



Section 6: Additional AT Information Resources

How to Learn More

The world of assistive technology is constantly changing. New tools are invented and old tools are upgraded. It can be difficult to stay current with the latest in AT and determine which tools are best for your child. There are many ways to keep up with developments in technology and learn more about the law, writing an IEP, using AT devices at school, or finding funding. The majority of the information providers listed below are accessible via the Internet. If you do not have Internet access at home, it is likely that your public library and your child's school library can provide access to these websites. We have also provided mailing addresses and telephone numbers where possible. Remember – the goal of everyone working in this field is to help you and your family.

National Sources of Assistive Technology Information

Family Center on Technology and Disability

The Family Center (FCTD) provides a range of AT resources to organizations that work with families of children with disabilities. Funded by the U.S. Department of Education, all of the Center's resources are free and may be accessed directly by families via its website. Resources include two searchable databases: (1) AT-related articles, guides, information sheets, websites, and training materials and (2) information about organizations from which families may receive information and services. The FCTD hosts month-long online discussions led by national experts on topics such as AT funding, inclusion, assessment and evaluation, and other relevant topics. The Center produces a monthly newsletter featuring interviews with AT experts and annual CD-ROMs containing all of the AT content on its website. The Family Center offers a Summer Institute on Assistive Technology, which may be taken for Continuing Education Credit.

Family Center on Technology & Disability
1825 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009
Website: www.fctd.info
Email: fctd@aed.org
Voice: 202-884-8068
Fax: 202-884-8441

Alliance for Technology Access Resource Centers

The Alliance for Technology Access (ATA) is a national network of resource centers that focus on technology for people with disabilities. The services provided by the centers vary from state to state, but many offer assistive technology assessment, consultation, training, demonstration, lending programs, referrals, and general information. For a list of resource centers in your state, contact ATA headquarters and ask them to refer you to centers in your area or refer to the ATA website below for a list of national centers.

Alliance for Technology Access - National Office
1304 Southpoint Blvd., Suite 240
Petaluma, CA 94954
Website: www.ataccess.org
Email: ATAinfo@ATAccess.org

Voice: 707-778-3011
Fax: 707-765-2080
TTY: 707-778-3015

State Technology Act Projects

State Technology Act projects are funded by the federal Assistive Technology Act of 2004. The services of these projects vary from state to state, but many offer state-specific information and referral, training, resources, and information on legislation and funding for assistive technology.

For a complete list of "Tech Act" projects in each state, you can visit the Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs (ATAP) at <http://www.ataporg.org/stateatprojects.asp>.

In addition, NICHCY compiles disability-related resources in each state, and creates State Resource Sheets. The sheets help you locate organizations and agencies within your state that address disability-related issues. You can contact them by phone at 800-695-0285 V/TTY or online at: <http://www.nichcy.org/states.htm>.

Parent Training and Information Centers

Each state is home to at least one Parent Training and Information Center (PTI). Parent Centers serve families of children and young adults from birth to age 22 with all disabilities: physical, cognitive, emotional, and learning. They help families obtain appropriate education and services for their children with disabilities; work to improve education results for all children; train and inform parents and professionals on a variety of topics; resolve problems between families and schools or other agencies; and connect children with disabilities to community resources that address their needs. To find a Parent Center in your state or region, contact:

Technical Assistance Alliance for Parent Centers - National Office
8161 Normandale Blvd.
Bloomington, MN 55437
Website: www.taalliance.org
Email: alliance@taalliance.org
Voice: 952-838-9000 or 1-888-248-0822
TTY: 952-838-0190

U.S. Department of Education

The Department of Education's Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) is comprised of the Office of the Assistant Secretary (OAS) and three program components: the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR), and the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA). OSER's reports and resources, including toll-free telephone numbers, can be accessed at: www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/osep/index.html.

The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) has its own website at: www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/osep/index.html. Families can learn more about the new IDEA legislation and link to many of the resources discussed in this guide via OSEP's website.

Additional Websites with Assistive Technology Information

The websites listed below offer information about AT products. Some offer basic AT training material as well.

