Educators, Parents

Reading Without Barriers: A Speech-Language Pathologist on Epic's Accessibility Tools

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At Epic, accessibility isn't an afterthought. It's built into the reading experience so more children can engage with stories in ways that truly work for them.

When reading feels possible, everything changes.

How Accessibility Makes Online Books Work for Every Learner

Every learner processes language differently. Some need audio reinforcement. Some benefit from visual tracking. Others rely on speech tools to navigate independently.

When barriers are removed, frustration lowers. Confidence builds. Kids stay with the story longer.

At Epic, we are committed to making our platform accessible to all users, including those with visual and hearing impairments. Our platform has built-in features that enhance accessibility:

- **Speech-to-text search (iOS only):** Allows users to search for books or topics using voice commands.
- **Read-To-Me books:** Professionally recorded narration reads aloud while the book plays. Pages turn automatically and words are highlighted as they're read aloud. Readers can adjust the play-back speed.
- **Audiobooks:** Professionally recorded narration reads the book aloud. Unlike Read-To-Me books, audiobooks are strictly audio. There is no visual book or pages to follow along with. Listeners can adjust the play-back speed.

Supporting Comprehension Through Read-Alouds and Accessibility Tools

For many families, Read-To-Me books reduce pressure while strengthening comprehension. A child who once avoided reading books online can follow along confidently, hearing fluent modeling while tracking the text visually.

Accessibility can extend even further.

In addition to Epic's built-in tools, families can explore third-party apps on Apple and Google devices that support visual and hearing needs, including VoiceOver, Seeing AI, Be My Eyes, TalkBack, Google Live Transcribe and Sound Amplifier.



Together, these tools expand access so more learners can successfully navigate and enjoy online books.

Epic Accessibility in Action: A Speech-Language Pathologist's Approach

For **Kate Ramacciotti, a certified speech-language pathologist** who provides teletherapy to elementary and middle school students, reading isn't a separate activity from therapy. It's woven into it.

When she began using Epic in her sessions, it quickly became—as she put it—"an incredible resource in my practice." She assigns books for students to read or listen to at home, reinforcing speech and language goals between virtual sessions. The continuity matters. Students aren't just practicing once a week. They're building skills consistently.

Moving Beyond Isolated Drills

Articulation therapy can sometimes feel repetitive. Sound-by-sound practice. Word lists. Flashcards.

Kate embeds those targets into purposeful reading. She selects books that naturally highlight a student's target sound over and over again, allowing for what she describes as "meaningful, contextualized practice." Instead of drilling sounds in isolation, students practice inside stories. The repetition feels purposeful because it's tied to narrative.

During sessions, they read together. Not just to decode text, but to strengthen language development, retell stories, expand vocabularies and boost reading comprehension. Quizzes, which offer built-in comprehension questions at the end of a book, provide practical support. Kate appreciates that they target "the main idea, key details, plot and inferential thinking," which makes it easier to check understanding and guide deeper discussions without adding extra prep work.

Letting Interest Lead the Work

One of the features she values most is the ability to search by topic and interest.

She shares the story of a student who is fascinated by geodes. By finding books on that exact subject, she works on vocabulary, narrative skills and comprehension through content he genuinely cares about.

"The high-interest content keeps him motivated and invested in therapy," she explains.

Building Skills Beyond the Session

Kate adds that at the end of sessions, educational videos offer "a fun and meaningful reward." They aren't distractions. They're motivation.

She also frequently recommends audiobooks to families, especially "the engaging narration of *The Magic School Bus* series." These are simple ways to continue building listening and language skills during car rides or bedtime

routines. Practice doesn't have to feel clinical. It can fit naturally into everyday life.

Kate says that the platform "blends literacy, learning and engagement beautifully," and is "a powerful tool in helping my students make meaningful progress."

For her students, reading isn't separate from speech and language growth. It supports it.

From Access to Empowerment

Access matters. Structure matters. Interest matters.

When students can choose from high-quality stories, including Epic Originals, and use read-alouds to support comprehension, reading becomes less intimidating and more empowering.

Whether used in therapy, in the classroom or at home, access to books online—plus built-in support tools—helps students practice skills in ways that feel natural.



Accessibility is not just about compliance. It is about opportunity.

Ready to Explore Accessible Books Online? Try Epic for Free

If you're supporting a child with speech or language goals, or simply looking for online books that meet diverse learning needs, explore Epic's accessibility features and expansive digital library.

Small adjustments can unlock meaningful growth.

Try Epic for free and see how the right support can open the door to reading for every learner.

About Kate Ramacciotti

Kate Ramacciotti is a certified Speech-Language Pathologist with over 15 years of experience helping children strengthen their speech, language and social communication skills. She has worked with students of all ages and provides both in-person and teletherapy services. Kate loves incorporating engaging literacy tools to make learning meaningful and motivating for her students. She is also a mom of three and uses Epic both professionally in her therapy sessions and personally at home with her own children.

