

Considerations in the Assistive Technology Assessment Process



www.amacusg.org



Welcome to the Assistive Technology Revolution!

The world around us is evolving at an astounding rate. Assistive Technology developments have been foundational in this evolution and a catalyst for producing positive life-changing results for individuals with disabilities.

This session will take a closer look at:

- AMAC | Tools for Life – AT Act Program
 - Advocacy & Knowing Your Rights
 - Making and LD Evaluation Your Action Plan
 - Understanding Assistive Technology
 - Using “Low/Light Tech” to inform “Mid/High Tech Solutions”
 - 5 Trends to Watch
 - where we are and perhaps, where we are going.
- ...all in 60 minutes!

For Handouts: <http://www.gatfl.gatech.edu/tflwiki>



AMAC

AMAC Accessibility is a social change organization on a mission to create affordable services for governmental, private and non-profits organization working with individuals with disabilities. Services include e-text, braille, captioning, assistive technology, office management software and consulting.





Accessibility Made Smart

AMAC creates practical solutions that work, with a focus on utility, ease of use, and high quality.

- **Accessibility Consulting** focuses on organizational accessibility needs with evaluation, technical assistance, customer support, and website accessibility solutions.
- **Braille Services** produces customized projects from both print materials and electronic text including partial books and chapters or graphics only using cutting-edge technology.
- **Captioning Services** makes classrooms, meetings, labs and other audio environments fully accessible for deaf or hard-of-hearing.
- **Professional E-Text Producers** provide high-quality e-text in many formats such as PDF, DOC, DAISY, and HTML.
- **Certified Assistive Technology team** provides on-site and remote assessments, demonstrations, training and technical assistance for education, work, and daily living environments.

For more information, please visit our website at www.amacusg.org

TFL AppFinder



Georgia Tech **TOOLS for LIFE**
Georgia's Assistive Technology Act Program

HOME ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY TFL NETWORK CALENDAR OF EVENTS   Search our Site Go

TRAINING
FUNDING
PUBLICATIONS
TFL WIKI
MEET THE TFL TEAM
MEET THE ADVISORY COUNCIL
DIRECTIONS/MAP
JOIN OUR MAILING LIST
SCHEDULE A TOUR

Welcome AT Services Try AT Get AT AT Guides Research

Learn More about AT through Hands-On Demonstrations

Welcome to Tools for Life

Tools for Life, Georgia's Assistive Technology Act Program, is dedicated to increasing access to and acquisition of assistive technology (AT) devices and services for Georgians of all ages and disabilities so they can live, learn, work and play independently and with greater freedom in communities of their choice.

Tools for Life and the TFL Network work collaboratively together to accomplish our mission through:

IDEAS CONFERENCE

JUN 2 Epworth by the Sea, St Simons Island

WEBINARS

MAY 28 [Georgia's Leadership Model for Increasing Accessible ICT in State Government](#)

JUN 25 [Learn More and Do More: Exploring Accessibility and Apps for Android](#)

JUL 30 [Position for Work: A Closer Look at Workplace Accommodations & Assessments](#)

- Current Webinar Schedule
- Webinar Archives

TOOLS FOR LIFE APPFINDER



...for Living, Learning, Working, and Playing.

AT ONLINE EXCHANGE



TFL AppFinder



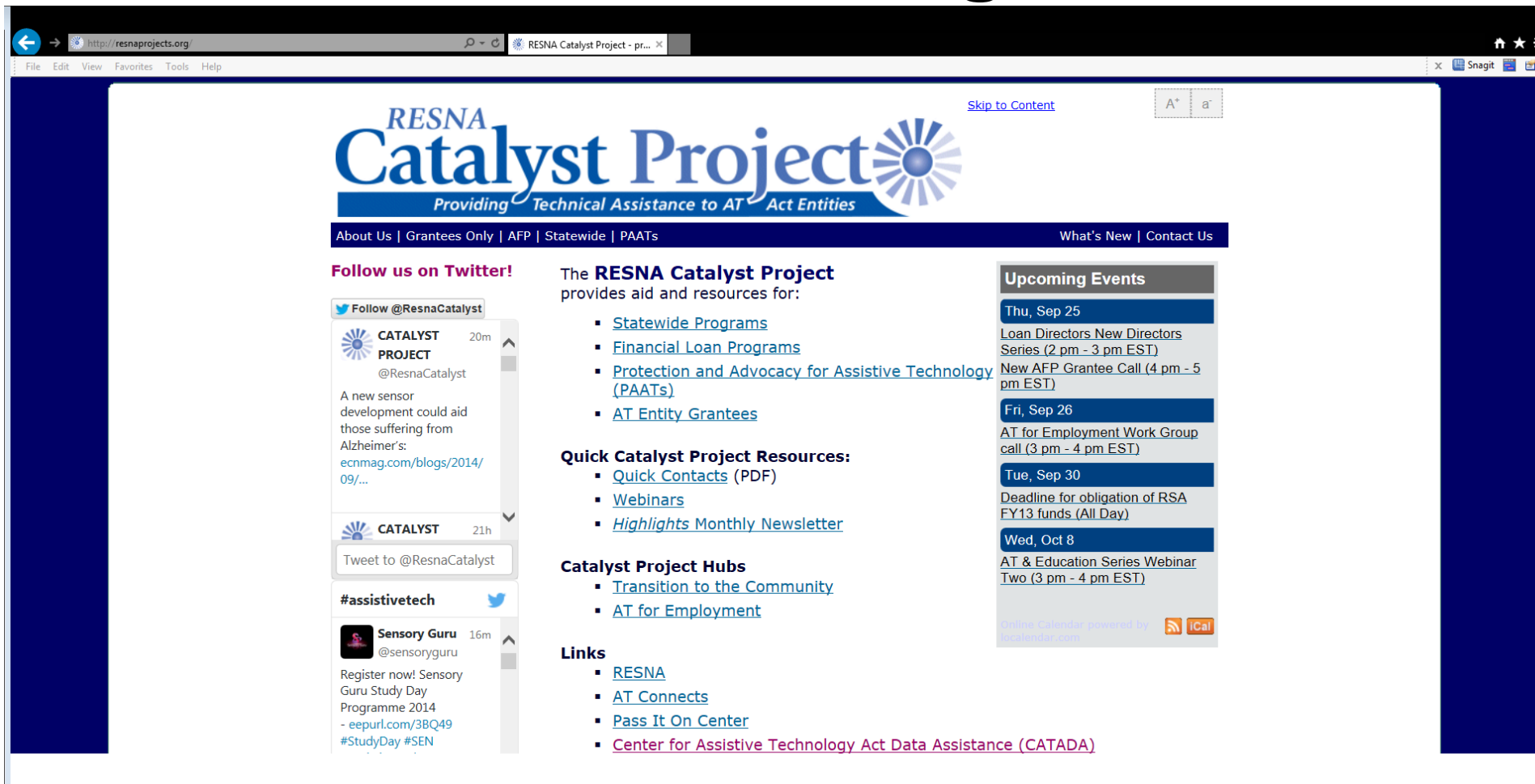
Search by:

✓ **App Name**

✓ **Categories**

- Book
- Education
- Environmental Adaptations
- Hearing
- Cognition, Learning, Developmental
- Navigation
- Personal Care and Safety
- Productivity
- Communication
- Therapeutic Aids
- Vision

Get to Know Your AT Act Program



The screenshot shows the RESNA Catalyst Project website. The header features the RESNA Catalyst Project logo with the tagline "Providing Technical Assistance to AT Act Entities". Navigation links include "About Us", "Grantees Only", "AFP", "Statewide", "PAATs", "What's New", and "Contact Us".

Follow us on Twitter!

Follow @ResnaCatalyst

CATALYST PROJECT @ResnaCatalyst 20m
A new sensor development could aid those suffering from Alzheimer's: ecnmag.com/blogs/2014/09/...

CATALYST 21h
Tweet to @ResnaCatalyst

#assistivetech

Sensory Guru @sensoryguru 16m
Register now! Sensory Guru Study Day Programme 2014 - eepurl.com/3BQ49 #StudyDay #SEN

The **RESNA Catalyst Project** provides aid and resources for:

- Statewide Programs
- Financial Loan Programs
- Protection and Advocacy for Assistive Technology (PAATs)
- AT Entity Grantees

Quick Catalyst Project Resources:

- Quick Contacts (PDF)
- Webinars
- Highlights Monthly Newsletter

Catalyst Project Hubs

- Transition to the Community
- AT for Employment

Links

- RESNA
- AT Connects
- Pass It On Center
- Center for Assistive Technology Act Data Assistance (CATADA)

Upcoming Events

Thu, Sep 25
Loan Directors New Directors Series (2 pm - 3 pm EST)
New AFP Grantee Call (4 pm - 5 pm EST)

Fri, Sep 26
AT for Employment Work Group call (3 pm - 4 pm EST)

Tue, Sep 30
Deadline for obligation of RSA FY13 funds (All Day)

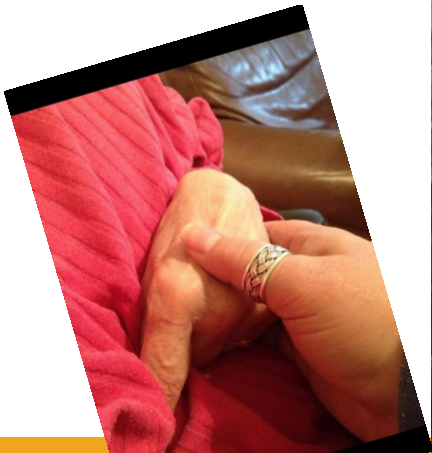
Wed, Oct 8
AT & Education Series Webinar Two (3 pm - 4 pm EST)

Online Calendar powered by localcalendar.com

- <http://resnaprojects.org/>

Considering the Lifespan!

- Master Our Skills!
- Expand Our Knowledge and
- Build Stronger Schools to Create an amazing, Inclusive and United Community!



