



ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

EARLY CHILDHOOD

Hannah Norman and Katie Clift

WHAT IS ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY?

AT Device: Item, piece of equipment, or product system that is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of an individual with a disability

AT Service: Any service that directly assists an individual with a disability to select, acquire, or use an AT device, including physical, occupational, or speech therapy.

For young children, it needs to be play-based and appealing.



WHY USE IT IN EARLY CHILDHOOD?

Early childhood programs increase:

- Physical, motor, cognitive, language, speech, socialization, and self-help skills

Early childhood programs decrease:

- Chances of a student being placed in special education
- The probability that children with disabilities will be socially dependent and institutionalized as adults



SINGLE BUTTON COMMUNICATION DEVICE

Use: communication for nonverbal students



Teachers, parents, siblings, and friends can record important messages for nonverbal students to share in social settings.

COMMUNICATION SMOCK

Use: communication for non-verbal students.

Students using nonverbal communication can point to the line-drawings to communicate wants and needs. The drawings are attached by Velcro and can be changed as needed.



PLAYTIME BUS

Use: cognitive development



This bright yellow bus contains letter, shapes, and numbers for kids to touch and hear the names and sounds of each button

PAINTBRUSH

Use: cognitive and fine motor development.



This paintbrush is easy to grasp. This allows children who have difficulty with grasping access to art activities which build creative skills.

OTHER TYPES OF ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

LOW-TECH

- **Teacher made communication boards**
- **Reading masks**
- **Pencil holders**
- **Adapted scissors**

HIGH-TECH

- **Electronic communication boards**
- **Electronic books**
- **Computers/Software**
- **Touchscreens**
- **Electric wheelchairs**

Resources

<http://www.edb.utexas.edu/ATLab/Labinventory/EarlyChildhood/ec-communicationaids.php>

<http://www.sheboyganfalls.k12.wi.us/csleynse/early-childhood-at-tools-and-resources/>

