

Therapy Times' 2009 MVP Awards

The most valuable products in the therapy industry

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The ballots have been cast, the votes have been tallied, and the winners have been chosen for **Therapy Times' 2009 Most Valuable Products** awards competition!

In an effort to see what products were most useful to today's therapy professionals, we went right to the experts: You. From hundreds of helpful reader responses and nominations, we were able to compile a repertoire of products for each therapy community that have had the greatest influence on today's therapy profession.

Once we had compiled our nominees, we opened the voting booths to our readers, associates, and visitors, to determine for themselves which tools, equipment, accessories were integral to the success of their field or practice. Now, after an anxious waiting period, *Therapy Times* is proud to present the **2009 Most Valuable Products** awards for exemplary products in the therapy industry, backed by therapists' recommendations and truly deserving of the title, "**Therapy Times MVP.**"

Visit the next page to see the **Speech Language Pathology/Audiotherapy** winner...



Speech Language Pathology/Audiology

MVP 2009 Winner: Advanced Bionics' TuneUps®

Developed by music and speech therapy professionals, this music CD and habilitation program engages children in a listening, language, and learning experience.



"With TuneUps, developed by Chris Barton and Amy McConkey Robbins, we incorporate the fun of singing and music into therapy goals that focus on the fundamentals of speech such as duration, loudness and pitch changes, as well as overall language goals. Our children have hearing loss, including many with cochlear implants and some also have other disabilities such as sensory integration dysfunction. Using TuneUps, we have noticed that children who were not responsive to communication are singing and participating along with the music. In the short time of using TuneUps our students also have increased their ability to imitate "steady beat" and pitch changes."

"TuneUps has also given us a way to include our parents into a weekly music time. Parents are staying at school an extra thirty minutes so they learn the songs and participate in their child's therapy. This has given the therapists time to talk about goals that include vocabulary from the songs or speech or audition skills that parents can work on at home."

"As certified speech-language pathologists and listening and spoken language specialists, TuneUps has given our staff an excellent way to incorporate music into our therapy, and we have found it to be a highly effective tool in helping our children reach their speech, language, and audition goals."

– The W. Paul Biggers MD Carolina Children's Communicative Disorders Program in the department of Otolaryngology/Head & Neck Surgery at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine.

Click [here](#) for more information about this MVP winner.

RUNNER-UP: Pirate Talk®

A receptive and expressive language game from Super Duper Publications, participants are motivated by the "pirate" theme to answer questions and discuss social situations presented on the game cards.

"I would like to nominate Pirate Talk® by Super Duper® Publications as this year's most outstanding, comprehensive language game. With a shrinking budget and increasing caseload, it's difficult to find products to meet the diverse needs of my students. The range of language tasks it targets makes it easy for me to use with a variety of students. My students eagerly answer questions and discuss social situations presented on the game cards. They are motivated by the captivating 'pirate' theme to answer questions in hopes of advancing to the nearest island to collect 'gold' coins. Pirate Talk® exceeded my expectations about what a language game should be."

– Lisa Gulbranson, MS CCC-SLP, at the Elgin Independent School District in Elgin, TX

RUNNER-UP: Virtual Office

This product from America Hears is intended to lower the cost of and increase the ease of use of hearing aids by enabling the user to make the needed adjustments (program changes) to the hearing aids themselves; connects hearing aids through a personal computer to America Hears audiologists and hearing aid specialists.