

Assistive Technology Resource List

Writing tools

| Name and URL of Tool | Description and Features of the Tool | How and Why You Would Use the Tool with Students |
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| <p>1. Thesauruses http://www.thesaurus.com http://www.visualthesaurus.com</p> | <p>Helps students by providing a list of words that mean the same thing as the word they are searching.</p> | <p>Helps students find synonyms for words. It helps improve the writer of students with or without learning disabilities.</p> |
| <p>2. Confusing Words Website/ Homonym Finder</p> | <p>This website finds words that are homonyms and gives definitions in helping someone select the correct word. Takes into account different pronunciations based on regional differences.</p> | <p>This tool is helpful if students have a hard time expressing themselves through diction.</p> |
| <p>3. Dragon Naturally Speaking http://www.nuance.com/naturallyspeaking</p> | <p>Speech recognition application that allows someone to dictate words with a microphone. The computer then types out what you are dictating.</p> | <p>This could help the student who does well with processing ideas out loud. I would use this tool with students who struggle to write a paper</p> |

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| | | without sharing their ideas with someone. |
| 4. Write Online http://www.cricksoft.com/uk/writeonline | Word prediction program that is web based and is "a talking word processing and word prediction program." | I would use this program for students with a print disability, who may have a hard time with the writing process. |
| 5. Inspiration Software http://www.inspiration.com/examples/search | Graphic organizer software that allows one to create a web with pictures and different branches. It also allows you to create an outline from a diagram. | I would use this with students who need help with the planning process of writing. It helps the students get their ideas before writing. |
| 6. Neo 2 http://www.renlearn.com/neo | A portable note taking device, which also has basic editing commands such as spell checking, a thesaurus, and a Spanish-English word look up. | This device can be used for students who struggle to take notes. It is nice and portable. It also helps build keyboarding skills. |

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| 7. Smart pen | A “pen sized computer that captures both handwriting and audio recordings. You can plug this into a computer and the notes will appear. | This tool is very effective for students who have a hard time listening and taking notes at the same time. |
| 8. Portable Braille Notebooks | Some are portable and have a standard Braille keyboard. Others have a QWERTY keyboard. | This helps blind people with the note taking process. |
| 9. Pencil Grip | A pencil grip is something that is attached to a pencil. It helps someone grip a pencil better. | This tool is an example of low-tech AT, which can help students who struggle with hand writing and the fine motor skill of holding a pencil. |

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| <p>10. Track Changes and Insert Comments Features</p> | <p>Track changes allow teachers to mark their edits on a student's paper. Insert comments allows teachers to make comments about the student's work.</p> | <p>I would use these tools with students who struggle with grammar. These tools will help me communicate with students during the editing process.</p> |
| <p>11. Highlighter pens(Reading tools)</p> | <p>This low-tech form of AT, allows students to call attention to certain parts of the text. They can use different colors to highlight different things they want to remember.</p> | <p>These are effective with students with different disabilities. It helps students pick out important information, when they may be overwhelmed with a lot of text. Teachers can pick out different things for students to highlight, which they want them to focus on. This is a good way to scaffold instruction for teachers.</p> |

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| 12. Large Print | This alternative format provides text in an enlarged format. | This tool is helpful for students with visual impairments. This makes the text easier to access for students who may have issues seeing the text in its original size. |
| 13. e-text | This is electronic text on a computer file. This could include Microsoft Word documents, rich text format, or websites. | This is a good feature because students can change the appearance of the text. E-text can sometimes be read aloud to students, which is helpful for students with disabilities. |
| 14. Braille Format | These files are able to open and be read a by a device that displays Braille(ex: Braille Note). | This feature helps blind students gain access to printed material by allowing them to access Braille. |

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| 15. High contrast color scheme | This is either black background with white letters or white background with black letters. | Some students with visual impairments may need a contrast to make text more readable. Files, folders, program names, and the menu bar also will be easier to read because they appear in a larger font. |
| 16. Screen magnification | This feature is available on both Mac and Windows. It enlarges images on the monitor. | This helps students with low vision by allowing them to use the magnification they need to meet their vision needs. |
| 17. Voiced feedback | This tool reads everything on the screen: menu bar and menu items, icons, dialog boxes, and text. | This is a feature that either a blind person or person with a visual impairment would use to read on the computer. This is available on both Mac and PC. |

