

ASSISTIVE/ AUGMENTATIVE TECHNOLOGY:

Assisting Students with Dyslexia

What is Assistive/ Augmentative Technology?

Assistive Technology is “any item, piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially off the shelf, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of a child with a disability” (IDEA, 2017).

1. Highlighters

- **Low-Tech**

- Helps students with Specific Learning Disabilities in Reading and Spelling focus on specific words and phrases in a text.



Highlighters are useful tools for students with Dyslexia. These writing implements are cheap and readily available in the classroom. Another advantage to highlighters is that all students use them, so there is no additional attention brought to the student with dyslexia for having this assistive technology.

Image courtesy of VectorStock.com

2. Handheld Spell-checking Device

- **Mid-Tech**

- Helps students with Specific Learning Disabilities in Reading and Spelling to check components of words.



Handheld spell-checking devices are great tools for students with Dyslexia. These devices are useful in the classroom because they do not require a computer or a phone (which running a spell-checking app would require). They are easy for students to use, and only serve the function of looking up components of words, spellings, homonyms and homophones, and are less likely to be distracting than a device that has more uses.

Image courtesy of Spelling Success.com

2. Personal Listening Devices

- **High-Tech**

- Helps students with Specific Learning Disabilities in Reading and Spelling listen to audiobooks and other material.



Personal Listening Devices are very helpful for students with Dyslexia. These devices run software that allows the student to download audiobooks and other printed material in a text-to-speech format. They are portable, easy to use, and can help students keep up with reading assignments while improving their reading comprehension.

Image courtesy Amazon.com

References

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