



Learning Links

What is
Assistive
Technology
and how can
it help me?



lee pesky learning center

What is Assistive Technology ?

Assistive Technology (AT) is a tool that makes *learning* more accessible. AT enables individuals to build on their strengths to achieve success.

- Children and adults may use AT for their specific learning disability.
- AT may make tasks easier by “working around” a specific learning disability entirely.
- AT may be low-tech, mid-tech, or high-tech.
- AT works best when an individual’s needs, strengths, and willingness to use is taken into consideration.

Low-Tech:

- Pencil grips (*writing*)
- Slanted (incline) writing boards (*writing*)
- Raised line paper (*writing*)
- Writing guides (*writing*)
- Wipe-off boards (*writing*)
- Hemogrippers or other “fiddling” objects (*attention & activity*)
- Large key calculators (*math*)
- Bookmarks (*reading*)
- Highlighting pens and tape (*reading, organization*)

Mid-Tech:

- Personal data managers, note storage, and retrieval (*organization and memory*)
- Portable word processors, spell checkers/talking spell checkers, grammar checkers (*writing*)
- Outlining programs and graphic organizers (*writing*)
- Word prediction programs (*writing*)

- Word lists, generated by software (*writing*)
- Alternative keyboards, i.e., customized key appearance and placement (*writing/motor*)
- Variable-speed tape recorders with counters (*listening, writing, memory*)
- Speech recognition systems to convert the spoken word to electronic text (*writing*)
- Optical character recognition/speech synthesis systems – to scan hard copy text which is converted to audio/written text (*reading*)
- Books on tape – needs a physician’s note, available through *Recordings for the Deaf and Blind* (*reading*)
- Talking calculators - uses speech synthesis to speak numbers (*math*)
- Electronic computer-based worksheets for automatic alignment of numbers (*math*)

High-Tech:

- Computers (*reading, writing*)
- Software to include speech recognition, book and text scanning for audio playback (*reading, writing*)

Additional Resources:

Websites

Schwab Learning: www.schwablearning.org

Learning Disabilities Online: www.ldonline.org

Council for Learning Disabilities: www.cldinternational.org

Tools for Life, Georgia: www.gatfl.org/ldguide/at.htm

Books

Family Guide to Assistive Technology, Katharin A. Kelker & Roger Holt, Brookline Books. (Available for check-out from the Lee Pesky Learning Center Family Resource Library)

Where Can I Get Assistive Technology?

Following are some vendors that sell AT. This list is not meant to be exhaustive and other vendors may offer the same or similar products at varying prices. *This list is designed to serve as a guide and should not be construed as an endorsement by Lee Pesky Learning Center for any of the products or vendors.*

Handwriting Aids

Therapro, Inc. (800) 257-5376
225 Arlington Street
Framingham, MA 01702-8723
www.theraproducts.com

Electronic Spell-Checkers, Dictionaries, & Organization Tools

Franklin Learning Resources (800) 525-9673
www.franklin.com

A variety of inexpensive AT tools can be found at office and education supply stores.

Software

Enable Mart
www.enablemart.com

Kurzweil Educational Systems
www.kurzweiledu.com

Calculators

Attainment Company (800) 327-4269
www.AttainmentCompany.com

The Center's Resource Library owns many of the AT tools available for parents to experiment with. Call Lori Sirs, LCSW (208-333-0008 ext. 106) for more information.



lee pesky learning center

3324 Elder Street
Boise, ID 83705-4713

www.LPLearningCenter.org • 208-333-0008