ASSISTIVE/ AUGMENTATIVE TECHNOLOGY:

Assisting Students with Intellectual Disability (ID)

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. Active Seating

- **Low Tech:** This level refers to assistive tools that are low cost, easy to procure, and do not involve complex training to administer.

Image courtesy of specialneedsforspecialkids.org

  - An example of low-tech assistive technology for students with ED are fidgets. People with ED concentrate and calm themselves more effectively when they have sensory-motor input, and tactile fidgets options are a great way to incorporate their need for sensory input to help in the classroom.

2. Vibrating Watch

- **Mid-Tech:** This level of assistance refers to assistive tools that are moderate in cost, usually battery-powered, and require some training to use.

Image courtesy of lssproducts.com

  - An example of mid-tech assistive technology for students with ID is talking calculator. This technology helps students who have difficulty with computation by delivering information both visually and auditorily. These devices are reasonably priced and can easily be stored in a backpack.

3. Organizational Software Program

- **High-Tech:** This level of assistance refers to assistive tools that are higher in cost, usually involve computers or are electrically or structurally complex, and require significant training to utilize.
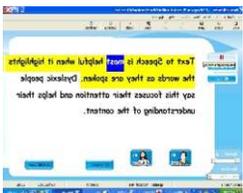

Image courtesy of bdatech.org

  - An example of high-tech assistive technology for students with ID are text-to-speech programs. These technologies are computer applications that read scanned or uploaded text aloud to the student. The text-to-speech software is fairly expensive but is useful as an effective support for a number of disabilities.

References

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