Consider this -



- My Success relied on
 - Assistive Technology!!
 - Try before you buy – Explore!
 - Training
 - Think across environments –
 - Laptop – Still Need!
 - iPhone – I used 13 apps yesterday and today!
 - iPad – use everyday
 - Organization – Learn Your Style
 - efficiency brings peace
 - Evaluations – Hot Button
 - Working from No/Old/Incorrect info
 - Don't trust everything you read & hear
 - Advocate for an AT Evaluation/Assessment

Consider this -



- My Success relies on
 - Failing
 - Dignity of Failure
 - I learned More from My “Failures” sometimes than my “successes”
 - Give yourself room to fail – and Grow from the experience
 - Learn to Laugh...a lot!
 - Be Optimistic...
 - Evaluate & Evolve!

Begin with the End in Mind!

- **Know Your Rights**

Why Assistive Technology?

- For a person without a disability, technology makes things easier....
- For a person with a disability, technology makes things possible.
- **TIP: USE AT. I have yet to meet a successful student with disabilities who doesn't use Any AT.**





What is Assistive Technology?

Assistive Technology Device

...any item, piece of equipment or product that is used to increase, maintain or improve functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities.

- Public Law 105-394 [29 USC 2201]

Low/No-tech

- pencil grip
- adapted books
- slant board
- highlighters, tape
- magnifiers
- color coding
- read to out loud
- picture schedule
- strategies for memory
- colored transparencies
- Proof readers
- note taker

Mid-Tech

- word prediction
- text to speech
- speech to text
- spell checkers
- talking calculators
- digital recorders
- organizers
- e-books
- adapted keyboard
- adapted mouse
- adapted toys
- CCTV
- apps under \$100

High-Tech

- computer/laptops
- tablets/phablets
- smartphones,
- smartpens
- OCR scanner/software
- magnification software
- speech output devices
- switch, joystick access
- scanning access
- voice recognition
- environmental control devices
- apps over \$100



What is an AT Service?

Assistive Technology Services

Any service that **directly assists an individual with a disability** in the selection, acquisition, or use of an assistive technology device.

Includes:

- Evaluating
- Providing devices
- Selecting, Designing, Customizing
- Maintaining, Repairing
- Coordinating
- Training/Technical Assistance –student, family and school service providers

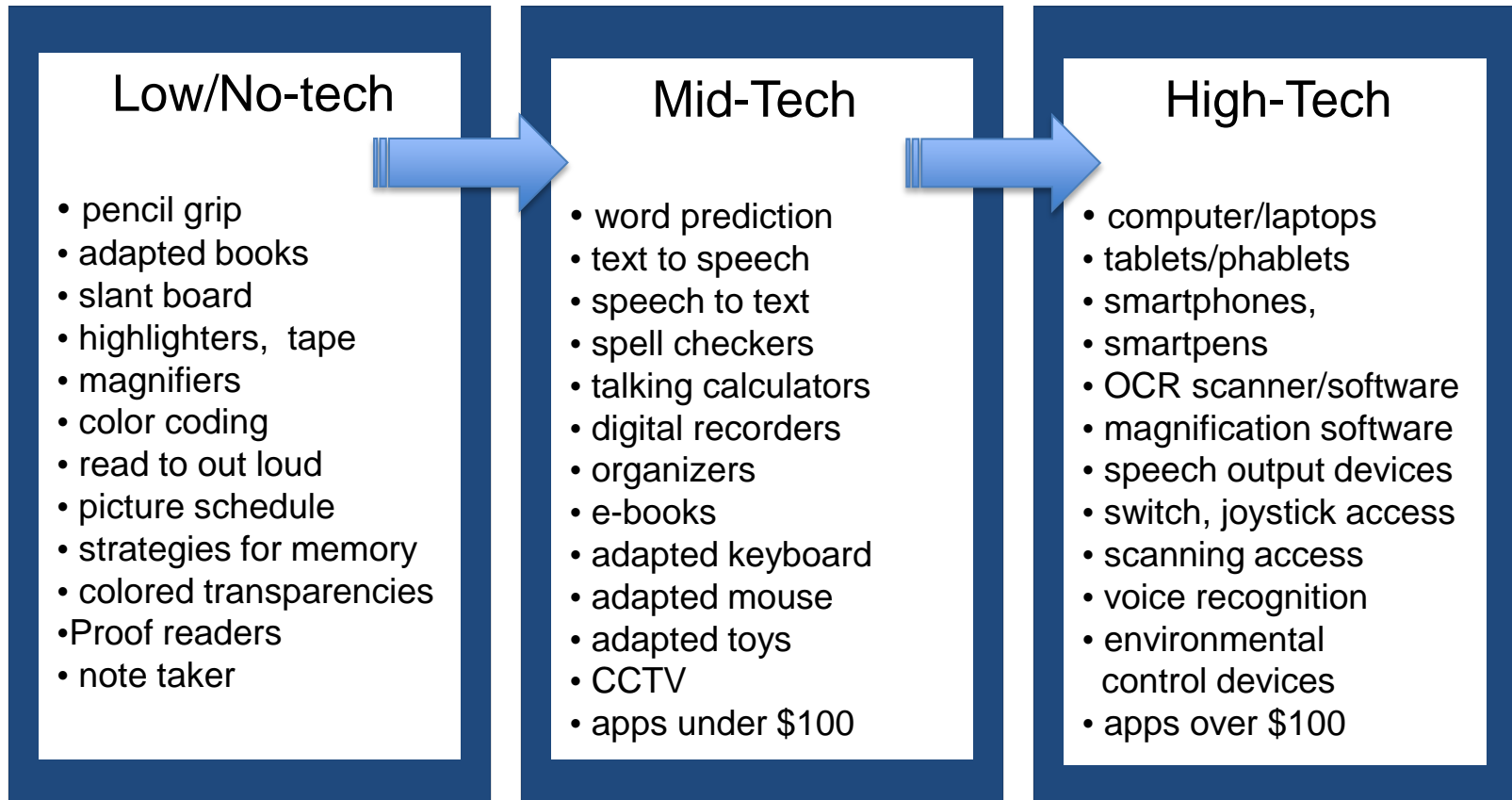
- Public Law 105-394 [29 USC 2201]



Assistive Technology Continuum

Observations & “Hanging out with Intent”

Assistive Technology is a **continuum of tools, strategies, and services** that match a person’s needs, abilities and tasks.





Assistive Technology Laws

Family Center on Technology and Disability

- **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)**
Public Law 101-336 [42 USC 12101]
- **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)**
The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) was initially passed in 1975 as P.L. 94-142. P.L. 94-142 has been amended many times since passing in 1975, most recently in 2004.
- **Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act**
29 U.S.C. § 794d
- **Assistive Technology Act of 1998, as amended in 2004**
Public Law 105-394 [29 USC 2201]
- **Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act Amendments of 1998**
Public Law 105-332 Section 1 (b) [20 USC 2302]



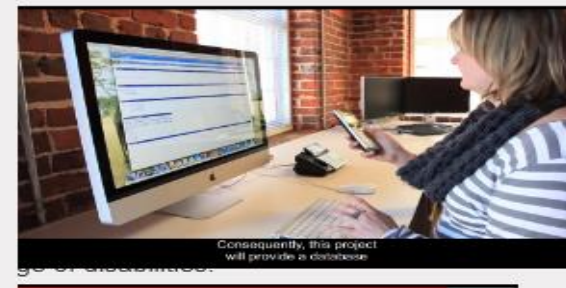
Assistive Technology Laws

Family Center on Technology and Disability

- **Fair Housing Act Amendments of 1988**
Public Law 100-430 [42 USC 3604]
 - **The Hearing Aid Compatibility Act of 1988**
Public Law 100-394 [47 USC 610 (b)]
 - **The Television Decoder Circuitry Act of 1990, Section 3**
Public Law 101-431 [47 USC 303 (u)].
 - **Telecommunications Act of 1996**
Public Law 104-104 [47 USC 255]
 - **Federal Government Procurement of Accessible Information Technology**
Public Law 105-220 section 408 [29 USC 794 (d)]
 - **Workforce Investment Act of 1998!**
Public Law 105-220 [29 USC 701]
- <http://www.fctd.info/resources/techlaws.php>

About AccessGA

AccessGA is a joint initiative of the Georgia State ADA Coordinator's Office, the Georgia Institute of Technology's AMAC Accessibility Solutions and Research Center, and The Georgia Technology Authority. AccessGA's purpose is to support Georgia state agencies with Information and Communication Technology (ICT) accessibility, promoting equal and timely access for employees and customers with a wide range of disabilities.



Support

For customer support, call 855-495-0374 or complete the request form. Consult the AccessGA Wiki for online support.

Email

Category

Request

Event Calendar

To view more information or to register for an upcoming event, please click on the name of the event.

No upcoming events scheduled

Accessibility Services

Assistive Technology
Document Content Remediation
Voluntary Product Accessibility Template (VPAT)

Agency Network

Administrative Office of the Courts
Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia
Georgia Department of Transportation

Resources

WAVE
WebAIM
Wiki



Georgia's Assistive
Technology Act Program

Consider this:

- Is your agency or organization, or ones you routinely use, producing accessible ICT?
Website? Forms? Word documents? Manuals?
PowerPoints? Excel forms?
- When you use contractors to develop websites or applications, are you requiring that they comply with WCAG guidelines?
- Be Aware: JAWS users may not see all of the problems on a website. JAWS is intelligent enough to self-correct certain accessibility flaws.



