Selected Resources for Early Childhood Assistive Technology


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

Crestwood Company – 414 352-5678
www.communicationaids.com
Communication aids and adapted toys.

Danmar Products, Inc. - 800 783-1998
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
Edmark
http://www.riverdeep.net/edmark/
Educational software, Touch Window.

Enabling Devices
Toys for Special Children - 800 832-8697
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
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
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
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
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
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
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   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

National Lekotek Center
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/
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/

Michigan’s Assistive Technology Resource is an IDEA Mandated Activity Project offered through the Michigan Department of Education Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL LAW
The Michigan Department of Education complies with all Federal laws and regulations prohibiting discrimination, and with all requirements of the U.S. Department of Education.

MATR    Selected Resources for Early Childhood Assistive Technology
3-04
Center for Creative Play
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
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

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.childrenshospitalla.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.
Creative Constructions by Molly Campbell and Alex Truesdell, 617 924-7520
or 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/endefault.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
Also available from AbleNet (see vendors)

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