



AT Website Resources

Websites: Young Children and Assistive Technology

<http://aac.unl.edu/yaack/> Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Connecting Young Kids (YAACK) deals with issues related to AAC and young children. This site is full of great information and strategies for getting started with AAC. This is a great site to check out early on if you have questions or are considering assessment for AAC with a young child. This site is very down to earth and user friendly.

<http://tnt.asu.edu> TotsNTech, the website for a national research program about Assistive Technology (AT) includes information about adaptations and devices for infants and toddlers, resource information, and links to many useful sites.

<http://www.nectac.org/> National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (NECTAC) has extensive resources for states and systems about AT with young children. Abstracted bibliographies, links to federally-funded projects about AT with infants and toddlers, and copies of state resource materials may be accessed by using the pull-down topical menu and selecting AT.

<http://www.ataccess.org/resources/wcp/ndefault.html> "We Can Play", part of the Alliance for Technology Access website, presents twenty (20) different activity ideas to use with children of all abilities. This resource includes directions on adapting a battery-operated toy and links to other web resources and books about play. The site also offers information in Spanish.

<http://www.ablenetinc.com> While this site primarily features devices sold by Ablenet, there are many good ideas on incorporating switches and switch-activated devices into "fun" activities for preschool and younger children (e.g. participating in making brownies).

<http://www.afb.org/infant.asp> This website presents an electronic version of a recently published guide describing toys especially for children who are blind or with low vision (although there are some for other "special needs"). Most of the toys are available through "generic" toy stores. There is a special section highlighting infant/preschool. In addition to pictures and pricing information, general considerations to toy selection are described.

www.wvdhhr.org/birth23/campgizmo.asp Camp Gizmo is a five day hands-on camp where parents, professionals and students learn how assistive technology can help young children (birth - 8 years) with significant and multiple developmental needs.

www.wvdhhr.org/link/trail.asp Trails (Traveling Resource and Information Library Services) Child Care Trails is a mobile resource program designed to improve quality and availability of child care services in West Virginia. Each Trails van has developmentally appropriate toys, games, & books; training resources and assistive technology are available for providers who care for children with special needs.

www.cedwvu.org/programs/wvats/ The West Virginia Assistive Technology System (WVATS) is dedicated to increasing awareness of and accessibility to assistive technology (AT) for West Virginians of all ages and all types of disabilities.

http://www2.edc.org/NCIP/library/ec/Power_1.htm This URL will take you to a resource in the “Library” of the website for the National Center to Improve Practice in Special Education Through Technology, Media and Material (NCIP). *Baby Power*, a guide for families for using AT with their Infants and toddlers was written by Patsy Pierce, PH.D., from the Center for Literacy and Disabilities Studies, University of North Carolina. Chapters include Parent-Professional Partnerships in Early Intervention (with a focus towards the consideration of AT), evaluation, as well as function-specific topics (seating, positioning and communication).

<http://www.switchintime.com/FreeStuff.html> (address is case sensitive) Free single switch software! (for Macintosh only). This site makes available the following titles: CDJuke Box, Scan ‘n Read, Single Switch Bingo, ClickIt! Collection, and SwitchHitter.

www.kidsdomain.com This site contains recommended software downloads for PC and Mac, including shareware (inexpensive, usually between \$10-15), freeware, and demos. Programs are clearly described, and are grouped by age, e.g. “beginners”, “ages 2-5” and general topic, and the index is searchable. Kids Domain also includes icons and graphics for both PC and Mac that can be used for a variety of activities.

<http://www.assistivetech.net> This comprehensive, searchable site has an exhaustive list of assistive devices and descriptions of their key components.

www.lburkhart.com/handouts.htm While the entire Linda Burkhart site is well worth exploring, this page serves as an index for “Make it Yourself” directions and workshop handouts, including “Make Your Own Talking Switch”, “Make a Mouse House”, and “Computer Play: Using Computers with Young Children”, “What We Are Learning about Early Learners and Augmentative Communications and Assistive Technology”. You will find other pages related to “Simplified Technology for Children with Disabilities” on the site.

<http://cosmos.buffalo.edu/letsplay/> Visit the “products” section of this informative website to find “pdf” booklets and one-page idea sheets on emphasizing play with infants and toddlers. Learn about battery-operated toys and games and how to select and use switches for play and communication purposes in a variety of environments. Explore computer play software and adaptive peripherals that help young children participate independently.

<http://www.kidsfreeware.com> This site features free downloadable software consisting of mostly simple programs that cause colors, sounds, pictures, or other stimuli to appear on the screen. While most need keyboard input, some of the programs also foster mouse use. Try it!

<http://www.computotgames.com/keyboard.html> This site is similar to Kidsfreeware.com.

www.wvdhhr.org/mcfh/library/ The Early Childhood Resource Lending Library contains items such as books, brochures, video tapes, training manuals, workbooks, curriculum guides, assessment tools, and self-study modules. Also available for loan are environmental controls, adapted toys and software.

www.projectparticipate.org Project Participate provides families, educators, administrators and therapists with simple strategies to increase the active participation of children with disabilities. There are several pages on “Gadgets & Gizmos” that present inexpensive, “do-it-yourself” solutions for reading (e.g. turning pages), writing (e.g. drawing with markers), play and home.

<http://do2learn.com> Free picture symbol sets (and blank grids and schedule forms, including math alignment) in 1”, 2” and full-page sizes. The site includes Instructions for developing pictorial schedules, story strips, etc.

<http://dgl.microsoft.com/> This website is Design Gallery Live from Microsoft. It is absolutely full of pictures of all types. For example, there were 11 pages of wheelchair pictures and 84 pages of occupation pictures when a find was done on those two words.

<http://www.ditto.com> This website is a visual search engine – it contains an extremely large number of pictures for most topics.

www.abledata.com Abledata: Information, publications and an online database of AT 1-800-227-0216.

www.afb.org American Foundation for the Blind: family resource materials for individuals who are blind or visually impaired 1-888-232-5463.

www.closingthegap.com Closing the Gap: information, newspaper, annual national conference 1-507-248-3294.

www.fape.org/pubs/FAPE-12.pdf Families & Advocates Partnership for Education, Assistive Technology for Infant and Toddlers.

This handout was adapted from:

“Assistive Technology Resource Pack for Early Intervention Families and Professionals: Frequently Asked Questions”, Revised October 2005
Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network
Pennsylvania Department of Education
Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare