

Assistive Technology Considerations

During each annual IEP meeting, the need for Assistive Technology must be addressed. This should be done after the goals and objectives have been developed. This allows the IEP committee to attend to any changes in the student's needs, new tasks to be completed, and advancements in technology.

Many of the decisions regarding Assistive Technology can be addressed within the IEP meeting. There are many different types of Assistive Technology devices and strategies. Some of these are included within the accommodations/modifications. The student may not require an AT evaluation to determine his need for the highlighted text, however, he is utilizing an AT device/strategy.

There are many devices and strategies being used, which may not have been considered as Assistive Technology during the annual IEP meeting. These devices and/or strategies can be very low tech but still fall within the category of AT. If it is a device which the student needs in order to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities rather than something that every student in the class uses, it is considered Assistive Technology. An example of this would be if the teacher provides calculators for all the students in her classroom. That would not be listed as Assistive Technology. If the IEP committee decided that the student needs the calculator and lists it as a modification, it would be considered Assistive Technology. When addressing the AT needs of the student, take the following list into consideration. The list ranges from low tech to high tech. They are not the only AT tools that can be considered, but it is a place to start.

The following list was taken from the "Assistive Technology Consideration" wheel developed by the Technology and Media Division of the Council for Exceptional Children and the Wisconsin Assistive Technology Initiative. (Please note: *Italicized text indicates a strategy or device which you may want to discuss with the Assistive Technology Coordinator for additional information or assistance.*)

ACADEMIC AREAS:

▪ **READING**

- Predictable books
- Changes in text size, spacing, color, background
- Book adapted for page turning
- Use of pictures/symbols with text
- *Talking electronic device to speak challenging words*
- *Single word Scanners*
- *Scanner with Optical Character Recognition and talking word processor*
- *Electronic books*

▪ **LEARNING/STUDYING**

- Print or picture schedule
- Aids to find materials (e.g. color coded folders)
- Highlight text
- Recorded material
- *Voice output reminders for assignments, tasks*
- *Electronic organizers*
- *Pagers/electronic reminders*
- *Single word scanners*
- *Hand-held scanners*
- *Software for concept development*
- *Software for organization of ideas*
- *Hand-held computers*

▪ **MATH**

- Abacus/Math Line
- Enlarged math worksheets
- Alternatives for answering, explaining or giving examples
- Math “Smart Chart”
- Money Calculator/Coinulator
- *Tactile/Voice output measuring device*
- *Talking watches/clocks*
- Calculator with or without print out

- Calculator with large keys and/or displays
- *Talking calculator*
- *Calculator with special features*
- *On-screen/scanning calculator*
- *Alternative keyboard*
- *Math software*
- *Software for the manipulation of objects*
- *Voice recognition software*

▪ **MOTOR ASPECTS OF WRITING**

- Variety of pencils and pens
- Pencil/pen with adaptive grip
- *Adapted paper (e.g. raised line or highlighted line)*
- *Slantboard*
- Prewritten words/phrases
- *Templates*
- *Portable word processor*
- *Computer with word processing*
- *Voice recognition software*
- *Talking calculator*

▪ **COMPUTER ACCESS**

- Keyboard with accessibility options
- *Word prediction, abbrev./expansion to reduce keystrokes*
- *Keyguard*
- Arm support
- *Track ball / joystick with on-screen keyboard*
- *Alternative keyboard*
- *Pointing options/head mice*
- *Switch with Morse Code*
- *Switching with scanning*
- *Voice recognition software*

▪ **COMPOSING WRITTEN MATERIAL**

- Word cards/book/wall
- Pocket dictionary/thesaurus
- Writing templates

- *Electronic /talking spell checker/ dictionary*
- *Word processor with spell checker*
- *Talking word processor*
- *Abbreviation/expansion*
- *Word processing with writing supports*
- *Multimedia software*
- *Voice recognition software*

▪ **COMMUNICATION**

- *Communication board with pictures/words/objects*
- *Eye gaze frame*
- *Simple voice output device*
- *Voice output device with icon sequencing*
- *Voice output device with dynamic display*
- *Voice output device with speech synthesis*