Assistive Technology

Assistive Technology is an important component of several other domains in the Expanded Core Curriculum, particularly:

- *Independent living*
- *Sensory efficiency*
- *Compensatory skills*
- *Career education*

- "Assistive technology" as related to the ECC is an umbrella term that describes any "device" that can be used to substitute for or enhance certain impaired skills or abilities.

- Assistive technology is not just "technology" it may be an adapted chair, a gait trainer/walker, a slant board, an object or adapted picture cue system a brailler... Anything that helps us in our daily life.

- Assistive technology can include simple, homemade devices, "off the shelf" items that have been modified, as well as specially designed, commercially available assistive devices.

For most of us, assistive technology makes things easier.

For people with disabilities it makes things possible!

Why, When and How?

- **Why:** In today's world, it is nearly as important for a child to become computer-literate and tech-savvy as it is for a child to learn to read. Again—technology and assistive devices can help even the playing field for a child with a disability.

- **When:** Introducing technology/assistive technology early in a child's life helps the child learn foundational skills they can build upon as they get older. **However,** over use of technology can result in the user becoming over-absorbed in the device itself and may interfere with rather than enhance social interactions and learning in other areas.

- **How:** Carefully and thoughtfully and at the right time!

Ask these questions:

⇒ What technology/tools can I use to help my child participate more fully in an activity?

⇒ What are they developmentally ready for at this time?

⇒ Is there technology/tools that will help my child learn and better understand concepts that will later help them in school and life?

⇒ Will this technology help mitigate any of my child's disabilities (i.e: help them see things better; help them focus auditorally; help them be less sensitive to background noise or visual clutter; help them socially interact with the world; help them read and write...)

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Assistive Technology can be used to help your child in one or more of these areas:

1. Communication skills (object cues, visual/tactile schedule, big Mac switches...)
2. Literacy and pre-literacy skills (braille, magnification tools, auditory books…)
3. Social skills (phones, face time, communication devices, adapted games)
4. Environmental access (remote controls, smart switches adaptive positioning and mobility equipment…)

What:

http://www.wonderbaby.org/articles/ipad-access

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