

Assistive Technology Resources

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Assistive technology (AT) is any item, piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially off the shelf, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities. (29 U.S.C. Sec 2202(2)).

Types of AT

- motor issues
 - gross motor (i.e.: mobility)
 - fine motor (i.e.: hand skills)
- communication
- vision
- hearing
- learning disabilities

AT Decision-Making

<http://www.wati.org/index.php/> A number of books and other resources to download free of charge; includes excellent AT assessment packet.

Connect with a Blog

<http://atclassroom.blogspot.com/> by Glenda Anderson (Assistive Technology specialist).

<http://teachinglearnerswithmultipleneeds.blogspot.com/> by Kate Ahern (special educator for students with multiple disabilities). Be sure to look back to its beginning, as it is FULL of tremendous links.

AT Software

<http://www.giveawayoftheday.com/> Register for daily alerts to free giveaways of commercial programs. Some are appropriate for meeting assistive technology needs.

<http://www.bltt.org/> Better Living through Technology managed by Charlie Danger. Lots of great information related to alternative access for computers.

<http://www.oatsoft.org/> Open source Assistive Tech software. Lots of downloadable gems here, searchable by need, software type, or title.

<http://www.onlineconferencingsystems.com/at.htm> A wealth of free resources for AT software, some open source and some not.

AT Software—examples

<http://www.cameramouse.org/> Use your web cam as a mouse replacement.

<http://wordflashreader.sourceforge.net/> Flashes words or phrases on the screen for hands-free reading at your own customized pace.

<http://www.lakefolks.org/cnt/> Customizable onscreen keyboard with word prediction.

Cool AT Stuff

<http://www22.brinkster.com/jimluther/access.htm> Everything you ever dreamed with PowerPoint and far more!

<http://www.everhart.leon.k12.fl.us/downloads/pvcbook.pdf> Book of PVC pipe creations

http://www.iltech.org/ten_tech.asp “Ten Dollar Technology”

<http://teachinglearnerswithmultipleneeds.blogspot.com/2008/01/diy-atadaptive-design.html>

Lists links for free AT supports you can make yourself

Universal Design for Learning

<http://www.cast.org/teachingeverystudent/> Cast is the definitive resource for UDL. This link takes you to the online textbook that explains the philosophy. Very worthwhile. Be sure to visit the parent site, www.cast.org.

<http://udltechtoolkit.wikispaces.com/> Well-organized portal to explore options available to meet specific AT needs

Learning Disabilities support The following sites all include articles on the use of AT to support students with a variety of learning disabilities, as well as links to specific software and other tools to meet these needs.

<http://www.gatfl.org/ldguide/> Includes excellent downloadable guide on learning disabilities and how AT can be used to help students compensate for their disabilities

<http://www.greatschools.net/articles/90/LD/Technology-to-Support-Learning> Formerly Schwablearning.com. Lots of excellent articles.

<http://www.sc.edu/scatp/ld.htm>

<http://www.familyvillage.wisc.edu/education/at.html>

Adapted Picture- and Storybooks

www.baltimorecityschools.org/boardmaker/adapted_library.asp Boardmaker symbol sets to support 700+ trade books commonly used in elementary classrooms.

<http://schools.nyc.gov/Offices/District75/Departments/Literacy/AdaptedBooks/default> New York city schools PowerPoint books. Many have excellent patterns and structure. This site has other links for multiple disabilities, etc., that are worth exploring.

<http://speech.jpss.k12.la.us/index.htm> Jefferson Parish schools in Louisiana, more adapted books in PowerPoint

www.tarheelreader.org Designed to provide high-interest topics to older readers with emerging reading skills. User-contributed stories to be viewed online. Several voices to choose for reading aloud. Collection is searchable and ever-growing.

<http://www.everhart.leon.k12.fl.us/downloads/Powerpoint%20V3.pdf> Download this book to learn ways to use PowerPoint for creating your own adapted books and to make them switch, touch screen, or head mouse accessible.

<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/using/digitalphotography/PhotoStory/default.mspx> For quickly creating onscreen books, try PhotoStory 3.

Adapted Literature

<http://bookshare.org/> Digital access to over 45,000 digital books and textbooks for students with print disabilities. Currently funded by U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) to eligible students, access is free at both home and school.

<http://www.wtbbl.org/> Washington Talking Book and Braille Library administers this no-cost service for the Federal Library of Congress. Materials and players are provided for all eligible adults and children with verified print disabilities.

