

Assistive Technology (AT): Support for Diverse Learning Needs

AT Tools:

Disability
Applications

Functional
Applications



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What is Assistive Technology?

- **AT is defined** (by disability law) as any tool or device that improves the functioning of a person (with a disability)

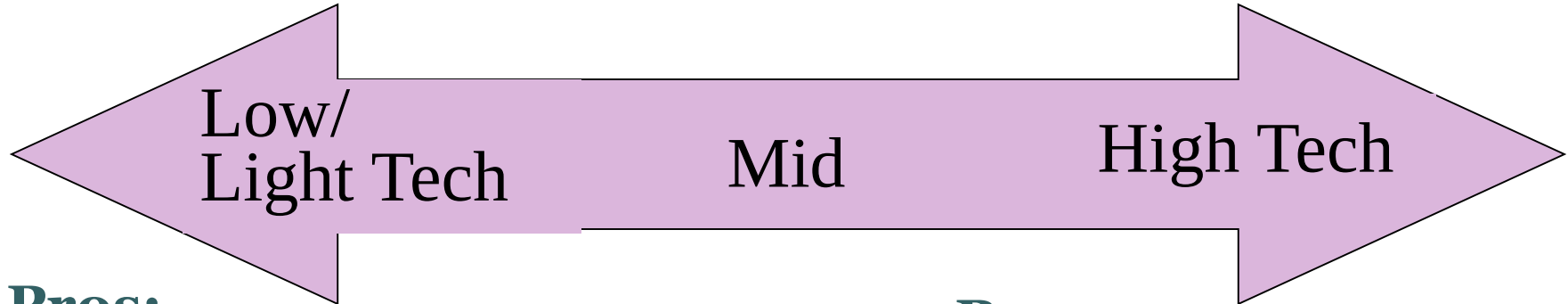
HOWEVER...

- **We have learned** that AT can benefit many students with diverse learning needs, including English language learners

AT Continuum

...beneficial for many

...specialized for individual



Pros:

- low cost / readily available
- easy to use
- less intrusive or 'different'

Cons:

- limited capability
- limited features

Pros:

- greater capability
- more features/functions

Cons:

- complex to learn and use
- expensive

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY DISABILITY APPLICATIONS



AT for Learning Disabilities



Start-to-Finish Books:
adapted level book, audio
book, and CD-ROM
([Don Johnston](#) \$65)



IRIS Pen Executive –
speaks text as it is
scanned into computer
(Onion Mountain \$215)



Fusion portable word
processor w/ text to speech
and word prediction
(Writer Learning \$429)



AT for Behavioral Disabilities



Time Timer – provides visual of passing time
(Onion Mountain \$35)



Yacker Tracker: students learn to self-monitor voice volume / noise levels
(Abilitations \$50)



School Rules (1 & 2) software teaches social skills via video modeling
(Social Skill Builder \$90)



AT for Autism



Chewelry – prevents chewing on clothing, pencils, etc.

(Therapro \$14)



Go! Board provides a visual schedule for students to follow

(Enabling Devices \$52)



PECS: Picture Exchange Communication System – Starter Kit

(Pyramid Educational \$142)

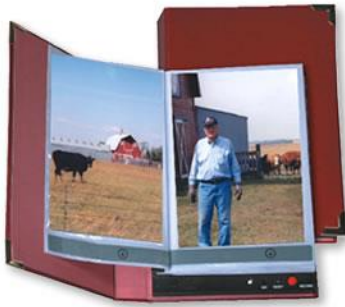


Low

AT Continuum

High

AT for Communication Disorders



Talking Photo Album:
digitally record a brief
message to photos/symbols
(Attainment \$29)



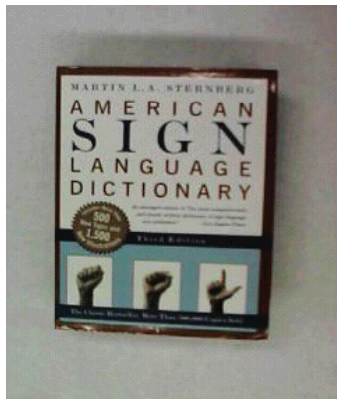
GoTalk 20+: speech
generating device (SGD)
20+ buttons & 5 levels
(Attainment \$249)



[Proloquo2go on iPhone](#)
or iPod Touch
(Origin Instruments \$650 combo)



AT for Deaf and Hard of Hearing



ASL Dictionary:
illustrated sign language
sourcebook
(Harris Communic. \$25)



Pocket Talker Ultra personal
listening system – amplifies
sound for the listener
(Active 4 Ever \$140)



TTY Text Telephone: send
and receive teletypewriter
signals over telephone lines
(UltraTec \$500)



AT for Blindness and Low Vision



Assorted games for the vision impaired / blind
(various vendors \$5 - \$50)



