



SST8 Family Newsletter

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Assistive Technology: Helping Children Participate and Learn

We all know that an inclusive setting is beneficial for children. However, it is very important that we think not only of children *being in* the general education environment, but that they are given the opportunity to *participate* as fully as possible, both academically and socially. This requires educators, families, and students to put their heads together and consider ways to gain access to everything that is happening in the educational environment. The key to this access is Assistive Technology (AT)!

The team, including the family and student, needs to carefully consider what environments the student is in, what tasks the student is required to accomplish, and what challenges the student has in accomplishing the tasks. If a student has difficulty with a task, they should be taught the skill or information, but also may need to compensate for that difficulty or bypass the barrier so they can learn to their full potential. This process of thinking through what is difficult, but necessary to do will allow the team to figure out the current need(s). Then ask the question—*Would assistive technology of some kind enable the student to meet the goal?* Continued on pg. 2



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Areas of AT to consider that may be a barrier for your child could be: Handwriting, Spelling, Reading, Math, Written expression, Daily organization, Communication, Mobility, Recreation, Computer Access, Seating/positioning, Seeing, Hearing, Self-care, Levels of independence, Cognitive processing, etc. By using AT to get around those difficulties, your child can experience success with greater independence in the classroom, in the community, and even at home.

The following links will provide resources, information, and videos for Assistive Technology information:

<https://ataem.org> Ohio Center for Low Incidence and Autism (OCALI) Assistive Technology and Accessible Educational Materials Center. There is also a Family Center on the OCALI website <http://www.ocali.org/center/family>. View AT videos, free internet modules, AT Lending Library, and resources.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b0udSG_OyT0 YouTube video discussing the process for figuring out what AT is best for the student and using it to help the student learn.

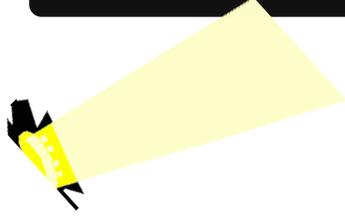
<http://www.wrightslaw.com/info/atech.index.htm> Wright's Law AT page. Parents, educators, advocates, and attorneys come to *Wright's law* for accurate, reliable information about special education law, education law, and advocacy for children with disabilities.

<http://www.parentcenterhub.org/considering-at> This checklist is designed to help IEP teams consider the needs of students with disabilities for assistive technology.

<https://www.ctdinstitute.org/area/families> Center on Technology and Disabilities (CTD) Family Portal. Explore new tools for your child with free webinars, browse the digital library for informational handouts, videos and more or participate in a free e-learning course to expand your knowledge on topics important to your family. Please visit the *CTD library* for access to hundreds of additional resources.

http://www.spannj.org/START/Parent_AT_Resources_5-09.pdf A document devoted to providing a variety of resources for parents and families.

<https://www.edutopia.org/article/assistive-technology-resources> Article with a ton of resources and videos explaining AT for families.



The Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI) serves families, educators, and professionals working with students with autism and low-incidence disabilities, including autism spectrum disorders, multiple disabilities, orthopedic impairments, other health impairments, and traumatic brain injuries.

OCALI offers five centers:

The Autism Center: The Autism Center at OCALI serves as a clearinghouse for information on research, resources, and trends to address the autism challenge. The center offers training, technical assistance, and consultation to build professional and program capacity to foster individual learning and growth.

Teaching Diverse Learners Center: The Center for Teaching Diverse Learners at OCALI provides professional development, technical assistance, consultation and resources for educational agencies, programs, practitioners, and families working to improve the quality of life and learning for individuals who have significant cognitive and low incidence disabilities. The center offers guidance to professionals and families with a focus on standards-based planning and instruction.

Universal Design for Learning Center: The Center for Teaching Diverse Learners at OCALI provides professional development, technical assistance, consultation and resources for educational agencies, programs, practitioners, and families working to improve the quality of life and learning for individuals who have significant cognitive and low incidence disabilities. The center offers guidance to professionals and families with a focus on standards-based planning and instruction.

Lifespan Transitions Center: The Lifespan Transitions Center offers resources, training, technical assistance, and consultation to support the successful transition of individuals with autism and multiple disabilities throughout their school careers and into their adult lives. Resources address community living and employment.

Family Center: The Family Center at OCALI connects families to the information they need regarding services, supports, training and resources, including the free OCALI Lending Library. It offers training and products to help families and to support agencies serving them.

For more information, visit their website at: www.ocali.org

OCALI is located at:

470 Glenmont Ave.

Columbus, OH 43214

Phone: 866-886-2254

The PAC Meeting next month will be February 14, 2018 from 9:30 am - 1:30 pm. The subject is **Recreational Opportunities:** Come hear from a variety of providers who offer recreational programming for persons with special needs and disabilities. Speakers will be represented from: All Star Training Club, Buddy Up Tennis, Camp Huddle, Empower Sports, Solon Blue Ribbon Programming and Special Olympics of Ohio.

If you would like to attend this PAC Meeting, please email Alice Doyle at 330 929-6634 extension 511232 or email her at: Aliced@sst8.org. Please RSVP by February 9, 2018.

Any questions, please contact Marianne Lesko, PAC Consultant at PAC@sst8.org or call 330 929-6634 extension 513927.

Happy New Year from SST8!

Contact Us

Give us a call for more information.

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