

# Assistive Technology Resources for Parents and Families

The following directory was compiled to address the specific assistive technology resource needs of parents, guardians, and families of children with disabilities. The information can be readily accessed and provides knowledge and guidance on various aspects of assistive technology. Please note that this is not an all inclusive list of resources related to Assistive Technology. *Compiled by: NJDOE/OSEP in collaboration with NJDCF/OOE and SPAN/START Project and Funded by IDEA Part B Funds*

## National Resources

[www.fctd.info](http://www.fctd.info) **Family Center on Technology and Disability (FCTD)**

The US Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs created the **FCTD** to provide information about assistive technology to organizations that work with families of children with disabilities. The **FCTD** includes a family information guide to assistive technology which is a comprehensive resource for parents/guardians on funding for AT; AT in the IEP; as well as many links to other resources on AT.

[www.schwablearning.org](http://www.schwablearning.org) **A Parent's Guide to Helping Kids with Learning Difficulties**

This is a comprehensive site designed specifically for parents/guardians of students with learning disabilities. Schwab Learning is a “non-profit organization, dedicated to providing reliable, parent-friendly information from experts and parents”. The site includes information on assistive technology in the following areas: listening; math; organization and memory; reading and writing including Essential Guide: A Parent's Guide to Assistive Technology.

<http://www.pbs.org/parents/inclusivecommunities/assistivetech.html> **PBS Parents Inclusive Communities**

This site was developed by the **Public Broadcasting System (PBS)** to help parents of children with disabilities. It includes information in a variety of areas including assistive technology.

<http://natri.uky.edu/resources/reports/repmenu.html> **National Assistive Technology Research Institute (NATRI)**

**NATRI** is an organization supported by the University of Kentucky and the US Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs. **NATRI** conducts research that produces data and products that will help improve the delivery of AT services to students. In addition to a host of general information, their website includes specific information for families in their AT Planner: From IEP Consideration to Classroom Implementation.

[www.pacer.org](http://www.pacer.org) **Parent Advocacy Coalition for Educational Rights (PACER)**

**PACER** is an organization based on the concept of parents helping parents whose mission is to expand opportunities and enhance the quality of life of children with disabilities and their families. Assistive technology is included as one of the many interventions and strategies that support their mission.

<http://tnt.asu.edu> **TotsNTech**

TotsNTech is the website for a national research program about AT includes information about adaptations and devices for infants, toddlers and children. Includes resource information, and links to many useful sites.

<http://www.nectac.org/> **National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (NECTAC)**

NECTAC has extensive resources for states about AT with children. Abstracted Bibliographies, links to federally-funded projects about AT with infants, toddlers and children. Copies of state resource materials may be accessed by using the pull down topical menu and selecting AT.

[http://www2.edc.org/NCIP/library/ec/Power\\_1.htm](http://www2.edc.org/NCIP/library/ec/Power_1.htm) **National Center to Improve Practice in Special Education through Technology, Media and Materials (NCIP)**

This URL will take you to a resource in the “Library” of the website for the National Center to Improve Practice in Special Education through Technology, Media and Materials (NCIP). Information includes Parent-Professional Partnerships in the consideration of AT, as well as function-specific topics (seating and positioning/ communication).

## **New Jersey Resources**

### **LEARNING RESOURCE CENTERS (LRCs)**

The Learning Resource Centers are supported through the New Jersey Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs to provide services to parents and educators of children with disabilities ages 3 to 21. These services include information; materials and circulation; consultation including training; and, production, e.g., laminating and transparency making. The centers continue to expand their assistive technology resources including training on assistive technology. Listed below are the locations of the four centers.

<b>LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER – SOUTH</b> 606 Delsea Drive Sewell, New Jersey 08080 (856) 582-7000	<b>LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER - NORTH</b> 7 Glenwood Avenue, 2nd Floor, Suite 201 East Orange, New Jersey 07017 (973) 414-4491
<b>LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER - NORTH SATELLITE</b> 322 American Road Morris Plains, New Jersey 07950 (973) 631-6345	<b>LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER - CENTRAL</b> 2351 Route 130 South P.O. Box 1012 Dayton, New Jersey 08810-1012 (732) 274-5570

### **EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY TRAINING CENTERS (ETTC)**

<http://www.nj.gov/education/techno/ettc/> The **Educational Technology Training Centers** are located in many of the state’s 21 counties to serve as county-based resources that offer educators, parents/families and professionals learning opportunities in the area of technology including Assistive Technology. The ETTCs contain demonstration technology equipment and offer training programs that include those that assist parents/families and teachers in implementing the Core Curriculum Content Standards.

