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## Selected Resources for Early Childhood Assistive Technology

Compiled by Nancy Marshall, OTR, Assistive Technology  
Consultant Updated January, 2003

*List of selected vendors, websites, publications, and other resources related to the use of assistive technology in early childhood.*

### Vendors

AbleNet, Inc. – 800 227-0216

[www.ablenetinc.com](http://www.ablenetinc.com)

Switches, environmental controls, battery adapters, and light tech voice output devices. Catalog set up in a format of how to use products in a classroom.

Beyond Play - 877 428-1244

[www.beyondplay.com](http://www.beyondplay.com)

Early intervention products for children birth to five with special needs. It features the Boppy with an overhead gym.

Creative Communicating - 801 645-7737

[www.creative-comm.com](http://www.creative-comm.com)

Early childhood software with emphasis on emergent literacy, classroom support materials, resource books and videos, workshops.

Crestwood Company – 414 352-5678

[www.communicationaids.com](http://www.communicationaids.com)

Communication aids and adapted toys.

Danmar Products, Inc. - 800 783-1998

[www.danmarproducts.com](http://www.danmarproducts.com)

Equipment for special needs including toy holders, utensil holders, aquatic adaptations, helmets, etc.

Don Johnston, Inc. - 800 999-4660

Switches, computer interfaces, software from early literacy to learning disabilities, resource books.

[www.donjohnston.com](http://www.donjohnston.com)



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Edmark  
<http://www.riverdeep.net/edmark/>  
Educational software, Touch Window.

Enabling Devices  
Toys for Special Children - 800 832-8697  
[www.enablingdevices.com](http://www.enablingdevices.com)

Equipment Shop – 800 525-7681  
<http://www.equipmentshop.com/default.asp>  
A source for the Tripp Trapp Chair, the baby BackJack and the Boppy.

Exceptional Teaching Aids, Inc. - 800 549-6999  
20102 Woodbine Ave., Castro Valley, CA 94546  
Braille Coloring Books, raised dots, clear labels for Braille for crayons.

Intellitools - 800 899-6687  
[www.intellitools.com](http://www.intellitools.com)  
Intellikeys, authoring software, curriculum software adapted to special needs, training workshops.

Lakeshore Learning Materials – 800 421-5354  
School supplies that often have features that can be helpful to young children with disabilities such as paint stamps with large handles or paint mitts.  
<http://www.lakeshorelearning.com/>

Linda Burkhart - 410 795-4561  
[www.Lburkhart.com](http://www.Lburkhart.com)  
Intellipics software files, resource books and guides.

Lynjan Solutions, LLC - 616 424-6520  
<http://www.lynjan.com/>  
Language rich software, training workshops.

Mayer-Johnson - 800 588-4548  
[www.mayer-johnson.com](http://www.mayer-johnson.com)  
Resource books and guides, reproducible augmentative communication materials, computer software for generating line drawing picture communication symbols.

RJ Cooper & Assoc. - 800 RJ Cooper  
[www.rjcooper.com](http://www.rjcooper.com)  
Software and computer access products for students with severe disabilities. Includes new products for babies and young children.

SoftTouch, Inc. - 877 763-8868  
[www.funsoftware.com](http://www.funsoftware.com)  
Software designed for use with all access methods and by all ages. Has cause and effect to choice making including Songs I Sing at Preschool.

Sammons Preston - 800 323-5547



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[www.sammonspreston.com](http://www.sammonspreston.com)

Adaptive equipment and rehabilitation supplies, materials and equipment.

Therapro - 800 257-5376

<http://www.theraproducts.com/>

Tripp Trapp Chair including seat pads, therapeutic resources used in schools in fine motor, daily living (good selection of eating utensils for tots), positioning, fine motor, etc.

Turning Point Therapy and Technology, Inc. - 877 608-9812

<http://www.turningpointtechnology.com/>

Standard and custom designed keyguards for computers, communication devices, press and play toys, and wheelchair trays.

## Websites of Interest

Michigan's Assistive Technology Resource (MATR) - 800 274-7426

[matr@edzone.net](mailto:matr@edzone.net) [www.cenmi.org/matr](http://www.cenmi.org/matr)

Information on workshops and trainings, links to other sites and resources.

National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) - 800 424-2460

Michigan Chapter (MAEYC) - 877 997-3239

<http://www.naeyc.org/>

Contains an online catalog of brochures, books and other early childhood resources. Includes accreditation and professional development information. Catalog available by calling.

The Division for Early Childhood (DEC) of the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)

<http://www.dec-sped.org/>

Publications on best practice with young children with disabilities, publications, resources, etc.

AAC Intervention.com

This site is full of how-to and resources related to communication and computer. Maintained by leaders in the field.