ABLEDATA

The ABLEDATA website contains a searchable database of information on more than 30,000 assistive technology products. The database contains detailed descriptions of each product, including price and vendor contact information. The database also contains information on non-commercial prototypes, customized and one-of-a-kind products, and do-it-yourself designs.

ABLEDATA
8630 Fenton Street, Suite 930
Silver Spring, MD 20910
Website: <http://www.abledata.com>
Voice: 800-227-0216

Assistivetech.net

The Assistivetech.net website offers a wide variety of assistive technology and disability-related information, including a searchable AT database that is designed to help you target solutions, determine costs, and link to vendors that sell products. Target audiences include people with disabilities, family members, service providers, educators, and employers.

Georgia Tech Center for Assistive Technology and Environmental Access
490 Tenth Street, NW
Atlanta, GA 30332-0156
Website: www.assistivetech.net
Email: info@assistivetech.net
Voice/TTY: 800-726-9119 or 404-894-1414
Fax: 404-894-9320

AT Online Training Project

Developed by the University of Buffalo's Center for Technology, this website provides AT-related information under the following headings: Assistive Technology Basics; Tutorials; Assistive Technology Decision Making; and Resources. The site is easily navigable and features large print. Website content is aimed at parents, caregivers and teachers who are beginning their introduction to technology use by children with special needs.

Assistive Technology Training Online Project
University at Buffalo -
Center for Assistive Technology
515 Kimball Tower
Buffalo, NY 14214
Website: <http://www.atto.buffalo.edu>

Email: atto-webmaster@buffalo.edu
Voice: 716-829-3141
Fax: 716-829-3217

Infinitec

The Infinitec website is a joint effort of the United Cerebral Palsy Association (UCP) of Chicago and UCP Associates in Washington, D.C. The AT-related information on the site is useful not only to those with Cerebral Palsy, but to a wide range of families and practitioners. The site is organized in four sections: independent living, learning, playing, and working.

UCP Chicago - Infinitec
160 N.Wacker Drive
Chicago , Illinois 60606
Website: <http://www.infinitec.org>
Voice: 312-368-0380

While the sites above contain a wide range of disability-related information, you may want to research your child's specific disability in greater depth. Using Internet "search engines" can be useful for such research. Using a search engine is easy. Simply type one of the following addresses in the "address" line near the top of your Internet screen and click enter.

www.google.com

www.yahoo.com

www.dogpile.com

When the search engine site appears on your screen, type key words that best describe the topic you are interested in. If you are unsure about the spelling of a particular disability or AT term, the following websites include extensive glossaries of disability-specific terms: <http://www.fapeonline.org/terms.htm> and <http://ericec.org/disabilterm.html>.

The National Institutes of Health website - <http://health.nih.gov> - includes an A-Z listing of health topics, including many disability terms. The NIH site provides a great deal of information about each disability as well.

Assistive Technology Publications

Computer and Web Resources for People with Disabilities, 4th Edition

With a foreword written by Stephen Hawking, this updated version of ATA's popular resource offers reader-friendly information on a wide range of computer hardware and software issues. It provides worksheets and checklists to help families and others construct an assistive technology plan. It also offers a "technology toolbox" designed to help match functional abilities and appropriate technologies. The book is available in paperback for \$24.95 and spiral-bound for \$31.95. Ordering information is found on ATA's website, identified below.

Alliance for Technology Access
1304 Southpoint Blvd., Suite 240

Petaluma, CA 94954

Website: <http://www.ataccess.org>

Voice: 707-778-3011

TTY: 707-778-3015

Fax: 707-765-2080

Family Guide to Assistive Technology

Parents, Let's Unite for Kids (PLUK) is a Montana-based organization formed by parents of children with disabilities and chronic illnesses. Although this resource dates to 1997, much of its information remains useful. It can be read online at www.pluk.org/AT1.html.

Journal of Special Education Technology

Published by the Council for Exceptional Children, JSET is a professional journal that presents up-to-date information about issues, research, policy, and practice related to the use of technology in the field of special education. The online version is available free of charge and is easy to navigate. The print version is available for \$40 per year.