The President Signs the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

July 22, 2014 | 29:19 | Public Domain

President Obama and Vice President Biden deliver remarks before the signing of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

Download [mp4 \(1080MB\)](#) | [mp3 \(28MB\)](#)

[Read the Transcript](#)

AT Act Moves from Department of Education to Health and Human Services



Moving from Information to Action

Evaluations for Learning Disabilities

- ☐ One to one assessment
- ☐ Comprehensive battery of tests
- ☐ Detailed report with recommendations for support in work and/or learning

- What did You learn in your LD Evaluation?
- Moving from Information to Action
 - Using your Evaluation results as an Action Plan for AT



Moving from Information to an AT Action Plan

Auditory Processing Disorder (APD)

- “Also known as Central Auditory Processing Disorder, this is a condition that adversely affects how sound that travels unimpeded through the ear is processed or interpreted by the brain. Individuals with **APD do not recognize subtle differences between sounds in words, even when the sounds are loud and clear enough to be heard.** They can also find it difficult to tell where sounds are coming from, to make sense of the order of sounds, or to block out competing background noises.”
- What does this information tell us regarding our AT Action Plan?



Moving from Information to an AT Action Plan

Dyscalculia

- “A specific learning disability that affects a person’s ability to understand numbers and learn math facts.
- Individuals with this type of LD may also have:
 - poor comprehension of math symbols,
 - may struggle with memorizing and organizing numbers,
 - have difficulty telling time, or
 - have trouble with counting.”
- What does this information tell us regarding our AT Action Plan?

<http://ldaamerica.org/types-of-learning-disabilities/>



Moving from Information to an AT Action Plan

Dysgraphia

- “A specific learning disability that affects a person’s handwriting ability and fine motor skills.
- Problems may include illegible:
 - handwriting,
 - inconsistent spacing,
 - poor spatial planning on paper,
 - poor spelling, and
 - difficulty composing writing as well as thinking and writing at the same time.”
- What does this information tell us regarding our AT Action Plan?
<http://ldaamerica.org/types-of-learning-disabilities/>



Moving from Information to an AT Action Plan

Dyslexia

- A specific learning disability that affects reading and related language-based processing skills. Dyslexia is sometimes referred to as a Language-Based Learning Disability.
- The severity can differ in each individual but can affect:
 - reading
 - fluency,
 - decoding,
 - reading comprehension,
 - recall,
 - writing,
 - spelling, and
 - sometimes speech and can exist along with other related disorders.
- What does this information tell us regarding our AT Action Plan? <http://ldaamerica.org/types-of-learning-disabilities/>



Moving from Information to an AT Action Plan

Visual Perceptual/Visual Motor Deficit

- A disorder that affects the understanding of information that a person sees, or the ability to draw or copy. A characteristic seen in people with learning disabilities such as Dysgraphia or Non-verbal LD, it can result in:
 - missing subtle differences in shapes or printed letters,
 - losing place frequently,
 - struggles with cutting,
 - holding pencil too tightly, or
 - poor eye/hand coordination.
- What does this information tell us regarding our AT Action Plan?



Moving from Information to an AT Action Plan

Language Processing Disorder

- A specific type of Auditory Processing Disorder (APD) in which there is **difficulty attaching meaning to sound groups that form words, sentences and stories**. While an APD affects the interpretation of all sounds coming into the brain, a Language Processing Disorder (LPD) relates only to the processing of language. LPD can affect expressive language and/or receptive language.
- What does this information tell us regarding our AT Action Plan?



Moving from Information to an AT Action Plan

Non-Verbal Learning Disabilities

- “A disorder which is usually characterized by a significant discrepancy between higher verbal skills and weaker motor, visual-spatial and social skills. Typically, an individual with NLD (or NVLD) has trouble interpreting nonverbal cues like facial expressions or body language, and may have poor coordination.”
- What does this information tell us regarding our AT Action Plan?



Moving from Information to an AT Action Plan

- What does this information tell us regarding our AT Action Plan?
- Avoid the temptation of a “cookie-cutter approach”
- Customize approach – No 2 individuals are the same. We all have different strengths and Abilities to build upon.

Building a Firm Foundation for AT Success!

Guiding Principles

TIP: To be Successful –

- We need to move from Transactional Relationships to developing **Transformational** Relationships.
- We need to moved from Independent to **Intradeependent**.



Discovering Personal Genius:

- A plan-full approach that reveals life themes;
- That presents a path of Discovery;
- That begs Investigation;
- That creates Options;
- That breeds Innovation & Success in personal, educational and career development

– Griffin - Hammis

Begin
with the
End in Mind!






Looking Back to See Forward...


In 1990, the internet was something used by fantasy baseball fanatics on CompuServe and mobile phones were the size of toddlers — a luxury for those who could afford to not use pay phones. Satellite TV meant having a massive dish on your property; millions struggled with programming their VCRs to tape L.A. Law; bills were paid by check... in the mail.

By Chris Morran

Emerging Trends



Knowledge transfer is the practical action of transferring knowledge from one organization to another. Like knowledge management, knowledge transfer seeks to organize, create, capture or distribute knowledge and ensure its availability for future users.



TIP: Universities & Colleges are becoming more agile and actively seeking avenues for Knowledge Transfer.

Emerging Trends



To realize the potential of learning technology, Digital Promise will work with leading educators, researchers, technology firms, and entrepreneurs on three key challenges:

- 1) **Identifying breakthrough technologies**
- 2) **Learning faster what's working and what's not**
- 3) **Transforming the market for learning technologies**

“Digital Promise” started Sept. 2011 – White House, Congress & DOE

For more information, go to:

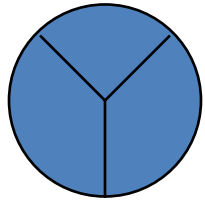
www.digitalpromise.org.



The “FAST” Track

- **Frustration**
- **Anxiety**
- **Stress**
- **Tension**

Human Activity Technology (HAAT) Model



- Human: represents the skills and abilities of the person with a disability
- Activity: a set of tasks to be performed by the person with a disability
- Context: the setting or social, cultural and physical contexts that surround the environment in which the activity must be completed
- Assistive Technology: devices or strategies used to bridge the gap between the person's abilities and the demands of the environment

The SETT Framework

S = Student/Skills

E = Environment

T = Tasks

T = Tools



Adapted from Joy Zabala www.joyzabala.com

SETT

By Joy Zabala

STUDENT

What does the student need to be able to do that is difficult or impossible to do independently at this time?

What are the students current abilities?

What are the students special needs and abilities?

What are the functional areas of concern?

ENVIRONMENT

What activities take place in the environment?

What materials, equipment, supports, resources are available?

Where will the student participate- classroom, home, community, therapy?

What is the physical arrangement?

TASKS

What specific tasks occur in the environments which enable progress toward mastery of IEP goals and objectives?

What activities is the student expected to do?

TOOLS

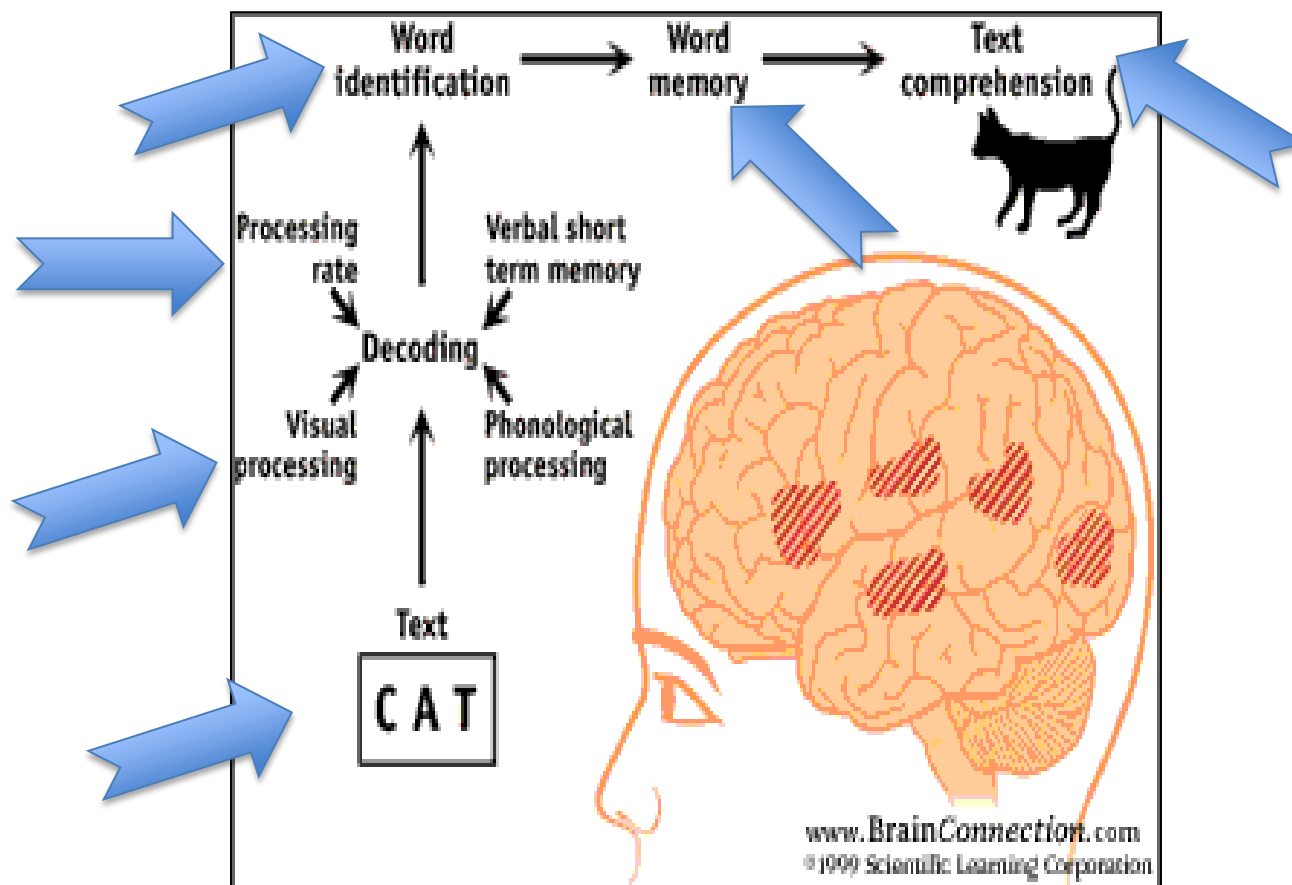
Tools are devices and services- everything that is needed to help the student succeed.