[www.aacintervention.com](http://www.aacintervention.com)

National Lekotek Center

[www.lekotek.org](http://www.lekotek.org)

Leading the Way for Accessible Play

Center for Best Practices in Early Childhood Education

Western Illinois University

[www.wiu.edu/users/mimacp/wiu/](http://www.wiu.edu/users/mimacp/wiu/)

The center's mission is to develop and promote practices designed to improve educational opportunities for all young children.

Let's Play! Projects

The University of Buffalo has this model demonstration project that provides families with ways to play through the use of assistive technology.

<http://letsplay.buffalo.edu/>



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Center for Creative Play  
[www.center4creativeplay.org](http://www.center4creativeplay.org)

This non-profit center promotes inclusive play spaces and opportunities. It has information on adapting toys.

Sesame Workshop  
<http://www.sesameworkshop.org/>

This site is filled with information and activities for parents and kids. You can click on a developmental level and get features and suggested activities.

Dragonfly Toy Company  
<http://www.dftoys.com/>  
Toy site for children with special needs.

The Best Sites for Kids  
[www.kidsites.org](http://www.kidsites.org)

A search engine for kids that features this site's top 1000 picks out of 5000. It includes toddler and preschool categories.

## Publications

Play and Learn from AbleNet (see vendors)  
A motor-based preschool curriculum for children of all abilities.

### Utilizing Switch Interfaces with Children Who Are Severely Physically Challenged

By Carol Goosens. Available from:

Zygo Industries, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1008  
Portland, OR 97207-1008  
800 234-6006

### KITE - Kids Included through Technology are Enriched

A Guidebook for Teachers of Young Children

Pacer Center, Inc., 4826 Chicago Ave. So.

Minneapolis, MN. 55417-1098

[www.pacer.org](http://www.pacer.org)

Tech for Tots™ Assistive Technology for Infants and Young Children, Level 1, From the Children's Hospital of Los Angeles.

A flexible lecture presentation package.

<http://www.childrenshospitala.org/11419.cfm>

### The New Language of Toys by Sue Schwarz and Joan Heller Miller

Teaching Communication Skills to Children with Special Needs:

A Guide for Parents and Teachers. Available from Therapro (see vendors)

A fun hands-on approach to developing communication skills in children with disabilities using everyday toys.



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Creative Constructions by Molly Campbell and Alex Truesdell, 617 924-7520  
or [mollycampbell@mediaone.net](mailto:mollycampbell@mediaone.net)

Instructions for making light technology adaptations including positioning and stabilizing toys.

The Inclusive Early Childhood Classroom: Easy Ways to Adapt Learning Centers for All Children  
by Patti Gould and Joyce Sullivan  
Available from Therapro (see vendors)

We Can Play! by Kirsten Haugen and Alice Wershing  
From ATA (Alliance for Technology Access)  
Download and print from: <http://www.ataccess.org/resources/wcp/edefault.html>  
20 one page "Play" activity ideas and instructions on making toys switch accessible.

Building Blocks for Teaching Preschoolers with Special Needs by Susan R. Randall and Ilene S. Schwartz  
Available from Brookes Publishing  
<http://www.brookespublishing.com/store/earlychildhooded.htm>  
This book focuses on solutions for teachers in inclusive early childhood classrooms. It has curriculum modifications by activity and lists different types of support including Materials Adaptation and Special Equipment.

Books Made Easy! By Pati King-Debaun  
Available from Creative Communicating (see vendors) Book adaptations for infants, toddlers and Young Children of all abilities.

The Book Shoppe by Jean Feldman, Ph.D.  
Available from AbleNet (see vendors)  
Many ideas and instructions for making homemade books.

Thrifty Nifty Stuff for Little Kids by Dee A. Blose and Laura Smith (\$39.00)  
Achieving Learning Goals Through Play by Ann Widerstrom and Susan Sandall  
Available from Pro-Ed  
800 897-3202  
<http://www.proedinc.com/>

## Other

Video -  
*Welcome to My Preschool! Communicating with Technology*  
From the National Center to Improve Practice (NCIP) in special education through technology, media and materials.  
NCIP  
617 969-7100  
[ncip@edc.org](mailto:ncip@edc.org)  
Also available from AbleNet (see vendors)

Video -  
*Augmentative Communication. Assisted Language Strategies for Pre-Schoolers*



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United Cerebral Palsy of New York  
Distributed by Program Development Associates  
1-800-543-2119

Video-

*Your Preschool Classroom Computer Center: How Does It Measure Up?*

Center for Best Practices in Early Childhood Education at Western Illinois University

309 298-1634

SPRITE

Special Preschoolers Into Technology Exploration

SPRITE is a project designed for 18-36 month old toddlers with special needs emphasizing development of independence in motor skills, social skills, and speech and language skills through the use of a personal computer. This project is provided in the child's natural learning environment, the home. For information contact:

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Assistive Technology Consultant Char-Em ISD

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or

Evelyn Howell, M.Ed., OTR

Occupational Therapist Char-Em ISD

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