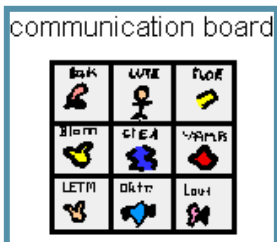




YOU MAY WANT TO INCLUDE....



- How to get evaluated
- Locating needed equipment
- Finding the money to pay for it
- Warrantee information
- Community Resources

I Rely On Equipment by Todd Washburne



I am very dependent on my machine to communicate. It is my link to the real world. I am unable to talk like most of you can and can only do it by typing. I use my machine like most people use their voices. The biggest problem is that my typing finger can't move as fast as others can talk.

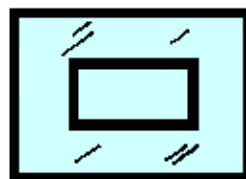
My machine is much like a laptop and has voice software that can read back my words so others can hear what I have to say. This is a big thing when I am in a group and I can adjust the volume. I am sure that without my machine I would be lost in my world of silence and it is very important to me that I have a voice. This allows me to have some say about jobs and my day program, and to tell people what I am thinking. Otherwise they would just be guessing, and these decisions are too important for that. I am not the silent disabled kid people

thought I was for years. However now my voice is heard about many issues and I have even been known to use a bad word or two but not often.

pocket comm. book



eye-gaze board



There are many types of machines designed to help people with various disabilities. A few of the more common ones are wheelchairs, Braille books and watches, and special toilet seats. These are as important to those who need them, as my machine is to me. Thank you's need to be given to the people who invent these helpful tools. We who need them are much better

off with the results of their work, and new inventions are coming out all the time. So, if you have a need, check to see if there is a machine that could help. I think we are very lucky that there are so many helpful gadgets for those who are in need of them.

Assistive Technology, Equipment and Accessibility

**It's Your
Choice!**

Assistive Technology (AT) is a tool that helps you:

- take care of yourself – *like using adapted silverware*
- do things as quickly as your peers – *like writing on the computer*
- to participate in activities you wouldn't be able to – *like using a bowling ball slide*
- stick with a task you would normally be too hard to finish – *like using word prediction software*
- concentrate on learning or working – *like using a tape recorder for class notes*
- get information – *such as books on tape*
- interact with peers and adults – *like using an output device*
- go to regular class in a regular school – *by use of elevator*

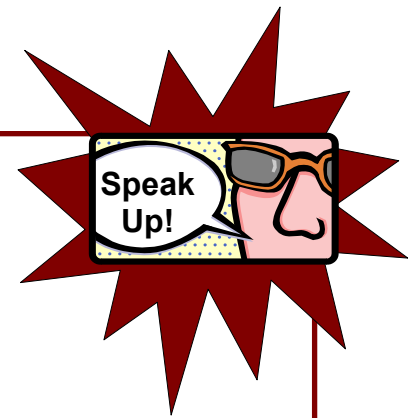


Did you know...

1. it is harder to learn when you are not actively involved?
2. if the school buys your equipment, they own it when you leave?
3. AT needs should be included in your Transition Plan?

Do you need help...

- walking or moving?
- seeing or hearing?
- with writing?
- with money, budgeting, math?
- talking or communicating?
- eating or dressing?



Next Steps

**You and your team should
decide how to start.**

Steps your team can help with:

1. Getting evaluated
2. Deciding on your needs
3. Trying out AT
4. Finding money to pay for the AT
5. Making sure your equipment is warranted
6. Putting you in touch with people who can help you

If you need AT or help with your equipment,
let someone know. **Don't shut down!**

Who will you tell?