Tools are on a continuum from no/low, mid, high.

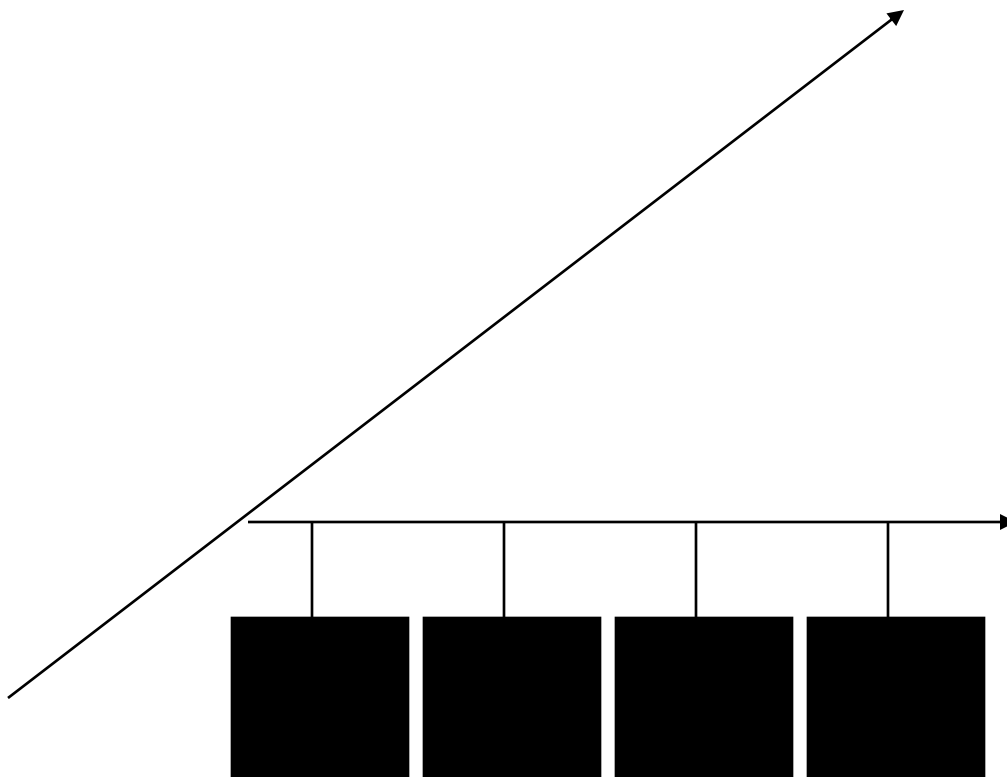
Tools must be student centered.

Describe tool features that are needed.

Examples of Where and When Assistive Technology Can Support the Perception & Discrimination Process



Promoting Strengths & Managing Weaknesses & Stress!



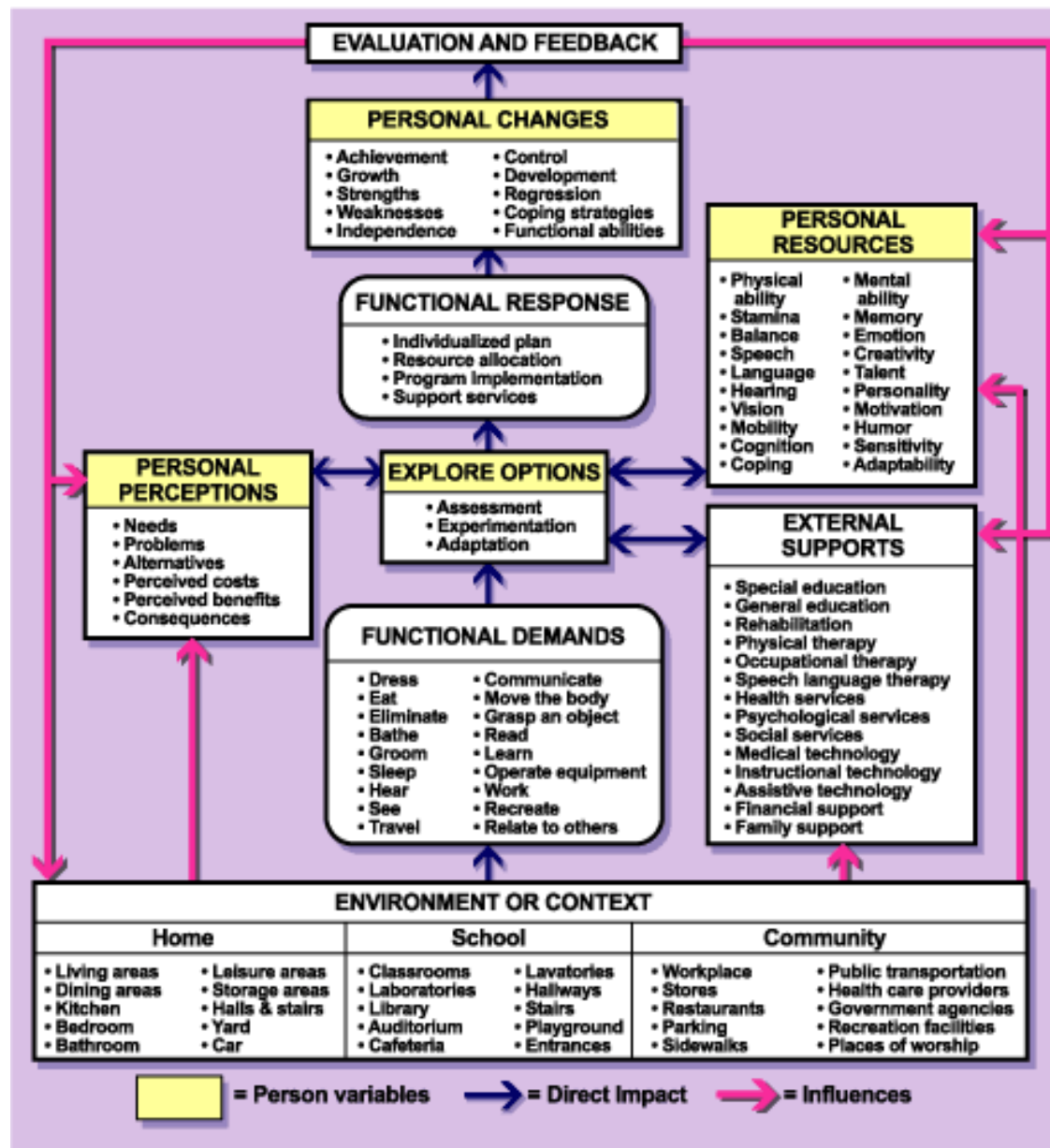
TIP: Use Multi-modal Input Supports

- Communication breakdowns
- Reduce anxiety and behavioral meltdowns
- Teach functional skills
- Help with transitions
- Teach instruction, organization & expression
- Teach independence

Considering AT:

- Identify Environments
- Determine the Functional Areas
- Select AT

- *Dr. Cheryl Wissick and*
- *Dr. Elizabeth Bagley*



Exploring Assistive Technology Strategies and Solutions

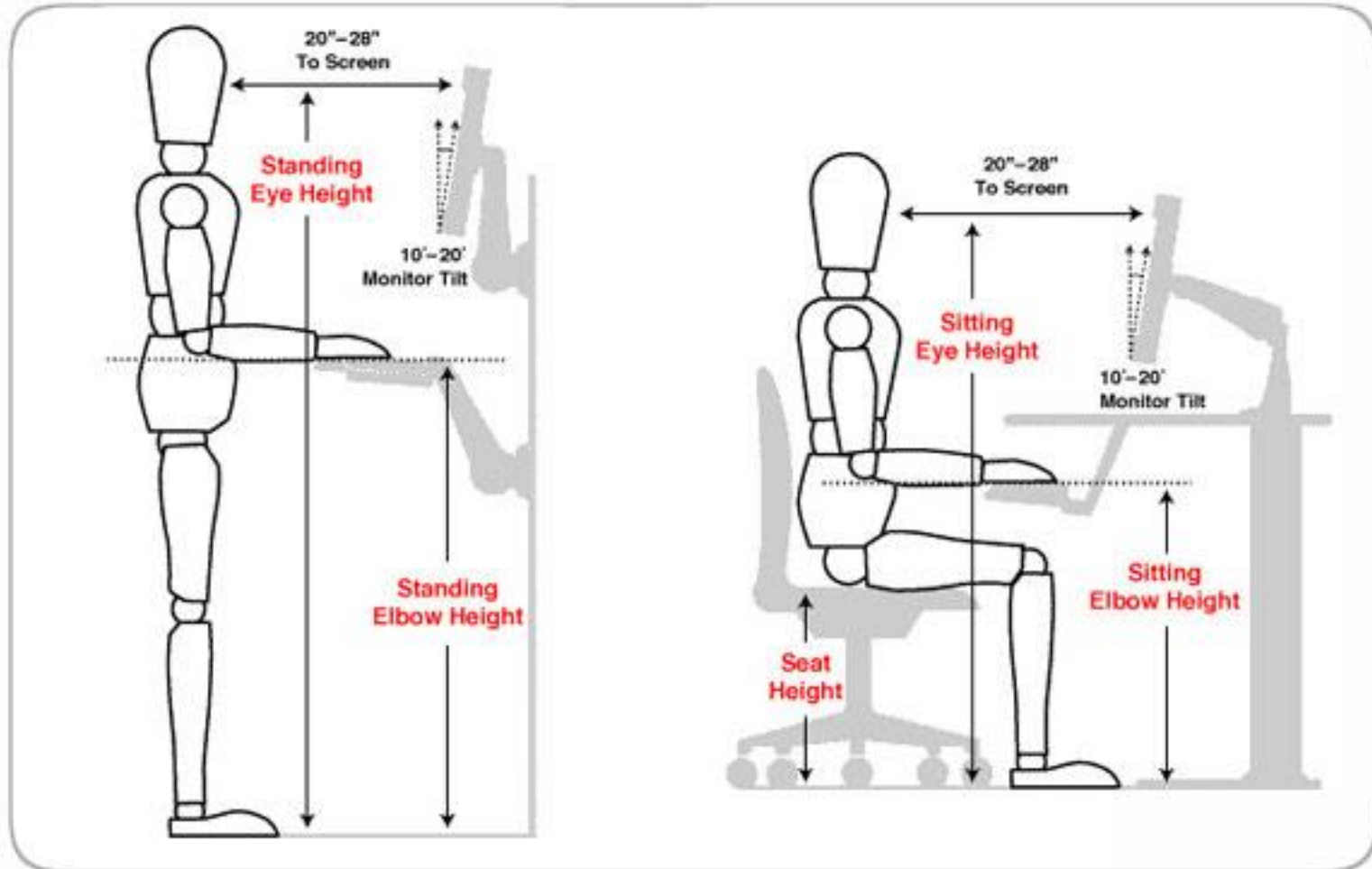
- **Try before you buy**

Ergonomics

- Inhibits blood flow
- Creates muscle shortening
- Stresses back muscles and compresses spine
- Can inhibit learning
- Compresses diaphragm
 - Affects breathing
 - Voice quality



