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SPE 637B: Social Emotional Support & Mental Health
May 30, 2021

ASSISTIVE/ AUGMENTATIVE TECHNOLOGY:

Assisting Students with ED

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.

  - 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.

Image courtesy of Therapyshoppe.com

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.

  - An example of mid-tech assistive technology for students with ED reminder devices like vibrating watches. This technology helps students with organization and time management. The watches are reasonably priced and can be found in a variety of styles and colors.

Image courtesy of Amazon.com

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.
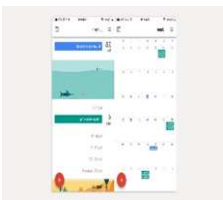
  - An example of high-tech assistive technology for students with ED are organizational software programs. These technologies are computer applications that assist with organizational skills. The organizational software can help organizes student's schedules and tasks in color-coded formats, with auditory reminders.

Image courtesy of Understood.org

References

Gargiulo, R. M., & Bouck, E. C. (2018). Chapter 5: Assistive Technology. In Special education in contemporary society: an introduction to exceptionality (pp. 135–158). SAGE Publications, Inc.

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