



# Along the Spectrum

## Tazewell Mason Counties Special Education Association

### What is Assistive Technology?

Assistive Technology (AT) is any kind of technology (low-tech or high tech) that can be used to enhance the functional independence and quality of life for a person with a disability. AT can help your student learn the classroom material in a way that they can understand it. It can also help reduce the barriers your student may face that may prevent them from being at the same level as their classmates. During the IEP process, assistive technology must be considered for every child and then provided by districts if required in a child's IEP to access FAPE .

### What AT may be appropriate for my student?

*The list included below is only an example of assistive technology systems that may be considered. It is not inclusive of ALL assistive technology options that are available.*

#### Reading

*Adaptations to reading materials which make it accessible.*

- change in text size, spacing, color, background color
- use of pictures with text
- book stands
- talking electronic device
- electronic text books
- highlighted text
- recorded material

#### Writing

*Adaptations to produce text material.*

- pencil with adaptive grip
- adapted paper
- slantboard
- computer
- word prediction
- electronic dictionary/thesaurus/spell checker
- word cards/word book/word wall
- voice recognition software

#### Computer Access

*Means for the student to access the computer. This may include input and output.*

- keyboard with built in accessibility options computer
- keyguard
- arm support
- track ball/ track pad/touch screen
- joystick with onscreen keyboard
- alternate keyboard

#### Augmentative Communication

*Assist students in effectively communicating in classroom, social, and routine activities of the school day.*

- communication boards and wallets
- communication enhancement software
- eye gaze board
- simple voice output device
- computer based communication systems
- iPad

#### Environmental Control

*Enables the child to perform independent use of equipment in the classroom.*

- switch operations for appliances
- adaptable on/off switches
- remote control switch access

#### Leisure and Play

*Enhance social interaction*

- adapted toys and games
- adapted sporting equipment
- switch activation for toys
- modified stamps and scissors

#### Seating and Positioning

*Allows the student greater access to the educational activities.*

- non-slip surface on chair
- blocks for feet
- bolster or rolled towel

#### Activities of Daily Living

*Items that allow daily independence*

- adapted eating utensils
- adapted drinking devices
- adapted dressing devices

## To learn more about AT...

TMCSEA offers Assistive Technology Consultation services to member districts. Contact your district special education coordinator if you feel a consultation would be appropriate for one of your students. The AT team works directly with students, parents, general and special education teachers, paraprofessionals, occupational therapy staff, physical therapy staff, speech/language pathologists, and school administrators to enhance each student's educational performance.

Visit the TMCSEA website for more information on AT services.

<http://www.tmcsea.org/assistive-technology.html>

### Upcoming Workshops

To register and for more information visit TMCSEA website

[www.tmcsea.org/in-service.html](http://www.tmcsea.org/in-service.html)

#### Assistive Technology Solutions for Dyslexia by Jamie Martin, AT Consultant

**Tuesday, January 31, 2017 8:30 - 3:30**

This full-day seminar will explore multiple student case studies, including the specific language difficulties those students were experiencing and how AT training helped them to independently access educational material that matched their intellectual levels. For each student, specific technology tools will be discussed and demonstrated, including software for Windows and Mac computers, Chrome extensions, iPad apps, and the built-in accessibility features of various operating systems. At the end of the day, participants will have an understanding of the array of assistive technology that is available to accommodate difficulties with reading and writing.

#### Lights! Camera! Autism! Supporting Instruction, Inclusion & Problem Solving Skills for Learners with Autism Spectrum Disorder by Kate McGinnity, M.S.

**Wednesday, March 1, 2017 8:30 - 3:30**

This interactive full-day presentation will give numerous, current strategies for teaching students with autism; academics, problem solving, independent thinking and other activities of daily living in inclusive settings. This workshop will include interventions to teach new skills and promote competence of students with autism spectrum disorder, and related disorders. Video technology including the iPad, iPod Touch, PowerPoint, Video, Flip Camera, etc. will also be discussed in an easy-to-understand format as it relates to instructional strategies and inclusion.

All 21 TMCSEA member districts have free access to Infnitec. Infnitec aims to advance independence and promote inclusive opportunities for students. Within the website you will find on-demand professional development, curriculum supports and assistive technology resources. You can register at [www.myinfnitec.org](http://www.myinfnitec.org). To register, you must use your district email address.



### Assistive Technology



*"technology for learning"*

⇒ [www.pinterest.com/talcaac/](http://www.pinterest.com/talcaac/)

⇒ [www.appyautism.com/en/](http://www.appyautism.com/en/)

⇒ <https://bluebeepals.com/>

⇒ <http://praacticalaac.org/>

⇒ [www.project-core.com/](http://www.project-core.com/)

helpful  
**RESOURCES**