

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY: AN OVERVIEW

CHALLENGE

- **Media:** The school year is underway, and Ms. Adelaide is pleased at how well she and her students are working together. One day, Ms. Flowers, the school principal, introduces her to Terry, a new student who will be joining Ms. Adelaide's second-period science class. Terry has an IEP because of a learning disability, an IEP that includes assistive technology to help him in the classroom. Ms. Adelaide feels a bit apprehensive. Will she be able to learn all that she needs to know about these assistive technology tools? And how adept at using the tools will she have to become? (movie)

INITIAL THOUGHTS

- What should Ms. Adelaide know about assistive technology and how it is used by students with disabilities?
- What are the school's responsibilities regarding assistive technology?
- What can classroom teachers do to help their students fully succeed in their use of assistive technology?

PERSPECTIVES AND RESOURCES

- Module Objectives (box)
 - o After completing the entire Perspectives and Resources section and reviewing the accompanying activities, you should be able to:
 - Define assistive technology
 - Differentiate between assistive technology devices and assistive technology services
 - Understand how assistive technology helps students with disabilities gain access to the curriculum
 - Understand that the IEP team is responsible for considering assistive technology for students with disabilities
 - Access resources that support the use of assistive technology for students with disabilities

Page 1: Assistive Technology

- *Link:* "individualized education program" (definition)
- Students can utilize assistive technology to... (bulleted list)
- **Media:** Examples of assistive technology (movie)
- Assistive technology can come in the form of... (bulleted list)

Page 2: Assistive Technology Devices

- The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA '04) defines an assistive technology device as...
- **Media:** Penny Reed discusses why educators should become familiar with AT devices (audio)
- Did You Know? (box)
- **Media:** A sample of AT devices (graphic slider with pop-up descriptions)
- **Activity:** Use your mouse to search for AT devices in the classroom and click on each to learn more (box with game and link)
 - o *Link:* Click here to see a list of the AT devices at use in the classroom
- Terry's AT Devices (box with bulleted list and links)
 - o *Link:* "portable DAISY reader" (definition)
 - o *Link:* "portable keyboard" (definition)

Page 3: Assistive Technology Services

- IDEA '04 defines an assistive technology service as...
- Assistive technology supports and services that are specified in the federal definition of assistive technology services include (bulleted list)
- Expert Panel (box with media)
 - o **Media:** Penny Reed discusses the need for assistive technology devices and services (audio)
 - o **Media:** Margaret Bausch discusses the need for assistive technology devices and services (audio)
 - o **Media:** Diane Cordry Golden discusses the need for assistive technology devices and services (audio)
- Research Shows (box)
- Terry's AT Services (box with bulleted list)

Page 4: Considering Assistive Technology

- *Link:* "free appropriate public education" (definition)
- **Media:** Margaret Bausch discusses AT as part of FAPE and the importance of having a process for teachers to follow (audio)
- It is important to have a person on the IEP team who is... (bulleted list)
 - o *Link:* Click here to view a list of potential members of an IEP team
- Did You Know? (box)
- A guide should assist the team in their discussion about the student's... (bulleted list)
- Did You Know? (box)
- *Link:* Click here to view a list of potential members of an IEP team
- *Link:* Click to view the WATI Consideration Guide
- The IEP team should discuss... (bulleted list)
- **Media:** Dave Edyburn explains why IEP teams should think about remediation and compensation when considering AT for a student with a disability (audio)
- During the consideration process, the team may conclude that... (bulleted list)
- FYI (box with bulleted list)
- **Media:** Watch the movie to learn why AT is often not implemented in schools (movie)
- Determine AT for Terry (box with link)
 - o *Link:* Click here to see a portion of the consideration guide that the IEP team completes for Terry

🔍 Page 5: Implementing Assistive Technology

- The AT implementation plan includes information about... (bulleted list)
 - *Link:* Click to view the National Assistive Technology Research Institute's Assistive Technology Implementation Plan
- **Media:** Margaret Bausch discusses designating a point of contact (audio)
- **Media:** Margaret Bausch discusses matching the student with the appropriate AT and providing adequate training (audio)
- **Media:** Margaret Bausch discusses determining classroom implementation (audio)
- **Media:** Margaret Bausch discusses considering tasks and environments (audio)
- Did You Know? (box)
- AT resources and supports available to teachers include... (bulleted lists)
- FYI (box)
- Terry's Implementation Plan (box with link)
 - *Link:* Click to view sections of Terry's implementation plan

🔍 Page 6: Evaluating and Decision Making

- Some of the information that should be collected to make informed decisions includes... (bulleted list)
- FYI (box)
- Ongoing monitoring is necessary to determine whether the assistive technology... (bulleted list and link)
 - *Link:* Some reasons for AT abandonment
- **Media:** Margaret Bausch provides tips on how to collect and analyze evaluation data to determine whether AT is working for a student (audio)
- **Media:** Dave Edyburn provides tips on how to collect and analyze evaluation data to determine whether AT is working for a student (audio)
- Terry's Evaluation Data (box with bulleted list)

🔍 Page 7: Tips for Teachers

- **Media:** Penny Reed offers a recap of assistive technology devices (movie).
- **Media:** Ed Rafferty offers a recap of assistive technology supports and services (movie).
- In order to maximize a student's success with AT... (bulleted lists)
- **Media:** Watch the movie below to see how one teacher handles making assignments and grading for a student who uses AT to assist with reading and writing (movie)
- Terry: Tips for AT Use in the Classroom (box with bulleted list)

🔍 Page 8: References, Additional Resources and Information

- References
- Additional Resources and Information

🔍 Page 9: Credits

- Content Experts
- Module Developers
- Module Production Team
- Module Production Support Team
- Media Production Team
- Media
- Expert Interviews

ASSESSMENT

- Please complete the items below (numbered questions)

WRAP UP

- The student's use of the assistive technology should be evaluated to determine... (bulleted list)
- **Media:** Margaret Bausch discusses how an IEP team should go about considering AT for a student (audio)
- **Media:** Student's AT needs provided through collaborative efforts (movie)
- **Media:** Students with learning disabilities using e-text for AT support (movie)
- Think back to your initial responses to the following questions (box)