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| <p>18. Talking dictionary</p> | <p>This feature allows students to look up unfamiliar words. It is available on the computer and will read definitions aloud to you. This feature is embedded into scan read systems.</p> | <p>This feature would be helpful for students with learning disabilities or visual impairments. It helps with reading comprehension because it provides an easy way to look up words. It helps with visual impairments because it reads to you.</p> |
| <p>19. Text readers</p> | <p>These electronic readers use text to speech to convert electronic text files into audio. Many different text readers are on the market.</p> | <p>Text readers are good tools for teachers because it can help students with reading comprehension. This could be used to read test questions to a student or help students proofread their answers. It is also helpful in general for students with reading problems because they can hear</p> |

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| | | <p>what they are reading.</p> |
| <p>20. Book holder(Page Up)</p> | <p>This tool holds a book at a comfortable reading angle and prevents the pages from flipping accidentally.</p> | <p>This tool is helpful for students with physical disabilities because it helps them to position the book, so they are able to read it.</p> |
| <p>UDL Tools: 1. Literactive http://literactive.com/Home/index.asp</p> | <p>This is a website geared toward Kindergarten-Grade 2. It includes guided reading activities, a phonics program, learning activities and games, an ESL reading guide, e-picture books, and e-poetry</p> | <p>This tool is a great interactive tool. This tool is good for visual and auditory learners. It helps students learn phonics and reading in a fun and interesting way. This is also a good tool because it provides translation for ESL students.</p> |

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| <p>2. Spell a Picture http://www.kerpoof.com/#/activity/abc</p> | <p>This tool is a fun and simple way to practice spelling with pictures. The person starts by spelling the word and then selects a picture that corresponds to the picture.</p> | <p>This tool helps with phonemic awareness, phonics, and spelling for young readers. It also is a good tool for students who are highly visual and need to see something in order to understand it.</p> |
| <p>3. Shmoop http://www.shmoop.com/</p> | <p>This is a tool for both teachers and students. It provides study guides, as well as videos to help students with their homework. It provides help with a variety of subjects. For teachers, it provides ideas on teaching different subjects and has interesting articles.</p> | <p>This tool is beneficial both for learners with disabilities and learners without disabilities. The study guides are interactive and could benefit learners with a variety of interests and learning styles.</p> |

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| <p>4. Spelling City http://www.spellingcity.com/</p> | <p>Spelling city is a tool that allows students to practice vocabulary and spelling. You can type in vocabulary words and select spelling test, teach me, flashcards, games or vocabulary test. The students will enjoy the variety of activities and games to practice.</p> | <p>This is a great tool for teachers because the teacher can give out a vocabulary list and have their students practice using this website. It has a variety of ways to learn vocabulary and it makes it interesting. Teachers can also access this website for lesson plans/ideas and for videos to show in class. The useful word lists are also good teaching resources.</p> |
| <p>5. Paper Rater http://www.paperrater.com/</p> | <p>This is a tool for middle school or high school students. It allows someone to do a grammar check, plagiarism check, and a proofreading check for papers they</p> | <p>This tool is great for students who need help with grammar or proofreading .</p> |

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| | write. | |
| <p>Math Tools</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Butterfly Math Addition (IPAD app) | <p>This is a tool used to help students practice basic addition. The students solve a problem by dragging the number of butterflies the problem adds up to into a butterfly cage.</p> | <p>This is a hands on way for students to practice addition. It will help students who are having difficulty mastering the basics of counting and addition.</p> |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Math Puppy(Ipad App) | <p>This app has a Bingo and challenge mode. It also has an animated calculator for subtraction and addition. You can purchase other modules.</p> | <p>This is a free app that would be good to use in the elementary math classroom. Students will enjoy this interactive and visual tool for practicing basic math.</p> |

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| <p>3. My Math Flash Cards App(Ipad app)</p> | <p>This is an app that allows students to practice their math flash cards.</p> | <p>Students may prefer this over making physical flashcards to practice their math facts.</p> |
| <p>4. Frame Set</p> | <p>This is a low-tech AT tool to help with math. This is a set of colored film frames that students can place over a math problem.</p> | <p>This could help students with visual impairments by helping students to focus on problems better or to see the problems clearer.</p> |
| <p>5. Stamp Set for Fractions</p> | <p>This is another low-tech AT tool that can be used in the math classroom. This is a set of different fraction stamps with a multi-color stamp pad.</p> | <p>This is a helpful tool because students can use different colors to show the difference between fractions. Students can also stamp fractions on top of other to show which fractions are bigger.</p> |