Microsoft supports

- Text to speech: <http://support.microsoft.com/kb/306902>
- Speech to text:
<http://www.microsoft.com/enable/products/windowsvista/speech.aspx>
- Accessibility features:
<http://www.microsoft.com/enable/products/office2007/default.aspx>

Text-to-Speech

http://www.naturalreaders.com/free_version.htm

<http://www.readplease.com/english/readplease.php>

Autism/ASD therapy activities

http://www.autism4teachers.com/autism4teachers_051.htm Excellent links specific to autism.

<http://www.dotolearn.com/> Activities and resources, both free and fee.

<http://www.vanderbilt.edu/csefel/practicalstrategies.html>

<http://www.hiyah.net/index.html> Wordless stories to provide background information for unfamiliar situations. Maybe be viewed online or downloaded at now charge.

<http://www.setbc.org/pictureset/> PDF versions of Boardmaker files

<http://imaginesymbols.com/info.htm> Free download of 4000-symbol library

<http://www.kizclub.com/teaching.htm>

<http://pics.tech4learning.com/>

www.buildingblox.net TEACCH work jobs

<http://www.preschoolfun.com/pages/teacch%202008.htm> more TEACCH work jobs

<http://www.tinsnips.org./index.html> Excellent general resource with downloadable activities

<http://www.toondoo.com/> Social thinking. Create your own cartoon strips!

<http://www.xtranormal.com/makemovies?sitetab=1> Text-to-movies. High appeal for older students.

Communication

<http://aac.unl.edu/yaack/> Clear explanations of AAC, presented with parents of young children in mind, but applicable to all families new to AAC

<http://www.childrenshospital.org/clinicalservices/Site2016/mainpageS2016P16.html> >

“Dynamic Beginnings” for a PowerPoint sample of a communication display you can modify at home for use with a laptop/touchscreen

Clipart/Symbols

<http://lonesheep.com/default.aspx> Charityware symbol-creating software that utilizes open source clipart

http://www.airtightinteractive.com/projects/related_tag_browser/app/ Flickr search engine that provides multiple thumbnails with each search

<http://www.wpclipart.com/> Excellent searchable clipart library

<http://imaginesymbols.com/info.htm> Free download of 4000-symbol library

<http://www.kizclub.com/teaching.htm>

<http://pics.tech4learning.com/>

AAC Devices

<http://enablingdevices.com/files/content/ComparisonChart.pdf> Compares low-tech AAC devices

<http://www.aactechconnect.com/> Access to manufacturers and device brochures

<http://www.ace-north.org.uk/userStatus/vocapages/main.asp> Feature search for AAC devices

Switch Use

<http://www.lburkhart.com/hand2sw4s.htm> Linda Burkhart's article on using two switches effectively

http://www.northerngrid.org/ngflwebsite/new_resource_area/sen_home.html Direct link to SENSwitcher (<http://www.northerngrid.org/ngflwebsite/sen/NetSwitch/index.htm>) and other great resources for teaching students with special needs

<http://www.oneswitch.org.uk/index.htm> Switch-accessible leisure activities with a wealth of downloadable arcade games, instructions for adapting toys for switch use, etc.

<http://www.priorywoods.middlesbrough.sch.uk/resources/restop.htm>

Materials Exchange/Download

<http://adaptedlearning.com> Boardmaker activities and boards, sponsored by Mayer-Johnson

<http://aex.intellitools.com/main.php> Nearly 3500 user-submitted activities for Intellitools software

<http://www.annbrundigestudio.com/> Intellitools, My Own Bookshelf, Clicker 5, Powerpoint. Includes lots of how-to's

<http://www.connectivetechologiesolutions.com/resources.php> Handouts--including template activities--from Dan Herlihy's *IntelliTools Extreme* workshops

<http://www.learningmagicinc.com/> Intellitools, My Own Bookshelf, Clicker 5 activities. Tutorials as well as beautifully designed activities (caution: many are very large files, due to the rich photographs they contain)

<http://www.spectronics.com.au/activities/> download activities for BoardMaker, IntelliTools, Clicker, and more!

Vision Impairments

http://www.magnifiers.org/links/Download_Software/Screen_Magnifiers/Windows_Freeware_and_shareware/ Supports needs for magnified computer screens with a list of free and low-cost downloads