Ergonomics in the Classroom



Know Your Tablets

Microsoft Surface

- Windows 10
- Slim and has a USB port
- Moveable Tiles
- Built-in Accessibility
 - Speech-to-text
 - Narrator
 - Magnifier
 - High contrast
- Thin pressure sensitive cover that doubles as a keyboard
- Starts at \$499





Samsung Galaxy Tab 4



- Android System
- 7, 8, 10, 12 or 18" in screen
- Camera
- Micro card
- Wi-Fi
- USB for computer
- Some built-in accessibility app
 - Download others
- Starts at \$149.99

Apple iPad Pro/Air/Mini

- Multi - touch screen
- Smart Keyboard with iPad Pro
- New iOS 9
- Millions of apps
- Surf web
- iTunes
- HD Video
- Organization
- Accessibility
- Books
- Photos
- Speakers
- 5.0 megapixel camera





Tools for Life AppFinder

TFL AppFinder

Search by:

✓ **App Name**

✓ **Categories**

- Book
- Education
- Environmental Adaptations
- Hearing
- Cognition, Learning, Developmental
- Navigation
- Personal Care and Safety
- Productivity
- Communication
- Therapeutic Aids
- Vision





TRAINING

[View Presentations](#)[Request Training](#)

FUNDING

[Resource & Assistance](#)[Dollars & Sense Database](#)[Online Equipment
Exchange](#)

RESOURCES

[TFL Newsletter](#)

CONTACT US

[Meet the TFL Team](#)[Advisory Council](#)[Directions/Map](#)[Join our Mailing List](#)[Welcome](#)[AT Services](#)[Try AT](#)[Get AT](#)[AT Guides](#)[Research](#)

Welcome to Tools for Life

Tools for Life, Georgia's Assistive Technology Act Program, is dedicated to increasing access to and acquisition of assistive technology (AT) devices and services for Georgians of all ages and disabilities so they can live, learn, work and play independently and with greater freedom in communities of their choice.

Tools for Life and the TFL Network work collaboratively together to accomplish our mission through:

- [AT Demonstration](#)
- [AT Evaluations and Assessments](#)
- [AT Funding Options & Education](#)
- [Access to the TFL AT Lending Libraries](#)
- [AT & Durable Medical Equipment Reuse](#)
- [AT Training \(Individual\)](#)
- [AT Training \(Groups\)](#)

2013 IDEAS CONFERENCE

2013 Institute Designed for
Educating All Students Conference
June 3 - 6, 2013
Epworth by the Sea, St Simons Island

- [Submit a Proposal](#)
- [Conference Website](#)
- [Exhibitor Details](#)

WEBINARS

APR
18

[Free for All! Resources for
Teachers and Students](#)

APR
24

[Assistive Technology and
Adapted Recreation: A
Perfect Match](#)

[Current Webinar Schedule](#)
[Webinar Archives](#)

APP FINDER



... Living, Learning, Working, and Playing.

AT ONLINE EXCHANGE

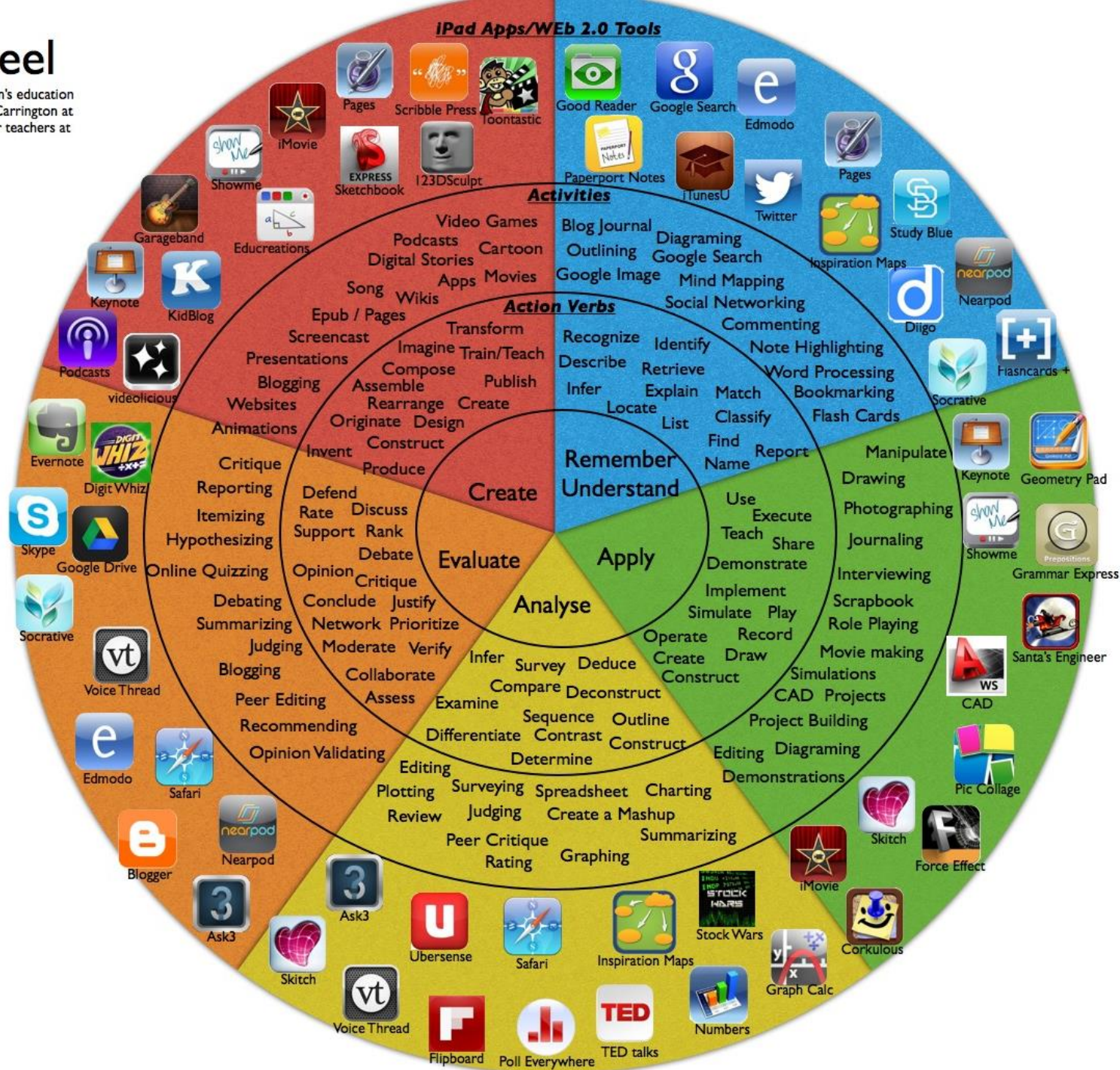


gTRADE [gTRADE, Georgia's Online
Equipment Exchange](#)

encourages members to offer AT and DME for sale or donation to others who may benefit from using technology unneeded by others.

iPadagogy Wheel

Originally discovered on the website of Paul Hopkin's education consultancy site mmiweb.org.uk adopted by Allan Carrington at the University of Adelaide and further modified for teachers at Zeeland Public Schools.



