AbleNet University

AbleNet University Live Webinars

September 17, 2019, 01:00 pm CST - 60-minutes

TITLE: **How Do I Develop Readiness For Power Mobility?**

September 23, 2019, 02:00 pm CST - 60-minutes

TITLE: **The Freedom Series: The Flip Side of Disability is Giftedness.**

https://www.ablenetinc.com/resources/live_webinars/

Symbol Overlay Maker

Easily create symbol overlays for your AbleNet technology using our new easy-to-use online Symbol Overlay Maker!

This free online tool works best with the latest versions of Google Chrome, Firefox, and Internet Explorer on Windows and Google Chrome and Firefox on OS X.

1. Select your AbleNet Technology and paper size.
2. On your template, select a red + to add an image and text. Images must be less than 2mb in size and already saved to your computer.
3. To edit or delete content already added to the template, click on the image and then select Edit or Delete from the menu.
4. When your template is complete, select Save As PDF and a file will be exported to your browser or computer. When you print from a PDF, make sure that all print scaling is turned off and the page prints at actual size or 100%.

https://www.ablenetinc.com/resources/symbol-overlay-maker/

Center on Technology and Disability

Welcome to CTD's Legacy Website

Since 2013, the CTD team has been pleased to bring you a wealth of free, high-quality resources and events on all aspects of assistive technology. A U.S. Department of Education-funded project, CTD ended in May 2019. However, our resource-rich website will be available to you through 2021. Thank you for all you do on behalf of children and youth with disabilities.

- Library
- Webinars and Learning Materials
- Videos

https://www.ctdinstitute.org/area/teachers-researchers

Language Lab

The AAC Language lab is a comprehensive web resource designed to support language development and promote communication through Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC). Begin your journey by administering the new AAC Language Screener to determine your student's starting point or just jump right in and start exploring. Lesson Plans are ordered by language stage and objective. You will then be guided to continue if needed with more activities for a language objective or move ahead to the next objective if your student is ready. Homework cards are also provided so families can support their students at home.

https://aaclanguagelab.com/getting-started

EDUCATIONAL EQUITY FOR ALL
Giving kids what they need to succeed.

Tana Donaghy, President, Educational Equity For All
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www.educationalequity4all.com

FEATURED IDEA OF THE MONTH

By 18 months babies have heard 4,380 hours of spoken language, and we don't expect them to be fluent speakers. If AAC learners only see symbols modeled for communication twice weekly for 20-30 minutes, it will take 84 years for them to have the same exposure to aided language as an 18-month old has had to spoken language. Research shows that AAC users require 3 hours of modeling, practice and use daily to become fluent in their symbol language. This can be done in a classroom setting.

5 COMMON MISUNDERSTANDINGS ABOUT ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

1. Using assistive technology is cheating: Do we consider a student who wears glasses to be cheating? Nope. But glasses are an assistive technology; they allow someone with poor eyesight to see better.

2. Assistive technology is expensive: Some AT costs a lot, it's true—but some is free or very inexpensive.

3. AT is more work for the teacher: Incorporating assistive technology into lessons can be done without creating more work for the teacher. For one thing, teachers in special education classrooms are likely already using differentiated instruction and tailoring their teaching strategies to diverse learners.

4. AT is primarily for students with significant or severe disabilities: AT can benefit all students with disabilities, based on their skill level, environment, or task. We may first think about students who have challenges walking, talking, or seeing as those who need AT the most. However, students with learning disabilities are the fastest growing group to utilize technology tools.

5. AT can only be used in the classroom: Many AT tools can be used at home as well as at school. AT is used in academics and learning, recreation, daily living activities, communication, mobility, and more. And if students use an assistive technology both at school and at home, their proficiency with it will increase, which leads to more opportunities for learning and success in both settings.
https://www.edutopia.org/article/rethinking-assistive-technology

Teachers' Desk Reference: Assistive Technology https://t.ly/J0Nwl
This issue of Teachers' Desk Reference provides an overview of assistive technology and how it can benefit students both in school and in their everyday lives.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

How to support a switch user

You may have a new or returning student with access issues. Here are 5 resources to review so you can be prepared to support your student.

- Everything You Wanted to Know about Switches and More - Part 1 and Part 2 Karen Kangas, OTR/L, been in the field of assistive technology since 1989. In this full-day workshop she talks about switches and everything around it, such as seating and sensory processing.
- Switch Access – Sample Goals for Children who have Severe Multiple Disabilities (PDF) Linda Burkhart is an internationally known pioneer in the field of simplified technology for children with severe challenges who developed numerous adapted switches. In this document she shares sample IEP goals for using switches for access.
- Switch Control Overview In this video, switch user guru, Christopher Hills, demonstrates an overview of three ways Switch Control can work for different users.
- Two Switches for Success: Access for Children with Severe Physical and/or Multiple Challenges (PDF) Another great resource from Linda Burkhart that describes the stepping stones to Switch Access.

https://www.assistiveware.com/blog/how-support-switch-user

COMMUNICATION MATRIX

The Communication Matrix assessment tool and community are free for everyone to use.

Pinpoint exactly how an individual is communicating now and craft realistic goals for the future. Use the Communication Matrix to follow up on an individual and clearly see the progression of his/her communication skills.

Users of the Communication Matrix can view a 90-minute webinar to earn a completion certificate or continuing education credits through ASHA.

https://communicationmatrix.org/Matrix/About#forPractitioners