

Assistive Technology

Brief Description: Assistive technology ranges from no-tech to high-tech devices and is an umbrella term that includes assistive, adaptive, and rehabilitative devices for people with disabilities. It also includes the process used in selecting, locating, using and determining effectiveness of these devices.

Helpful Links:

- **Texas AT Network** provides a good overview to understand the basics of assistive technology.

<http://www.texasat.net/default.aspx?name=trainmod.consideration>

- **WATI** also provides a good overview to understand the basics of assistive technology for students.

<http://wati.org/>

- **Intervention Central** has a large number of free resources for reading interventions. Tools to generate fluency passages for Curriculum Based Assessment from any book. Great resources.

www.interventioncentral.org

- **The US Department of Education** (My Child's Special Needs section) provides links to Guides to the IEP Program, Family & Advocates Partnership for Education, Disability Discrimination information, and much more.

<http://www.ed.gov/parents/needs/speced/edpicks.jhtml?src=ln>

- **The Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS)** is committed to improving results and outcomes for people with disabilities of all ages.

<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/index.html?src=oc>

- **Tools for Life Lab TASH** - Equity, Diversity, Social Justice and Inclusion is an international association of people with disabilities, their family members, other advocates, and professionals fighting for a society in which inclusion of all people in all aspects of society is the norm.

<http://www.tash.org/>

- **The Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)** is the largest international professional organization dedicated to improving educational outcomes for individuals with exceptionalities, students with disabilities, and/or the gifted.

<http://www.cec.sped.org/>

Specific Assistive Technology for Teaching:

- **CAST's Book Builder** is a free tool where students can create their your own stories with audio and visual prompts.

<http://bookbuilder.cast.org/>

- **General information** provides cards and lessons to use on teaching social skills and behavior to individuals with autism.

<http://www.polyxo.com/socialstories/introduction.html>

- **Books Should Be Free** provides free public domain audiobooks and ebooks for use with iPhone, Kindle and mp3 players.

<http://www.booksshouldbefree.com/>

- **Spreadsong** provides free public domain audiobooks from iTunes.

<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/free-audiobooks-4-728-classic/id352615816?mt=8>

- **Bookshare** is an online library of digital books for people with print disabilities. It operates under exception to US Copyright law which allows copyrighted digital books (not just public domain) to be made available to people with qualifying disabilities. To become a member you must prove that you have a need for their service by completing a proof of disability form (available on their web site).

<https://bookshare.org/>

Resources Available At Our Center:

- Assistive Technology 3rd Edition
- Reader Strips
- Chair Bands
- Weighted Pencils
- Left Handed Scissors
- Sensory Light Covers
- Tactile Letters
- Yoya Sensory Balls
- Toss and Learn Comprehension
- Differentiated Instruction Cubes

