well as eLr-Offline (free iPad and Windows versions which allow access to eLr without needing internet connection)
 - a. **New subscribers** (from Jan 1st 2017) are able to obtain their free Windows version of eLr-Offline by internet download from our website www.elr.com.au/offline, or purchase a physical version (USB key) at a cost of \$30 per copy.
 - b. **Existing subscribers** will continue to receive the free physical version (USB key) at no extra cost for 12 months following their latest subscription renewal. All of you should have now received one of these new USB keys, either with your updated subscription, or as your "6-monthly update". You can also, of course, download the internet version if and when you wish. In fact, if you run the automatic process directly from the USB key you can keep the key continually refreshed with the latest version of eLr-Offline.

If you have any questions about these changes and their implementation, or the automatic updating process, please contact us.

3. Other Independent Developers

As an occasional feature of this Newsletter, we include simple, unpaid announcements of products developed by other small, independent developers, who, like ourselves, are practising clinicians who have put their ideas and experience into resource materials for general distribution. Links and brief information about these sites may be found at www.elr.com.au/links/developers.htm. To date we have listed -

[Innovative Communication Programming](#)
[News Talk CD](#)
[PELICAN TALK Speech Therapy Resources](#)
[ReadingDoctor Software](#)
[The MusicLanguage Series](#)
[Grow Words](#)
[The Word Whizzer](#)
[The Building Language Series](#)
[Online Cued Articulation](#)
[Spelfabet](#)
[Looking Learning](#)

If you would like your materials listed on this page (at no charge), please contact us.

4. Free Downloads

ELR has a number of free or evaluation files available for downloading directly from our website. Please see www.elr.com.au/downloads.htm for specific details. For other supporting materials and documents available for free download, please see www.elr.com.au/support.htm.

Products: The current ELR Software - Product Brochure, in PDF format.

eLr-Offline: Compiled, "mirror" version of the eLr (Extra Language Resources) website which you may download and run on your own PC. Allows access to the eLr Directory and all tasks from locations where regular access to the Internet is not possible.

eLr Fonts: 19 free symbol fonts as used in many eLr activities. Download the single zip file containing all fonts and install them on your own own computer.

Build-a-Sentence: An interactive program to strengthen labeling of nouns, verbs and objects and production of 2 & 3 part sentences.

Word Meanings: Volume One. Trialware, Interactive Language Program designed to build understanding and recall of words by strengthening semantic processing, based on the therapy manual *Building Language: Word Meanings* by Robyn Dower and Jan Mackey's, Helios Art and Book Co, 1996.

eLr Directory (Summary): Summary of eLr Directory in print-ready PDF format. Contains all the classification information but no listing of actual tasks and task numbers. (The full version is available only to eLr subscribers.)

APAR/PDF (zipped): APAR (Assessment of Phonological Awareness and Reading) in print-ready PDF format (zipped). Contains all the score sheets and stimulus cards.

Literacy Online: Mirror of Literacy Online web site. This is the full (except for external links) set of files (.htm/.js/.css/.gif/.jpg) that constitute the Literacy Online web site.

5. ELR 2017 Calendar

ELR Software offers regular, free eLr tutorials over the web. We can provide this sort of support to individuals, or to groups who would like to have an overview of eLr. Please contact us for details.

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