



SCLERA PICTO's database of symbols to support the education of learners using augmentative and alternative communication and those with poor or no reading skills, and to maximise visual support of verbal communication/information for every learner with special needs

The context for the use of ICT for Inclusion

SCLERA is an open content pictogram database. The SCLERA database currently contains over 4700 free pictograms. Extra features include 'how to' guides, examples of good practice, extensive information on pedagogical uses and several different navigation options. The site is available in three languages: Dutch, English and French.

The policy context

Despite the ever-growing number of international pictogram/symbol systems, teachers still express the need for more specific symbols for children with special needs. Moreover, many practitioners continuously ask for good-quality free symbols. The sets of pictograms that are actually available are very much communication-orientated and are mostly intended to build communication aids.

The use of ICT

The aims of this project were to create more than 1000 new or renewed symbols for use in a school setting AND to develop new teaching materials using these symbols. The purpose of these symbols is to support the education of both children using augmentative and alternative communication and children with poor or no reading skills. They are also intended to maximise visual support of verbal communication/information for every child with special needs.

Key outcomes and benefits

In addition to the creation of new pictograms for education, SCLERA was used in a specific visualisations project. In this project, support was given by offering screencasts on the subject. These screencasts are step-by-step instructional videos that help the teacher or caregiver. These videos are presented in website format on a DVD, with extra information and a printout with the basic steps. This means the videos are easily accessible and can be accessed offline.

Additional information

Information: <http://www.sclera.be/index.php?taal=ENG>

Screencasts: <http://www.ikwilvisualiseren.be/>

Contact: <http://www.sclera.be/index.php?page=contact>