The Council for Exceptional Children

1110 North Glebe Road, Suite 300

Arlington, VA, 22201-5704

Website: <http://jset.unlv.edu>

Voice: 703-620-3663 or 1-888-CEC-SPED

TTY: 703-264-9446

Fax: 703-264-9494

Computer Monitor Newsletter

A publication of the PACER Center, this free quarterly newsletter is available in print or online. The newsletter features articles on assistive technology products, strategies for implementation of assistive technology, AT training opportunities, and success stories about individual AT users. Target audiences are parents, educators, and people with disabilities.

PACER Simon Technology Center

8161 Normandale Blvd

Minneapolis, MN 55437

Website: <http://www.pacer.org/stc/index.htm>

Voice: 952-838-9000

AT Journal

This free monthly e-newsletter is published by the AT Network and California Assistive Technology Systems. The journal features articles on new developments in technology, success stories, legislative updates, and more. You can access the journal via the website or you can register to receive it via email.

Website: <http://www.atnet.org/journal/>

Voice: 800-390-2699
TDD: 800-900-0706

Exceptional Parent Magazine

This monthly print and online magazine features articles and resources on assistive technology from a parent perspective. The online version is free but requires that users complete a registration form. The print version is available for \$35 annually.

P.O. Box 2079
Marion OH, 43306
800-372-7368
www.exceptionalparent.com

AT Information on Video, CD, and DVD

Assistive Technology Resource Bank

Valdosta State University and the Georgia Project for Assistive Technology have collaborated to create the Assistive Technology Resource Bank. This resource makes available online more than 60 videos on AT-related topics such as assessment and evaluation, the IEP, quality indicators, and the SETT Framework. There are also many product-specific tutorials.

<http://coefaculty.valdosta.edu/spe/ATRB/index.html>

I Can Soar: How technology helps students take off

National Center for Technology Innovation, 2003

Available as a free Web download or on captioned CD-ROM, "I Can Soar" is a 26-minute, documentary-style video with supporting materials that describes how four students with disabilities use assistive technology (AT). The video shows assistive tools being effectively integrated into the students' lives at home, at school, and in the community. Family members, teachers, therapists, administrators, and others describe methods for choosing AT solutions, putting them into use, and ensuring they work for each student.

To access online: <http://www.usu.edu/mprrc/icansoar/icansoar1.cfm>

To order the CD-ROM, contact:

Council for Exceptional Children
1110 North Glebe Road, Suite 300
Arlington, VA 22201

Voice: 703-620-3660 or 888-232-7733 / TTY: 866-915-5000 (toll-free) Fax: 703-264-9494

E-mail: services@cec.sped.org

Freedom Machines

Freedom Machines, a public television program and national outreach campaign, looks at society's beliefs about disability through the lens of assistive technology. Viewers meet a cross-section of America's population—a few of the 54 million Americans with disabilities—whose lives are being transformed with the help of new technologies.

To order a copy of the program and to learn about the national outreach campaign, go to <http://www.freedommachines.com>.

Conferences on Assistive Technology Products and Services

For those interested, there are a number of national conferences that focus specifically on assistive technology. The largest are:

Assistive Technology Industry Association

526 Davis Street, Suite 217

Evanston IL 60201

Website: www.ATIA.org

Voice: 847-869-2842

Closing the Gap

P.O. Box 68

Henderson MN 56044

Website: www.closingthegap.com

Voice: 612-248-3294

Fax: 612-248-3810

Technology and Persons with Disabilities Annual Conference

California State University, Northridge (CSUN)

Center on Disabilities

18111 Nordoff Street

Northridge CA 91330-8340

Website: www.csun.edu/cod

Email: ltm@csun.edu

Voice/TTY: 818-885-2578

Fax: 818-677-4929

There are, in addition, many online discussions and forums that can provide access to national experts and others in the field, from the comfort of your home computer. The Family Center on Technology and Disability offers six month-long discussions per year, featuring experts on a range of AT subjects. Funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Projects, they are free of charge to the public. To view archived discussions and participate in a current or upcoming discussion, visit <http://www.fctd.info>.

We hope this guide has been helpful to you.

It can be read online, with active links to the resources, at www.fctd.info

Additional print copies are available for \$10

To order one or more print copies, you can call, e-mail, or order online:

The Family Center on Technology and Disability
1825 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009
(202) 884-8068
fctd@aed.org
www.fctd.info