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| <p>6. Coin-u-lator</p> | <p>This is a small electronic device that helps with counting coins and making change. It has buttons for both coins and bills. It even makes a coin noise when you use that button.</p> | <p>Many students struggle with learning how to count coins and make change. This is a great interactive tool and hands on way for students to practice.</p> |
| <p>7. Whiteboards</p> | <p>This is a simple tool that can be very effective. White boards use dry erase markers, which come in different colors.</p> | <p>This tool is good for students with and without disabilities. Teachers can use these in whole group instruction or even for independent or small group practice. It gives students a fun tool to use to practice math.</p> |

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| <p>8. The National Library of Virtual Manipulatives http://nlvm.usu.edu/en/nav/vlibrary.html</p> | <p>This website features virtual manipulatives for numbers and operations, algebra, measurement, geometry, and data analysis and probability.</p> | <p>This resource is an excellent resource because it has something for students in Pre K through 12th grade. Teachers can find tools to teach many different math concepts.</p> |
| <p>9. Raised Number Rulers</p> | <p>Rulers that have easy to read and raised numbers. These rulers come in different sizes and are available with inches or the metric scale.</p> | <p>This is a good tool for students who have a hard time reading a ruler. Often times students get confused by all of the lines and have a hard time seeing the numbers.</p> |
| <p>10. Large Calculator</p> | <p>This is a larger version of a calculator.</p> | <p>This is helpful for students with vision impairments who have a hard time because the calculator is too small for them.</p> |

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| <p>11. Choice Board Creator (Ipad app)</p> | <p>This app allows you to create different activities that include reminder strips. You can insert a picture, audio, and text.</p> | <p>This app would be useful for the classroom. I like how personalized this app is. This app would be useful for students with organization difficulties, Autism, communication disorders, learning disabilities, and possibly even students with EBD.</p> |
| <p>12. Dynavox</p> | <p>There are a few versions of the Dynavox. This device can be transported or mounted to a wheelchair. It is an AAC device, where you can use preexisting buttons or design your own buttons based on the student.</p> | <p>This device is quite expensive, but is a useful tool for students with communication issues. I also found this device hard to navigate, however, it still has advantages with customization and different communication boards for all ages.</p> |

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| <p>13. Phone flasher</p> | <p>The light flashes when the phone or TTY rings.</p> | <p>This device is helpful for alerting people who are deaf or hard of hearing.</p> |
| <p>14. Silent call wireless alerting system</p> | <p>“Integrated system that can alert a person to the activation of any one of a number of common household devices. It can be connected to many different things like a strobe light, vibrator, or a regular lamp.” P. 143</p> | <p>“This system can indicate the presence of a sound at places other than where the sound occurred, and it can be set to use different patterns to differentiate types of sounds.” This would be helpful for people who have difficulties with hearing.</p> |
| <p>15. Amplified telephone</p> | <p>This allows the user to adjust the volume and control the tone, for example, boosting the treble or bass on a stereo. p. 144</p> | <p>This makes communication via telephone easier for both the person with hearing difficulty and the person they are communicating with.</p> |

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| <p>16. Video relay</p> | <p>This allows people to use a webcam and Internet to communicate. This utilizes a translator, who translates a sign language video into speech for the hearing person.</p> | <p>This is helpful because some deaf people prefer video relay technology.</p> |
| <p>17. Picture board</p> | <p>This is a low tech version of a communication AAC device like a Dynavox or Ipad. It consists of a series of pictures that the student uses to communicate.</p> | <p>This is a good device for communication and is cost efficient. It would help any student with communication difficulties.</p> |
| <p>18. Text messaging</p> | <p>This is a way to communicate via sending a message of text with your phone to another phone.</p> | <p>Some people prefer texting over using the telephone because they do not have to use amplification devices.</p> |

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| 19. Induction loop system | This can be used with a hearing aide, without needing another piece of equipment. You can switch to aide to T-switch mode. | This is a good tool for students with hearing problems, however it has to be permanently installed. |
| 20. Relay service | A lot of phone companies have relay services. One person uses TTY and the relay operator speaks the message to the telephone user. | This makes phone communication possible for people who could not make phone calls without it. Teachers may need to use this service for contacting parents. |
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