UNIVERSAL DESIGN FOR LEARNING (UDL)
A Placemat of Core Apps Serving Learning for All 2013
Barbara Welsford, M.Ed., ATP, ADE bwelsford@eastlink.ca







































Universal Design For Learning And Accommodations

<http://at4kids.com/udl-and-apps-in-the-classroom>

IPAD APPS TO SUPPORT BLOOM'S REVISED TAXONOMY

ASSEMBLED BY KATHY SCHROCK

C	CREATING	 Storytelling	 Video Editing	 Videocasting	 Mixing	 Animating	 Podcasting
E	EVALUATING	 Moderating	 Conferencing	 Networking	 Posting	 Collaborating	 Critiquing
An	ANALYZING	 Outlining	 Structuring	 Organizing	 Surveying	 Deconstructing	 Mashing
Ap	APPLYING	 Interviewing	 Simulating	 Demonstrating	 Presenting	 Editing	 Illustrating
U	UNDERSTANDING	 Categorizing	 Annotating	 Tweeting	 Blogging	 Subscribing	 Explaining
R	REMEMBERING	 Recalling	 Listing	 Bookmarking	 Searching	 Mindmapping	 Word Processing

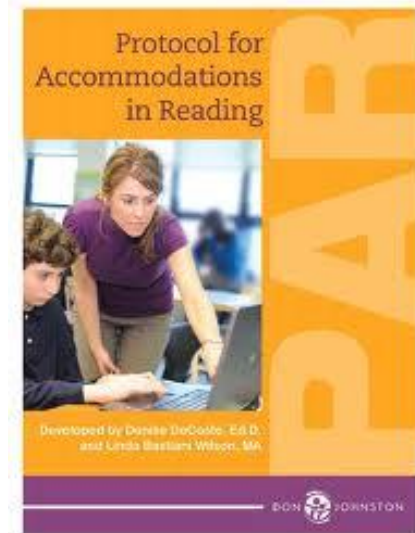
AT Solutions for Reading

Low Tech AT Solutions



PAR: Protocol for Accommodations for Reading

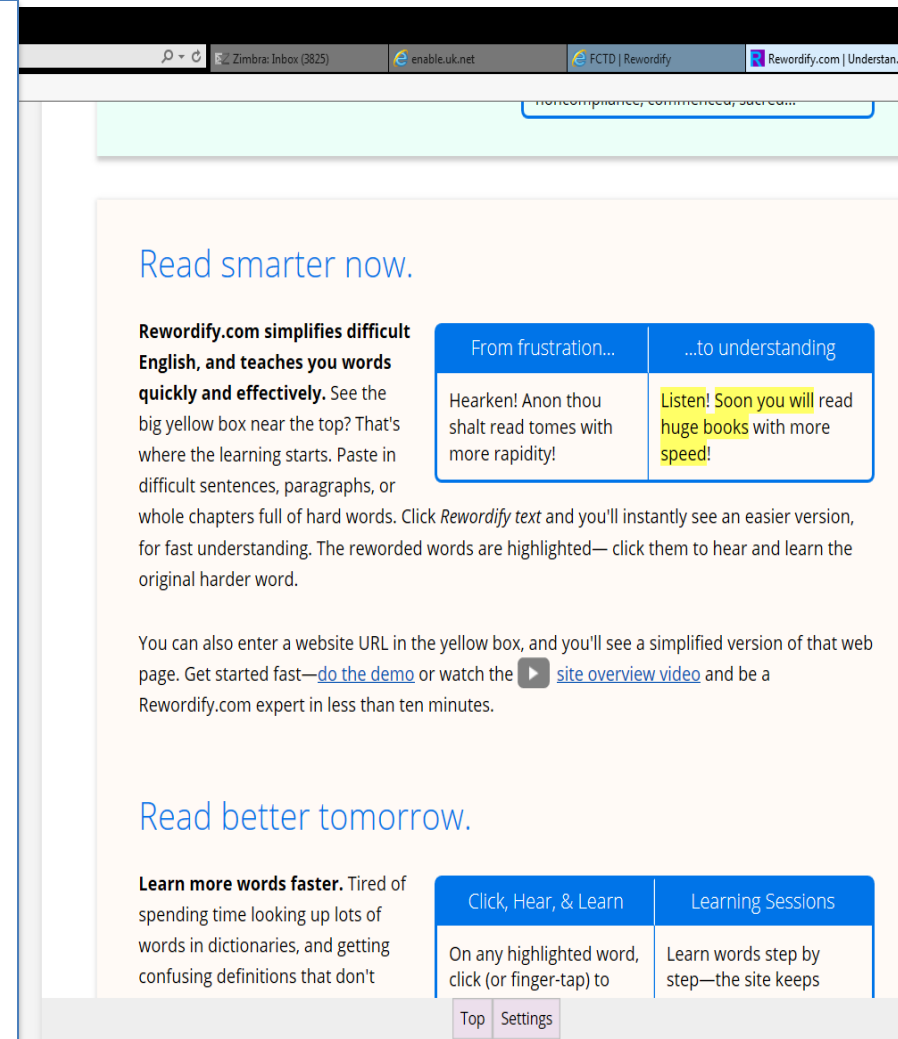
- Don Johnston
- Assist with accommodations for reading
- 3 Steps
 - 1) Student's Oral Reading
 - 2) Adult Reader
 - 3) Text Reader
- How did the student like?
- Help with adding in AT for reading solutions



Rewordify.com

“Rewordify is a free website that makes English easier to read. In some ways it is similar to a thesaurus, but allows users to enter not just single words, but entire sentences, pages, and even websites, for clarification. Passages are preferred, as difficult words are 'rewordified' using the context of the sentence. For example, paste in "The tempest raged outside while the throng huddled inside.", and it is 'rewordified' into, "the storm raged outside while the crowd huddled inside.”

Students can use this tool to make passages more understandable. Simplified words are highlighted for quick comparison with the original word(s).”



The screenshot shows the Rewordify.com website. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for 'Zimbra: Inbox (3825)', 'enable.uk.net', 'FCTD | Rewordify', and 'Rewordify.com | Understand...'. Below this is a search bar. The main content area has a heading 'Read smarter now.' followed by a paragraph explaining the tool's purpose: 'Rewordify.com simplifies difficult English, and teaches you words quickly and effectively.' It includes a yellow box with a sample text transformation: 'Hearken! Anon thou shalt read tomes with more rapidity!' becomes 'Listen! Soon you will read huge books with more speed!'. Below this, it says 'You can also enter a website URL in the yellow box, and you'll see a simplified version of that web page. Get started fast—do the demo or watch the site overview video and be a Rewordify.com expert in less than ten minutes.' The bottom section is titled 'Read better tomorrow.' and includes a table with two columns: 'Click, Hear, & Learn' and 'Learning Sessions'. The first column describes clicking on highlighted words for definitions, and the second column describes learning words step-by-step. At the very bottom, there are 'Top' and 'Settings' buttons.

Read smarter now.

Rewordify.com simplifies difficult English, and teaches you words quickly and effectively. See the big yellow box near the top? That's where the learning starts. Paste in difficult sentences, paragraphs, or whole chapters full of hard words. Click *Rewordify text* and you'll instantly see an easier version, for fast understanding. The reworded words are highlighted—click them to hear and learn the original harder word.

From frustration...	...to understanding
Hearken! Anon thou shalt read tomes with more rapidity!	Listen! Soon you will read huge books with more speed!

You can also enter a website URL in the yellow box, and you'll see a simplified version of that web page. Get started fast—[do the demo](#) or watch the [site overview video](#) and be a Rewordify.com expert in less than ten minutes.

Read better tomorrow.

Learn more words faster. Tired of spending time looking up lots of words in dictionaries, and getting confusing definitions that don't

Click, Hear, & Learn	Learning Sessions
On any highlighted word, click (or finger-tap) to	Learn words step by step—the site keeps

Top Settings

Victor Reader Stream (new generation)

- Handheld media player by Humanware
- Plays DAISY books, MP3, MP4, EPUB
- Records voice and media
- Two built-in, human-sounding voices
- Built-in wireless networking capability
- \$369



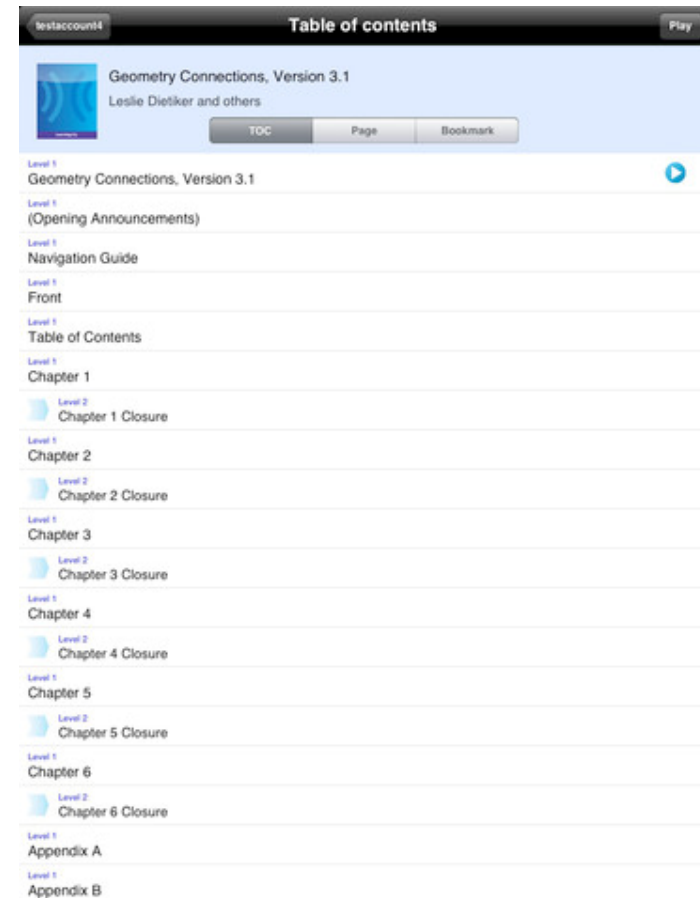
Reading Pens

- Scans text,
- Hear it spoken aloud
- Obtains definitions and correct pronunciation within seconds
- Variety of types
 - Wizcom
 - C-Pen Reader
 - IRISPen
 - PenPower
 - Video Touch Pen by MoralRegion



Learning Ally

- Learning Ally
 - [DAISY](#)
 - Membership required
 - over 75,000 audiobooks, audio textbooks, and other recorded books
 - Free Trial



Bookshare

- Online Accessible Library
- Free membership to qualified students and schools
 - Textbooks if school is member
- 389,675 titles
- Serves individuals with:
 - Vision disabilities
 - Physical disabilities
 - Learning disabilities



An Accessible Online Library
for people with print disabilities

Sign up today 

More Accessible Titles, More Ways to Read

Open up the world of reading with Bookshare®



Recent News

Bookshare Celebrates Black History Month
Junia Howell Unlocks World of Knowledge

389,675 Titles
and Counting!

Audible.com

- Digital audiobooks
- Read by Hollywood stars, authors, and professional narrators
- Listen anywhere
- Over 180,000 titles
- Membership
 - \$14.95/ month for one book





Every word comes alive.



