

Assistive Technology for Transition from High School

Transition projects work to enable schools, community-service agencies and families to better prepare youth with disabilities for life as productive, responsible adults in the community. Assistive technology (AT) can reduce barriers and help students with disabilities make a smoother transition from high school to higher education or a workplace.

PREPARING FOR TRANSITION

- Students with disabilities who use AT in high school should be aware the technology may not follow them to work or college. Often, the school district purchases the technology and loans it to the student while he/she is attending school. However, if adequate plans are made, a smooth transition from high school to work or college can be achieved.
- Among these plans should be an assessment of the work site to determine needed AT and a thorough investigation of the college or university's accommodative services to figure out the ease or difficulty with which your AT needs can be met.
- The INDATA program provides a web-based tool that houses input from Indiana colleges and universities regarding AT and services provided by the school. To learn more, visit www.eastersealstech.com or call (888) 466-1314.

TOOLS FOR READING AND COMPREHENSION

Immersive Reader: a free tool in Office 365 that implements proven techniques to improve reading and writing Helperbird: a free Chrome-only browser extension that provides dyslexia fonts, different font styles, background colors, text to speech, overlays, dyslexia ruler, immersive reader and reader mode

Rewordify.com: a powerful, free, online software that improves reading, learning and teaching

SMMRY.com: a free, online tool that provides an efficient manner of understanding text, which is done primarily by reducing the text to only the most important sentences

TOOLS FOR WRITING

Dictation: a quick, easy way to get thoughts out, create drafts or outlines and capture notes in Office 365 **Grammerly:** a Chrome-only, free writing assistant that checks for spelling, grammar and punctuation errors while writing on the web

TOOLS FOR NOTETAKING

Notability: a powerful notetaking app for iOS; allows the user to link audio, handwriting, pictures and videos with one's tablet and other devices

Otter Ai: a notetaking app for iOS, Android and web; uses artificial intelligence to transcribe lectures and other important voice conversations

MicNote: a web-based extension that records audio and typed notes and links them together

TOOLS FOR PROMPTING AND CUEING

MultiTimer: a free, iOS-only app that allows you to run and reuse multiple visual timers; great for routines

Time Tracker: a visual timer that includes three lights (green, yellow, red); helps prepare users for transitions by indicating how much time is left on tasks

TOOLS FOR MATH

PhotoMath and **Microsoft Mathsolver:** free, iOS and Android apps that solve math equations using a smartphone camera in real time; provide step-by-step guidance on how a problem is solved

TOOLS FOR COMMUNICATION

Verbally: a text-based speech solution for the iPad; enables creative communication, self-expression and conversation **HandySpeech:** a handwriting-to-speech application for iOS devices; provides people with speech and hearing disabilities a quick and easy conversational tool

