Using Co:Writer with Beginning Readers and Writers
Karen Erickson, Center for Literacy and Disability Studies

As soon as students are able to identify the initial consonant for some words, at least some of the time, they can begin using Co:Write® to support their writing. We have found that setting Co:Writer preferences in the following ways makes these early writing efforts more successful. The following directions are for Co:Writer SE.

1. Launch Co:Writer.
2. Select the student for whom you are creating this set-up if asked.
3. Select no template when asked to select a template.
4. Select word window as your Co:Writer window.
5. Select predict always.
7. Select flexible spelling.
8. Select 6 guesses.
9. Select hide numbers.
10. Click on larger 4 times to make the text size as large as possible.
11. Select a color scheme that is best for your student. We tend to use the black text on the aqua background. DO NOT choose black text with the white background because it does not provide enough contrast between the Co:Writer box and word processing program when Co:Writer is used.
12. Now you are ready to use Co:Writer with Write:OutLoud or the word processing software of your choice.