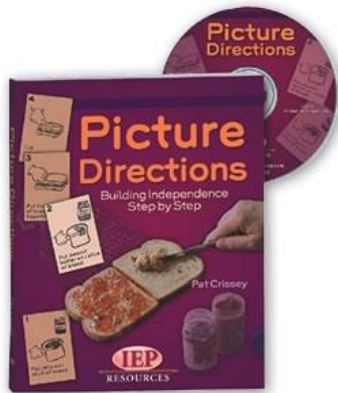
Illuminated Stand Magnifier to highlight content
(LS&S \$59)



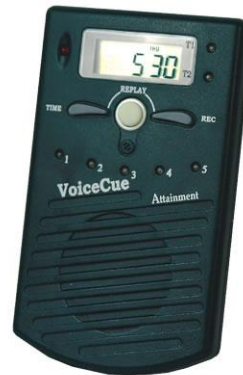
JAWS for Windows: screen-reading program for the blind
(Henter-Joyce \$800)



AT for Intellectual Disabilities



Picture Directions book supports comprehension w/ the use of pictures
(Attainment \$50)



Voice Cue speaks 5 recorded reminder messages at set times
(Attainment \$40)



Photo Phone: options include large buttons, picture-based dialing, amplification
(Ameriphone \$150)



AT for Physical Disabilities



Reacher allows wheelchair user to reach / pick up items on floor or shelf
(Active Living Now \$20)



Steady Spoon provides weight and balance to improve stability for feeding
(Abilitations \$60)



Powerlink 3 environmental control unit – operates electronics with a switch
(Ameriphone \$150)



ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY FUNCTIONAL APPLICATIONS



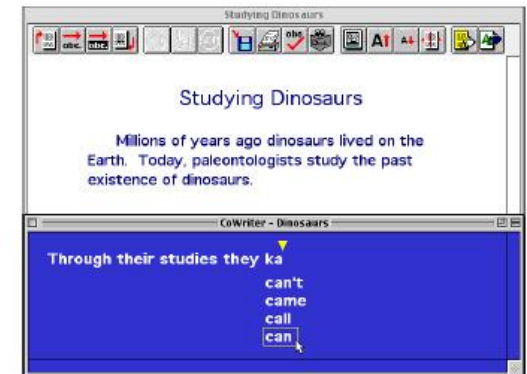
AT for Writing



Assorted pencil grips improve fine motor control
(Abilitations \$7)



BigKeys keyboard
(Don Johnston \$159)



Co:Writer word processing software w/ text-to-speech feedback and word prediction
([Don Johnston](#) \$325)

Low

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AT for Reading



Bar magnifier (2x) with yellow guide line for tracking
(Independent Living Aids \$6)



Reading Pen scans and reads aloud single (or several) words. Provides definitions.
(Enable Mart \$225)



Natural Reader text-to-speech software reads aloud text on the computer screen and internet
([Natural Soft](#) – free version)



AT for Math



MathLine: easy to use math manipulative w/ visual cues for addition / subtraction
(Nasco \$15)



Master Clock allows manipulation of time at different levels
(Onion Mountain \$15)



See 'n' Solve Fraction Calculator screen models problems step-by-step
(Learning Resources \$30)



AT for Organization / Self-Management



Colored transparency files
organize papers with color
coding in transparent files
(Onion Mountain \$7)



Time Cue speaks recorded
message at a set time –
picture prompt, too
(Attainment \$16)



Class Scheduler keeps students
on track with their schedule
(Onion Mountain \$40)



Low

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AT for Verbal / Oral Communication



Go Talk One – speaks one 10-second recorded message when button is pressed
(Attainment \$12)



Hip Talk Plus – provides 3, 6, or 12 recorded messages in a wearable fanny pack (Enabling Devices \$150)



Boardmaker w/ Speaking
Dynamically Pro – software to
create communication boards
(Mayer Johnson \$750)



AT for Self Care / Daily Living



Vibrating Pillbox with 5 alarms – set as a reminder
(Independent Living Aids \$12)



Moshi voice-controlled talking clock. Tells the time when asked!
(Independent Living Aids \$50)



SmartView portable digital magnifier – enlarges text and photos from 3-9x
(Gold Violin \$615)



AT for Computer Access



Baseball cap head pointer
allows user to tap the keyboard
with attached wand
(Sammons Preston \$45)



BigTrack track ball provides
an easy to manipulate mouse
alternative
(Infogrip \$80)



Dragon Naturally Speaking
voice recognition software
transforms speech into text
([Nuance](#) \$200)



AT - a Universal Design Approach

- Environments and products should be usable by as many people as possible...
- Build-in flexibility in order to accommodate diverse individuals in inclusive environments
- When 'accommodations' are included as 'standard' in school and work settings, we see who can benefit
- Individuals should have the opportunity to 'choose and use' the tools that work for them