Start with your choice of a **free** book:

Show:

All Categories



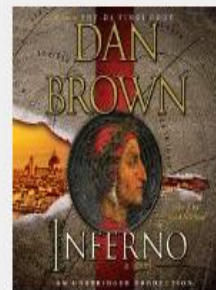
Best Sellers in All Categories



The Cuckoo's Calling



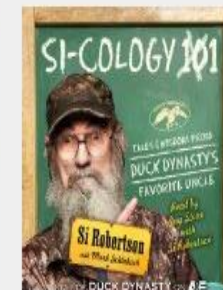
Divergent



Inferno: A Novel



The Fault in Our Stars



Si-cology 1: Tales and Wisdom from ...

Customer Favorites in All Categories

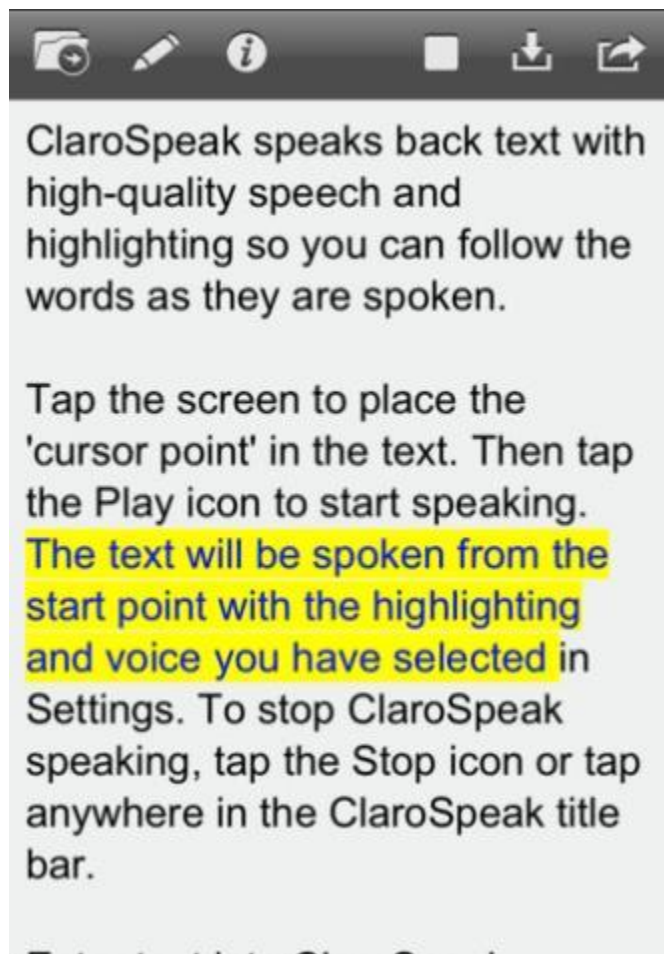
Mobile Tablets/ eReaders

- What do I need?
- Does it read out loud?
- Do I need Apps?
- Change colors?
- Change line spacing?
- Textbooks?
- Fun Reading?



Reading Software

ClaroSpeak US



- Text-to-Speech
 - import documents and PDFs into ClaroSpeak from apps such as Mail, or import PDF, Word, Pages and other files directly from Dropbox using
- Change font and color
- Save text as an audio file
- Visual Tracking
- Send Text

ClaroRead

- Reads text as it highlights
- Moveable tool bar
- Can read doc, PDFs, internet, and more
- 7.0
 - Add audio notes
 - Save as mp3 file
 - Save as video
- Can change highlighting colors
- www.claroread.com



Reading & Writing Software Solutions

Kurzweil 3000

- Text-to-Speech software
- Helps improve reading speed and comprehension
- Note taking capabilities
 - Different color highlighters
- firefly
 - Access many features of Kurzweil through the internet
 - [firefly demo](#)
- Free download trial
 - www.kurzweiledu.com
 - [Kurzweil 3000 Demo](#)

TextHelp

- Text-to- Speech software
- Helps improves reading skills
- Built in text and picture dictionaries
- Study skills highlighter
- Has a Google Chrom version
- www.texthelp.com



WYNN

- What You Need Now
- Internet Features
- Freedom Scientific
- Scanning and Reading software
- Highlights text as spoken
- Icon friendly
- Built in study tools



Writing Software Solutions

Low Tech Solutions

Writing Solutions:

- “The Penagain takes a novel ergonomic approach to ink pen design. The body of the pen is shaped like a "Y" creating a cradle for the index finger to rest in.”

<http://ergonomics.about.com/od/buyingguide/fr/frpenagain.htm>

- Wide barrel pens can make it easier for some people to write due to their contoured shape. With a Fat Ergonomic Pen there's more surface area to grip which makes it easier to write.



Low Tech Solutions

- Built up grips
 - Variety
 - Create your own using tennis balls
- Larger / thicker pencils
- Electronic Spellers
 - Franklin Spellers



Live Scribe Pen

- Records what it hears and what you write
- Uses specific paper for playback
- Connects to computer by USB for saving
- Tap on note and playback from there
- Jump forward and back in notes
- Dictionary
- Translation Apps
- Purchase Apps online
- [Demo](#)



Voice Input Solutions

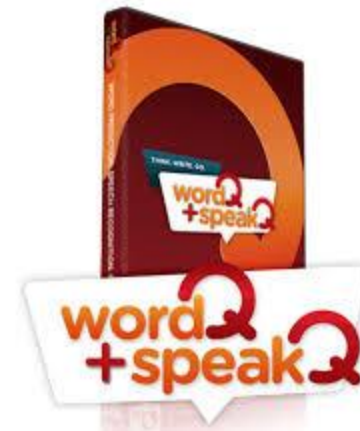
Speech Recognition Software

- Turn spoken words into text
- Connect with the timing of your thoughts
- Dictation speed 70 to 100 words per minute



Word Q/ Speech Q

- Software that has built-in word prediction
- Suggests words
- Spoken feedback to hear what was written
- Speech Q is a plugin for Speech Recognition
- 30 day free trial
<http://www.goqsoftware.com/trial/>





I can hear when I have speeled tings wong. I
can also hear when I have been used bad
grammars. When a comma is in **the** wrong,
place it is obvious.

Run on sentences are a problem for many
people I always know when I have written one
because it sounds like the computer needs to
take a breath.



Ginger

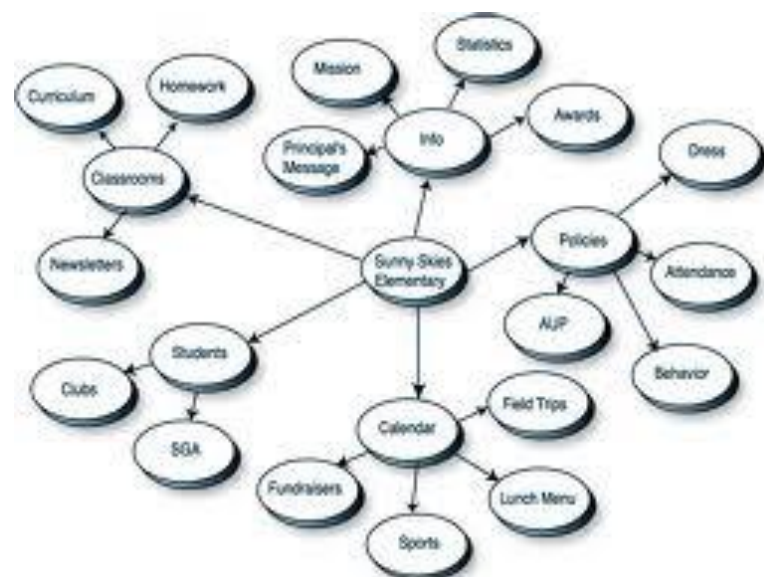
- Online grammar and spell checker
- Can see corrections as you type or use Ginger Proofreader to scan the entire document for mistakes
- Will read corrections out loud
- Has a mobile Android, iOS and Windows
- Works inside Word and emails
- Text to Speech
 - Read emails and docs
 - Can choose voice and accent
- [Ginger Demo](#)



Inspiration

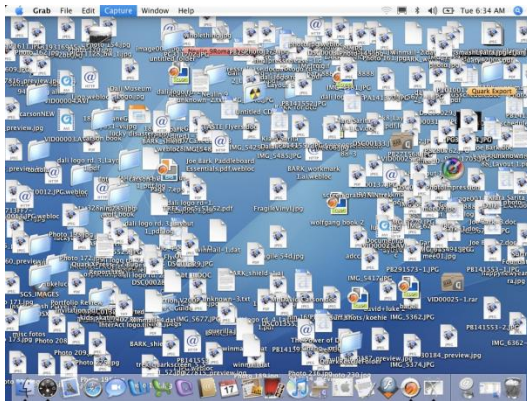
- Mind Mapping software
- Allows User to “connect” ideas together
- Add in pictures and hyperlinks
- Can produce an outline form
- Better organization of essays
- \$27.96
- App \$9.99





Memory & Cognitive Supports

- Calendar & Reminder Software
- Friendly Interface Layout

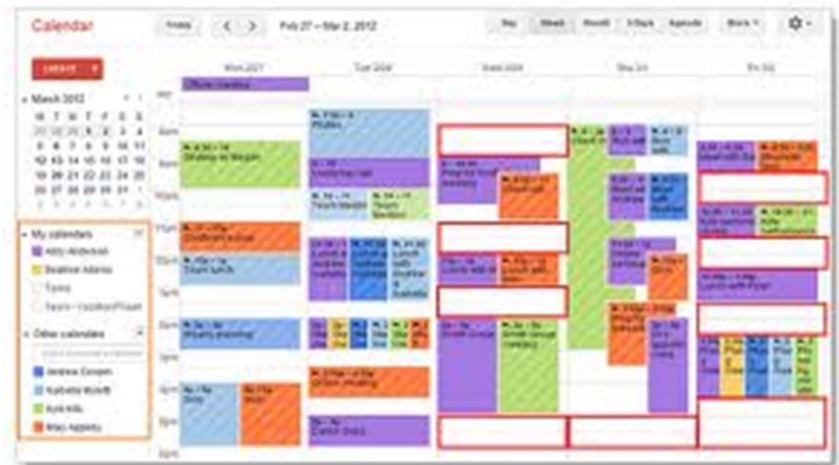


VS.



