Assistive Technology

What is it?
Definition

• Assistive Technology refers to items that assist students with completing tasks independently.
• Assistive Technology may be broken down into two Types:
  – Low Technology Aids
  – High Technology Aids
Low Technology Aids

• Definition
  – Devices that are simple in design; require little maintenance; have no or limited electronics.

• Pencil Grasps
  – A device used to aid students with achieving a proper pencil grip.
Low Technology Aids

• Weighted Pencils
  – Used to increase pencil control and line fluency.

• Vibratory Pens
  – Used to increase sensory awareness for pencil control.
Low Technology Aids

• Book Buddy (Book Stand)
  – A stand to elevate a book/worksheet for easier viewing.

• Spacing Aids
  – An item used as a reminder to space between words.
Low Technology Aids

• Slant Board
  – An angle board used to improve writing ergonomics.

• Clip Board
  – Used to provide a stationary surface for writing, coloring, or cutting.
Low Technology Aids

• Wrist Weights/Knuckle Weight
  – Used to help stabilize the hand/forearm during writing tasks.

• Adaptive Writing Paper
  – Writing paper with visual/tactile cues as part of the paper for boundary awareness.
Low Technology Aids

• Ruler
  – Used to assist students with visually tracking words to be read or copied.

• Reading Guide
  – Used to assist students with focusing on a line/paragraph to be read/copied.
Low Technology Aids

• Note Taker Paper
  – NCR (carbon) paper that allows a peer buddy to take notes.

• Visual Timer
  – Used to assist students with transitioning between activities.
Low Technology Aids

• Color Coded Materials
  – Used to assist students with developing organization skills.

• Graphic Organizers
  – Templates used to assist students with organizing their thoughts.
Low Technology Aids

• Page Holder
  – A device that will hold a book open for students with physical limitations.

• Page Turner
  – A device that assists students with physical limitations with turning book pages.
Low Technology Aids

• Hand Held Magnifier
  – A device used with students visual impairments to enlarge print.

• Visual Schedules
  – Used with students to aid transitions; on task performance; and task completion.
Low Technology Aids

• Loop Scissors
  – Adaptive scissors used with students with physical limitations or beginning cutting.

• Spring Loaded Scissors
  – Adaptive scissors that spring open upon closing and used with students with physical limitations or beginning cutting.
Low Technology Aids

• Table Top Scissors
  – Adaptive scissors that are mounted to a base and require only a push to activate. Used with students with physical limitations.