## **STATEWIDE PARENT ADVOCACY NETWORK OF NEW JERSEY (SPAN)**

**SPAN** is a New Jersey based parent advocacy network administered by parents that provides training, assistance and support on many issues including assistive technology to parents of children with disabilities. They can be accessed on line at [www.spannj.org](http://www.spannj.org) or contacted at:

**SPAN** 35 Halsey St. 4<sup>th</sup> floor Newark, NJ 07102  
973-642-8100

### **Internet Resources**

[www.atto.buffalo.edu](http://www.atto.buffalo.edu) **The Assistive Technology Training Online Project (ATTO)**

**ATTO** provides information on assistive technology applications that helps students with disabilities learn in elementary classrooms and includes basic information about AT; AT decision-making; device tutorials; and, links to national AT resources. This is an easy to navigate site that contains useful information for parents/caregivers.

[www.disabilityinfo.gov](http://www.disabilityinfo.gov) **The New Freedom Initiative's Online Resource for Americans with Disabilities**

This is a comprehensive online resource managed by the US Department of Labor Office on Disability Employment Policy which provides links to AT information that can be helpful for parents.

[www.ataccess.org/resources/fpic/default.html](http://www.ataccess.org/resources/fpic/default.html) **Family Place in Cyberspace**

This site is located on the [Alliance for Technology Access](http://www.allianceforaccess.org) website and is an initiative funded by the Stulsaft Foundation to address the assistive technology needs of families of children with disabilities. It includes links to other family oriented resources as well as case studies; FAQs; and, general information on assistive technology and schools.

<http://aac.unl.edu/yaack/> **Augmentative and Alternative Communication Connecting Young Kids (YAACK)**

(YAACK) deals with issues related to AAC and children. This site is full of great information and strategies for getting started with AAC. This is a great site to check out early on if you have questions or are considering assessment for AAC with a child.

<http://www.ataccess.org/resources/wcp/edefault.html> **Alliance for Technology Access**

“We Can Play”, part of the Alliance for Technology Access website, presents twenty different activity ideas to use with children of all abilities. This resource includes directions on adapting a battery-operated toy and links to other web resources and books about play. The site also offers information in Spanish.

<http://www.switchintime.com/FreeStuff.html> (address is case sensitive) **Switchintime**

Free single switch software! (for Macintosh only). This site makes available the following titles: CDJuke Box, Scan ‘n Read, Single Switch Bingo, ClickIt! Collection, and SwitchHitter.

[www.kidsdomain.com](http://www.kidsdomain.com) **Kids Domain**

This site contains recommended software downloads for both PC and Mac, including shareware (inexpensive, usually between \$10-15), freeware, and demos. Programs are clearly described, and are grouped by age, e.g. “beginners”, “ages 2-5” and general topic, and the index is searchable. Kids Domain also includes icons and graphics for both PC and Mac that can be used for a variety of activities.

<http://www.assistivetech.net> **Assistive Tech**

Is a comprehensive, searchable site has an exhaustive list of assistive devices and descriptions of their key components.

[www.lburkhart.com/handouts.htm](http://www.lburkhart.com/handouts.htm) **Linda Burkhart**

This page of the site serves as an index for “Make it Yourself” directions and workshop handouts, including “Make Your Own Talking Switch”; “Make a Mouse House”; and “Computer Play: Using Computers with Children” and “What We Are Learning about Early Learners and Augmentative Communication and Assistive Technology”. You will find other pages related to “Simplified Technology for Children with Disabilities” on the site.

<http://www.kidsfreeware.com> **Kids Freeware**

This site features free downloadable software consisting of mostly simple programs that cause colors, sounds, pictures, or other stimuli to appear on the screen. While most need keyboard input, some of the programs also foster mouse use.

<http://www.computotgames.com/keyboard.html> **Computotgames**

This site also features free downloadable software consisting of mostly simple programs that cause colors, sounds, pictures, or other stimuli to appear on the screen. While most need keyboard input, some of the programs also foster mouse use.

[www.projectparticipate.org](http://www.projectparticipate.org) **Project Participate**

This site provides families, educators, administrators and therapists with simple strategies to increase the active participation of children with disabilities. There are several pages on “Gadgets & Gizmos” that present inexpensive, “do it yourself” solutions for reading (e.g. turning pages), writing (e.g. drawing with markers), play, and home.

<http://do2learn.com> **Do2learn**

This site includes picture symbol sets (and blank grids and schedule forms, including math alignment) in 1”, 2” and full page sizes. Instructions for developing pictorial schedules, story strips, etc.