Google Calendar

- Color Code items
- Share Calendars
- Access across multiple platforms
- Customize Notifications
 - SMS Text
 - Emails
 - Popups
- Multiple ways to view
 - Daily
 - Weekly
 - Monthly



What's New In AT and the AT Community:

- **Perhaps, Where We Are Going**

Emerging Trends



Knowledge transfer is the practical action of transferring knowledge from one organization to another. Like knowledge management, knowledge transfer seeks to organize, create, capture or distribute knowledge and ensure its availability for future users.

TIP: Universities & Colleges are becoming more agile and actively seeking avenues for Knowledge Transfer.



Future

- Evening out the playing field
- More schools Bring Your Own Technology
- The Future is Contextual
 - GPS apps
 - Ads on Internet
 - Smart watches



• *Martha Rust*

Apple Watch

- Receive Calls and texts
 - “Inner Circle”
- Apps
- Can be used for fitness
 - Heart Rate Monitor
 - GPS
 - Accelerometer
- “Hey Siri”
- Haptic feed back
- Calendar
- \$499



FitBit

- Fitness tracker
- Variety of styles and colors
- Track Activity
- Track Food
- Track Sleep
- Track Heart rate
- Works with other Apps
- New Smartwatch



 fitbit.
Discover a whole
new world of fitness.



Microsoft Band

- Works across all platforms
- Receives calls and texts
- Uses Cortana
- Keep tracks of steps
- Keeps track of Sleep
- Keeps track of UV
- Keeps track of heart rate
- Choose apps
 - Facebook
- \$199



Moto 360 by Motorola

- Runs Android Wear, Google's operating system for smartwatches.



Mobile Payment Applications

- Looking forward towards my transition to college, I realized that I would need a way to easily pay for things at stores without having to handle physical money or credit cards.
- I began researching mobile payment applications that utilize Near Field Communication (NFC) technology.
- NFC technology allows users to pay for things by simply typing in a PIN number or scanning their fingerprint and holding the back of their phone up to a credit card terminal that accepts NFC.



Mobile Payment Applications

- Examples of these applications include:
 - Google Wallet (for Android, will be replaced by Android Pay soon)
 - Apple Pay (for iPhone 6, iPhone 6 Plus, & Apple Watch)
- Paying with NFC is A LOT more secure than paying with a normal credit card.
- In the future, I hope to see more stores accept NFC as a payment method and to see NFC technology included in more wearable devices.



T. Jacket

- Wearable technology vest
 - Provides customizable deep touch pressure
 - Uses adjustable air pressure compression controlled via smartphone app
 - <http://www.mytjacket.com/>



Amazon Echo



- Speech-controlled speaker system
- Voice recognition - further distances
- Timers, news, information
- Invitation only
- \$199, \$99 Prime members



News

Articles

Videos

Images

Books

Search ...

[Health & Medicine](#)

[Mind & Brain](#)

[Plants & Animals](#)

[Earth & Climate](#)

[Space & Time](#)

[Matter & Energy](#)

Science News

... from universities, journals, and other research organizations

E-Readers Can Make Reading Easier for Those With Dyslexia

Sep. 18, 2013 — As e-readers grow in popularity as convenient alternatives to traditional books, researchers at the Smithsonian have found that convenience may not be their only benefit. The team discovered that when e-readers are set up to display only a few words per line, some people with dyslexia can read more easily, quickly and with greater comprehension. Their findings are published in the Sept. 18 issue of the journal *PLOS ONE*.

Share This:

[f Like](#) 191

[t Tweet](#) 100

An element in many cases of dyslexia is called a visual attention deficit. It is marked by an inability to concentrate on letters within words or words within lines of text. Another element is known as visual crowding--the failure to recognize letters when they are cluttered within the

[enlarge](#)

STUDENT NAME: _____

Tutor's Initials: _____

Period: _____

Time it took student to read first pass through _____

A group of women crammed in to the Crenshaw Boulevard bus, getting on at the Grove Street stop. Shoving students line, by pushing and heaving, they forced make room for themselves where none so the long RUN to Huntington Street, the private worlds, creating the illusion of space them from the others on the bus. The word made from newspapers and magazines, but at the panels of advertising that lined the

2-1. Why was it difficult to get on the bus?



In the paper condition students read passages from the Gates-MacGinitie Reading Tests and answered multiple choice questions as shown. In the iPod condition the reading passage was displayed on the iPod (scrolled vertically using a finger on the

Interests
read So

Just In:
[Triclosan](#)

Social

Follow S
and Goo

[f](#) Face

Recomm
and Goo

[f](#) Like

Other so



HEALTH

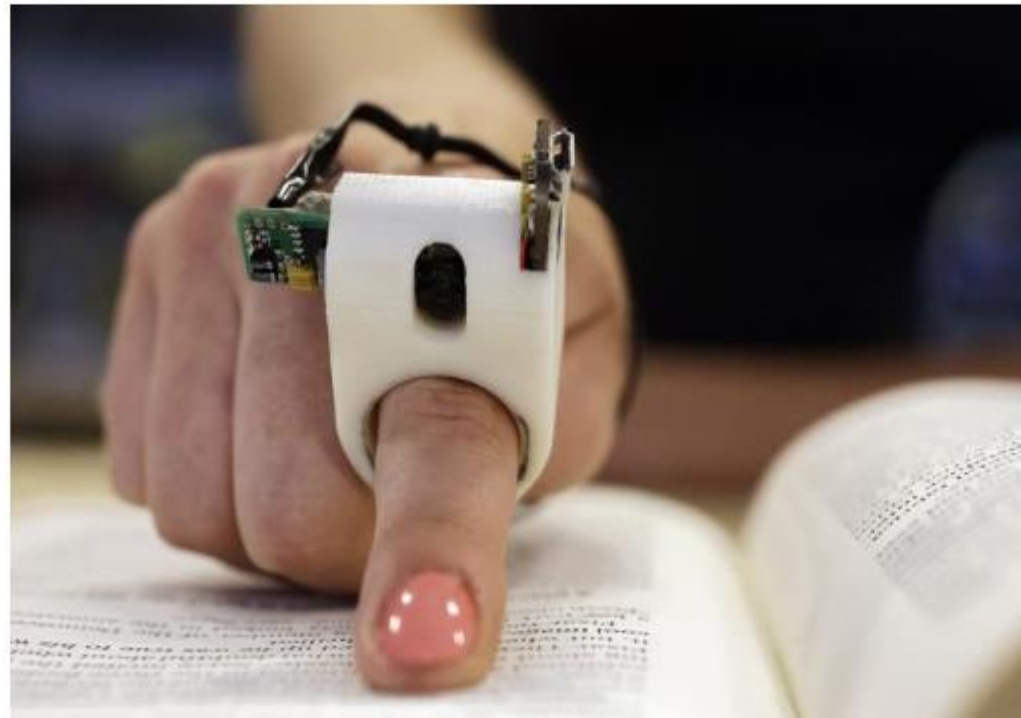


SHARE



COMMENT

MIT Finger Device Reads to the Blind in Real Time



By RODRIQUE NGOWI

Associated Press

JULY 8, 2014 1:24 AM

In this Thursday, June 26, 2014 photo, a model wears a FingerReader ring at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Media Lab in Cambridge, Mass. Researchers designed and developed the instrument, which enables people with visual disabilities to read text printed on paper or electronic devices. (AP Photo/Stephen Savola) AP

Success with Assistive Technology and Advocacy begins with the Individual



- Get to Know Yourself
- Build your self-advocacy and Advocacy Skills
- Plan for Your Success – in school, work, Life!
- Explore & USE Assistive Technology that can Help You
- Begin with the End in Mind
- Be able to tell Your Story
- Listen & Learn
- Try – Fail & Try again...
- Evaluate and Evolve
- Laugh Much!
- Celebrate your Successes! Success Breeds Success.
- AND Visit Us at the AT Lab!

Additional Resources

Family Center on Technology and Disability
<http://www.fctd.info>

WrightsLaw
<http://www.wrightslaw.com>

National Disability Rights Network
<http://www.napas.org/>

A Guide to Disability Rights Law – U.S. Department of Justice
<http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/cguide.htm>

American Association of People with Disabilities
<http://www.aapd-dc.org/>

Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities
<http://www.c-c-d.org/>



Many states have their own Disability Law or Protection and Advocacy Organizations. Links to these sites can be found on the Family Center on Technology and Disability's Website under Member Organizations.



**My Question to You:
What have You Learned today?**

TOOLS *for* LIFE

Georgia's Assistive Technology Act Program

thank
you



The Team



Carolyn Phillips

Director, Tools for Life

Carolyn.Phillips@gatfl.gatech.edu



Sarah Endicott

Research Scientist

sarah.endicott@design.gatech.edu



Danny Housley

AT Funding & Resource Specialist

Danny.Housley@gatfl.gatech.edu



Justin Ingham

Support Specialist

jingham3@gatech.edu



Ben Jacobs

Accommodations Specialist

Ben.Jacobs@gatfl.gatech.edu



Krista Mullen

Speech Language Pathologist

krista.mullen@gatfl.gatech.edu



Samantha Peters

Support Specialist

seters37@gatfl.gatech.edu



Liz Persaud

Training and Outreach Coordinator

Liz.Persaud@gatfl.gatech.edu



Martha Rust

AT Specialist

Martha.Rust@gatfl.gatech.edu



Rachel Wilson

AT Specialist

Rachel.Wilson@gatfl.gatech.edu