

Wondering About ...

Assistive Technology

Assistive technology is a term that encompasses changes made to the environment or materials that help a child to be more successful. It can be as simple as a pencil grip or as complicated as a computerized communication device. The following resources will help you understand more about assistive technology.

Heartland Equity and Inclusion Project (HEIP)

www.heartland.edu/heip

The Heartland Equity and Inclusion Project is designed to ensure early childhood professionals have the knowledge and skills required to support the diverse development and learning needs of young children and their families in high-quality, inclusive classroom communities. These resource pages provide a tool for teachers to use to support families faced with questions about early childhood.

Let's Play Project: Assistive Technology. Center for Assistive Technology, University of Buffalo.

<http://letsplay.buffalo.edu/toys/special-toys.htm>

This site will help you choose toys, adapt play opportunities, and utilize assistive technology to maximize your child's independent participation in play.

Assistive Technology. The Simon Technology Center. Pacer Center.

<http://www.pacer.org/publications/stc.asp>

This site offers many handouts including the following about:

toys

<http://www.pacer.org/stc/pubs/Toys2.pdf>

assistive technology

<http://www.pacer.org/publications/pdfs/ALL7.pdf>

computers

<http://www.pacer.org/parent/php/PHP-c70.pdf>

Handout 5-2: Examples of Assistive Technology Equipment. Winton, P. et al. (2011). CONNECT Module 5: Assistive Technology Interventions.

<http://community.fpg.unc.edu/sites/community.fpg.unc.edu/files/resources/Handout/CONNECT-Handout-5-2.pdf>

This handout provides a simple photograph display of a variety of assistive devices that may benefit young children with special needs.

Tots n Tech. The Tots 'n Tech Research Institute.

<http://tnt.asu.edu/ideas>

This site provides numerous assistive technology ideas for infants and toddlers. The ideas are organized by functional skills (for example communication skills, using arms & hands, etc.) and activities/routines (morning routine, travel time, mealtime, etc.).

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