

More Assistive Technology Tools

Portable Word Processor is a lightweight device that is easy to transport (e.g., from classroom to home). It can be helpful to kids who may have trouble writing by hand and prefer to use a keyboard. Word processing allows the user to edit and correct his written work more efficiently than doing so by hand.

Speech Synthesizers/Screen Readers can display and read aloud text on a computer screen, including text that has been typed by the user, scanned in from printed pages (e.g., books, letters), or text appearing on the Internet.

Talking Spell Checkers and Electronic Dictionaries can help a poor speller select or identify appropriate words and correct spelling errors during the process of writing and proofreading. Talking devices “read aloud” and display the selected words onscreen, so the user can see and hear the words.

Reference:

- Community Tool Box. (2016). Ensuring access for people with disabilities. *Implementing Promising Community Interventions*. Lawrence, Kansas: Work Group for Community Health and Development. Retrieved from <http://ctb.ku.edu/en/table-of-contents/implement/physical-social-environment/housing-accessibility-disabilities/main>
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Students with Disabilities and Learning

- Physical
- Sensory Limitations
- Neurological
- Cognitive Limitati
- Psychiatric Limitations
- Learning Limitations

K-12 Teaching and Learning

Students with Disabilities and Learning



Universal Design for Instruction Project

Community Tool Box: Ensuring Access for People with Disabilities

Accessible Learning Spaces

Schools must have accessible learning spaces for all as part of its Universal Design for Learning in the “makerspace” classroom, whereby the teacher and students can collaborate and work on their

creations in a shared community environment.

In education innovation, the layout of the classroom has to promote interactive teaching and learning. Therefore, it is essential for students with disabilities to have physical and social access.



Welcome People
with Disabilities

Teachers should plan with the needs of their disabled students and students with special education needs at the inception of their lessons for instruction,

Assistive Technology

Mainstream and inclusion policies have made it possible for students of all abilities be able to learn together in a classroom that is diverse. Teachers are using technology to make course content accessible to all students. Below is a list of helpful assistive technology tools that teachers can use to enhance learning.

Alternative Keyboards are programmable keyboards have special overlays that customize the appearance and function of a standard keyboard. Students who have LD or have trouble typing may benefit from customization that reduces input choices, groups keys by color/location, and adds graphics to aid comprehension.

Audio Books and Publications are recorded books allow users to listen to text and are available in a variety of formats, such as audiocassettes, CDs, and MP3 downloads. Special playback units allow users to and search and bookmark pages and chapters. Subscription services offer extensive electronic library collections.



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Electronic Math Work Sheets are software programs that can help a user organize, align, and work through math problems on a computer screen. Numbers that appear onscreen can also be read aloud via a speech synthesizer. This may be helpful to people who have trouble aligning math problems with pencil and paper.

Free Form Database Software is used in conjunction with word processing or other software, this tool allows the user to create and store electronic notes by “jotting down” relevant information of any length and on any subject. He can later retrieve the information by typing any fragment of the original note.

Graphic Organizers and Outlining Programs help students who have trouble organizing and outlining information as they begin a writing project. This type of program lets a user “dump” information in an unstructured manner and later helps him organize the information into appropriate categories and order.

Optical Character Recognition allows a user to scan printed material into a computer or handheld unit. The scanned text is then read aloud via a speech synthesis/screen reading system. Optical Character Recognition (OCR) is available as stand-alone units, computer software, and as portable, pocket-sized devices.