



KALAMAZOO RESA **ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY TEAM**

Fall 2016 AT Newsletter

What is Assistive Technology?

Assistive technology services include “any service that directly assists a child with a disability in the selection, acquisition, and use of an assistive technology device.”

Assistive technology services include, but are not limited to, evaluation, device acquisition, device maintenance and repair, training for the student, the student’s family, and educators as needed, and technical assistance.

The term assistive technology device means 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 functional capabilities of children with disabilities. The definition of an assistive technology device is very general and provides IEP teams with the flexibility to provide a range of technology solutions to assist students in completing tasks within relevant instructional or access areas. Technology is available to support student performance in academic areas such as writing, spelling, reading, and math. Moreover, assistive technology is available to support student performance and independence in communication, listening, mobility, recreation and leisure, vocational training, and daily living activities.

Borrowing AT Materials for Trial

Snap Media is a lending library available to Kalamazoo County school districts through which materials can be accessed for trial. Materials available for check-out include: videos (DVD and VHS format), instructional kits, instructional technology items, assistive technology (communication devices, wiggle seats, weighted vests, etc.), and many other educational materials for your classroom use. You can get an account to start borrowing from the lending library by contacting [Michele Smith](#) or calling her at 269-250-9353.



Examples of Assistive Technology Available Through SNAP Media

Touch Window Screens

Assistive technology touch screen that attaches over a computer monitor for direct selection. With a simple touch the computer responds and allows students to make selections, move objects, pull-down menus, and write with onscreen keyboards.



Hokki Stool for Active Sitting

The Hokki is an interactive piece of furniture that not only holds your child's attention but keeps them moving. With a convex, rubber bottom that allows the Hokki to weebie and wobble safely in any direction. The Hokki is made from highly durable polypropylene and is nice and light, letting little arms move it easily around the room. The Hokki also has a soft padded sitting base that allows the user to rock back and forth without the fear of falling off.

Dragon Naturally Speaking

Speech to Text Software for interacting with a PC using speech instead of a keyboard and mouse. Spoken words appear on the computer screen--3 times faster than typing. Works with nearly any Windows-based application; up to 99-percent accuracy right out of the box. Dragon Sidebar puts key commands and tips in one desktop location for at-a-glance convenience.



Contacts

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Please contact any committee member with suggestions, ideas, or questions.

Thanks for reading!!

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