

Where to Find More Information

The DoDEA Parent's Guide to Special Education includes a list of Internet resources on this topic and many others. The guide can be downloaded at the Department of Defense Education Agency (DoDEA) Special Education Home Page. http://dodea.edu/instruction/curriculum/special_ed/index.htm

Sites Especially for Military Families

For more information about Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP), visit www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/efm and click on "EFMP," speak to a Special Needs Coordinator at your local military treatment facility, or visit one of the service-specific Web sites listed in the "For Information and Assistance" section.

Military OneSource - A Master's-degree consultant is available to provide help with concerns related to children with special needs 24 hours a day. Translation services are available in most languages. Call 1-800-655-4545 (in US and overseas). <http://www.militaryonesource.com>

Systematic Training for Military Parents (STOMP) provides information, training, and assistance to military families who have children with disabilities. <http://www.stompproject.org>

Other Important Sites

Technical Assistance Alliance for Parent Centers - Locator to find state parent training and information centers and links to scientifically-based research, national information centers, and IDEA. <http://www.taalliance.org>

National Dissemination Center for Children and Youth with Disabilities - Clearinghouse of information about special education and specific disabilities, summaries of key topics and points of contact in each state. <http://www.nichcy.org>

Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center (PEATC) - <http://www.peatc.org>

IDEA Partnerships

Portal to resources related to IDEA, the law, national technical assistance providers, state/ local organizations and agencies, and the U.S. Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). <http://www.ideapartnership.org>

U.S. Department of Education - information on special education, parent involvement, education research, laws and regulations. <http://www.ed.gov>

Non-DoD informational references are being provided as required by IDEA but their inclusion in this material does not constitute any endorsement by DoDEA.

DoDEA Special Education Series

The complete series of brochures and other resources for parents of students with disabilities are available on the DoDEA special education website at http://dodea.edu/instruction/curriculum/special_ed/index.htm.

Special Education Brochures

1. Pre-referral Interventions: Steps Before a Special Education Referral/Assessment
2. Moving: Things to Remember When Relocating
3. Communicating Effectively: Building a Strong Partnership
4. Individualized Education Program (IEP): Your Role in the Process
5. Related Services: Understanding the Purpose of these Services
6. Early Intervention Services: Transitioning to Preschool Services for Children with Disabilities
7. Transition: Planning for Life After High School
8. Parent Rights and Responsibilities: Insights into Your Rights and Responsibilities
9. Resolving Disputes: Your Role in Reaching Resolutions
10. Assistive Technology: Assessment, Devices, and Available Services



**Assistive
Technology
Assessment,
Devices, and
Available
Services**

a publication of the

dodea

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Assistive Technology Assessment, Devices, and Available Services

Overview of Assistive Technology

Assistive Technology is any kind of technology device or service that can enhance the functional independence of a person with a disability. It can be anything from a simple, low-tech device, like a magnifying glass, to a complex, high-tech device, such as a computerized communication system. Your child's Case Study Committee (CSC) will list any requirements for assistive technology in your child's Individualized Education Program (IEP).

Assessing Your Child's Needs

After your child has been evaluated for special education services and the CSC establishes appropriate educational goals, your child may be assessed to determine whether he or she needs assistive technology. Your child's school, an independent agency, or an individual consultant can conduct the assessment, which can be completed in your child's customary environment (home, school or community). Based on the evaluation results, the CSC will identify the necessary assistive technology for your child in his or her IEP. As a member of the CSC, you will also be involved in this decision-making process.

Assistive Technology Devices

Examples of assistive technology devices include, but are not limited to:

- **Computers** with or without adaptive devices, to help your child use a keyboard, communicate, draw, learn, work, and play.
- **Software** that can perform a range of tasks, such as read text, recognize speech, translate text to Braille, enlarge text, adapt instruction, and organize information.

- **Adaptive Equipment**, such as pencil grips, slant boards, walkers, wheelchairs, utensils, and other devices that help students more easily function within their environment.
- **Communication devices**, such as computer-assisted speech devices with switches for simple answers, communication boards, or specialized communication systems that can help a person communicate with computerized speech.

Assistive Technology Services

Assistive technology services are any services that directly assist your child with selecting, getting or using an assistive technology device. These services also include the evaluation for assistive technology and may include training for you, your child, or service provider in the use of a device.

District Assistive Technology Lending Libraries and Services

DoDEA offers resources to help you and your child's CSC establish what assistive technology might work for your child. Each of the three DoDEA Area Offices has an assistive technology consultant who can provide additional information about assessing your child for assistive technology and what devices are available in your child's school. Where available, District Assistive Technology Lending Libraries can loan assistive technology equipment for your child to try. Your child's special education teacher will have more information on these resources.

Additional Information

The DoDEA Special Education Initiative provides specific information and contacts on assistive technology.

http://www.dodea.edu/instruction/curriculum/special_ed/AT.htm.

The Family Center on Technology and Disability offers family-friendly information, including a Family Information Guide on Assistive Technology and links to laws and resources related to assistive technology.

<http://www.fctd.info>.

Abledata provides objective information about assistive technology products and rehabilitation equipment from domestic and international sources.

www.abledata.com.

Closing The Gap, Inc. focuses on assistive technology for children and adults with special needs through its bi-monthly newspaper, Resource Directory, annual international conference, and extensive online services.

www.closingthegap.com.

CAST is a nonprofit organization that works to expand learning opportunities for all individuals, especially those with disabilities, through the research and development of innovative, technology-based educational resources and strategies.

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

Rehabilitation Engineering & Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA) has links to technology centers in the States and territories.

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