

# Hocus Focus

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## Using technology to work magic

Quick tips and tricks  
for accessible learning from home



SPIN Conference, Hawai'i

October 17, 2020

# ATRC

- Assistive Technology Resource Centers of Hawai'i (ATRC) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, federally-funded organization that provides:
  - Access to assistive technology (AT) for people with disabilities of all ages.
  - Information, education, and training to individuals throughout the Hawaiian Islands through comprehensive programs.



# Our Mission

- Linking individuals with technology so all people can participate in every aspect of life.
- Empowering individuals to maintain dignity and control in their lives by promoting technology through advocacy, training, information, and education.



# AT Basics

- Assistive technology (AT) is **anything that helps** a student/person do a task
- Three **types of assistive technology (AT)**
  - 1. **Low-Tech**—easy to do it yourself
  - 2. **Mid-Tech**—may be provided by school or available to borrow from ATRC
  - 3. **High-Tech**—find out how to access/get built-in tools with the tech you have

# **LOW Tech Devices**

Easy to find or make!

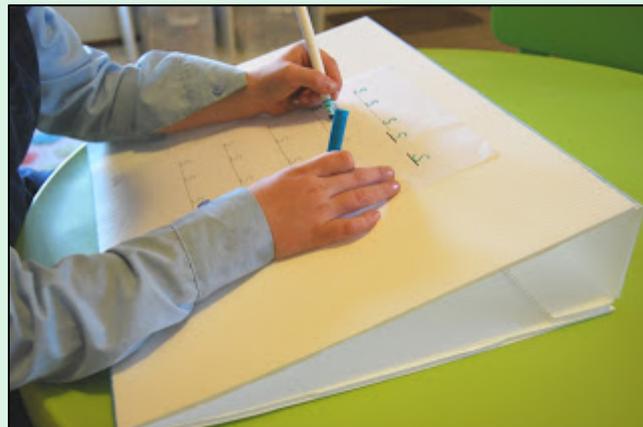
- Most common form of assistive technology
- Present in many homes
  - Easy to turn into accommodations
- Simple adaptive tools

**Download the handout  
"DIY Assistive Technology"  
for tutorials and printables**

# LOW Tech Devices

## Examples

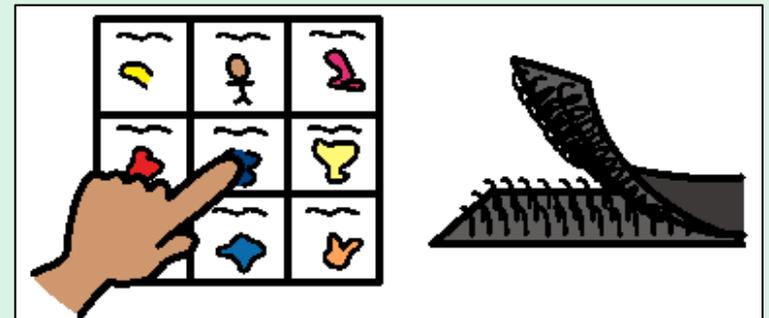
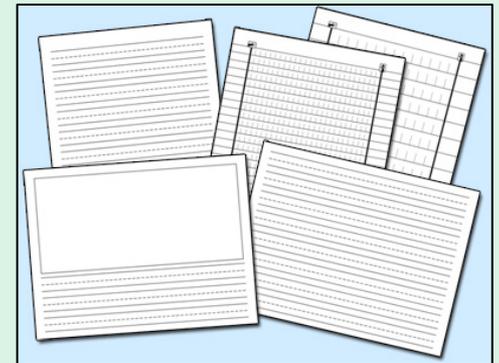
- Jumbo anything
- Adapted pencil, pens, and erasers
- Slant board
- Highlighters
- Tactile ruler
- Post-It's



# LOW Tech Devices

## Examples (cont.)

- Clips/clothespins (for grip for turning pages)
- Adaptive Paper (special spacing, lines, colors, etc.)
- Manipulatives (for counting, measuring, making patterns, and sorting)
- Visual schedules
- Velcro



# MID Tech Devices

From school or ATRC

- Least common form of AT
- Usually powered/battery operated
- Relatively simple to operate

Contact ATRC to find out  
about a no-cost  
**DEVICE LOAN**

# MID Tech Devices

## Examples

- Screen magnifier
- FM system
- Voice amplifier
- Adapted keyboard
- Mouse alternatives
- Switches
  - To operate adapted toys, games, appliances, and technology
- Digital recorders
- Static-display communication devices



# **HIGH Tech Devices**

Using the tech you have

- Most intense and expensive form of technology
- May incorporate the technology you may already have or received for distance learning

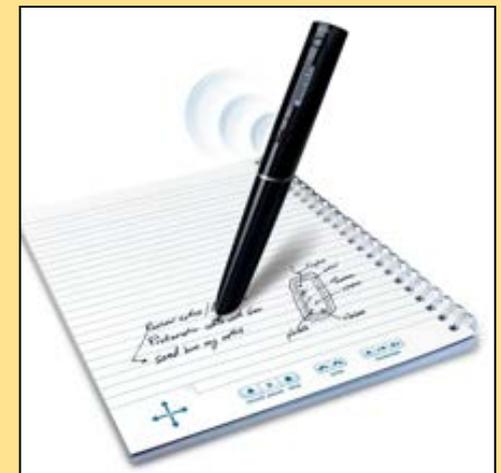
**Download the handout  
"DIY Assistive Technology"  
for ways to optimize your  
current technology**

**Contact ATRC to find out  
about a no-cost  
DEVICE LOAN**

# HIGH Tech Devices

## Examples

- Tablet/iPad
- Computer
- Smart board
- Smart pen
- Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC)
- Text-to-speech
- Voice recognition
- Screen readers



# HIGH Tech Devices

Using the tech you have

## Scheduling/Time Management

- **Google Calendar:** keep track of when class starts and due dates—practically anything time sensitive—and set reminders to alert you

## Writing

- **Text-to-speech:** hear text read aloud

## Auditory Processing, Reading Comprehension, Dyslexia

- **Speak Selection:** listen to the words on screen, with customizable rate of speech, word tracking
- **Type with your voice:** translate speech to text
- **Invert colors:** improves screen clarity with higher contrast
- **Zoom magnify** anything on the screen

# HIGH Tech Devices

Available to borrow from ATRC



Daily communication tools



Software for people with dyslexia/dysgraphia



Smartpens



Eyegaze technology

# HIGH Tech Devices

Available to borrow from ATRC



Wearable magnifiers &  
OCR devices



Video magnifier with  
text-to-speech



Handheld electronic magnifiers



OrCam

# Each child is unique!

- Try out your new tools to help your student with COVID learning

## How ATRC can help

- We can meet with you to discuss specific AT solutions
  - You can borrow tools to try at home or in the classroom
- ATRC can do a “show-and-tell”
  - Remotely, during COVID-precautions
  - In person, once standard operating resumes
- Partner with parents and professionals



# What we do

ATRC is the official Assistive Technology Agency for the State of Hawai'i. We work to educate and train individuals throughout the islands on the use of assistive technology through comprehensive statewide programs, in cooperation with other agencies.

Our programs serve:

- every disability
- all age groups
- all islands



# **Our Services**

1. