



Helpful Resources:

Supporting early literacy through universal design and assistive technology

Although not specifically focused on early literacy, the following websites provide information and/or examples of Universal Design for Learning (UDL), Assistive Technology (AT), and Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC):

Universal Design for Learning (UDL)

WWW.NECTAC.ORG/TOPICS/ATECH/UDL.ASP

National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (NECTAC) is supported by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs. Follow the link above for information on universal design for learning, including links to online toolkits and articles.

Assistive Technology (AT)

WWW.NECTAC.ORG/TOPICS/ATECH/ATECH.ASP

NECTAC provides information on AT for infants, toddlers and young children. The site provides a definition and overview of AT and a description of the benefits of AT for infants and young children. NECTAC also provides an overview of federal laws, tips for accessing and funding AT and information on the family's role in selection of AT.

[HTTP://WWW.FCTD.INFO/](http://WWW.FCTD.INFO/)

The Family Center on Technology and Disability provides a wide range of resources on assistive and instructional technologies for families and educators. The site provides family information guides, AT fact sheets, an AT glossary, and a newsletter. This site is also available in Spanish.

[HTTP://LETSPLAY.BUFFALO.EDU/PLAY/PLAY.HTML](http://LETSPLAY.BUFFALO.EDU/PLAY/PLAY.HTML)

The *Let's Play! Project* provides families with ways to play with their young child through the use of assistive technology. The site provides information on getting started with switch play, computer play, and use of technology for young children in natural routines throughout the day. This site also provides information on universal design.

Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC)

[HTTP://AACKIDS.PSU.EDU](http://AACKIDS.PSU.EDU)

This website provides guidelines for early intervention to maximize the language and communication development of young children with special needs. Includes step-by-step guidelines for planning for early intervention to build language and communication skills. Photographs and videotaped examples of use of AAC with young children with special needs are provided

For ideas to support early literacy using curriculum modifications and/or AT, visit:

[HTTP://TNT.ASU.EDU/](http://TNT.ASU.EDU/)

Tots 'n Tech Research Institute (TnT) provides information and resources about adaptations appropriate for use with infants and toddlers. Click on the *Ideas to Share* tab to access a database of ideas contributed by people working with young children in early intervention programs across the country. You can search for ideas by the functional skill you want to support, or by activity/routine. This website provides an excellent overview of adaptations that are easy to create. Also, there is a newsletter with information on AT and adaptations that is relevant to teachers and caregivers providing education and care to young children.

Click here (embed link- <http://tnt.asu.edu/ideas-16o>) to go straight to ideas for adaptations and AT to support book reading activities.

[HTTP://WWW.SCOE.NET/SEEDS/RESOURCES/AT/PRINCIPLES.HTML](http://WWW.SCOE.NET/SEEDS/RESOURCES/AT/PRINCIPLES.HTML)

The SEEDS Workgroup on Early Education Technology (SWEET) is a website that supports AT, including AAC, with young children and their families. The site features training modules that provide information on the use of AT with young children. Module topics include: An Overview of AT for Young Children, AT and Assessment, AT and Communication, AT and Emergent Literacy for Infants/Toddlers, AT and Play, and AT and Computers. Also, see the AT Toolkit for many low technology ideas and step-by-step directions on how to create supports or adaptations in your classroom.

Click here (embed link- <http://www.scoe.net/SEEDS/RESOURCES/AT/trainMods/mod4.html>) to go straight to a training module on AT and emergent literacy.

WWW.WIU.EDU/THECENTER/PROJECTS.PHP

Visit the Center for Best Practices in Early Childhood at Western Illinois University for technology-related resources from federally-funded early childhood projects. Included among these projects is the Early Childhood Technology Integrated Instructional System (EC-TIIS), which features a series of nine online workshops that focus on using technology as a tool to assist young children with disabilities. The Early Childhood Technology Literacy Curriculum (ELiTeC) also provides early literacy resources for early childhood professionals and families.

Books

Gould, P., & Sullivan, J. (1999). *The inclusive early childhood classroom: Easy ways to adapt learning centers for all children*. Silver Spring, MD: Gryphon House.

This book helps teachers look at the classroom design and set up and make adaptations to better include children with special needs. Learn ways to adapt learning centers and routine activities.

Milbourne, S. A., & Campbell, P. H. (2007). *CARA's Kit: Creating adaptations for routines and activities*. Philadelphia, PA: Child and Family Studies Research Programs, Thomas Jefferson University.

This kit includes information and planning tools on how to make adaptations for individual or groups of children who are experiencing challenges during everyday routines and activities.

Sandall, S.R. & Schwartz, I.S. (2008). *Building Blocks for teaching preschoolers with special needs* (2nd edition). Baltimore: Paul Brookes Publishing.

This book describes the Building Blocks framework. Learn how to make curriculum modifications and how to embed instruction in your learning activities and learning centers.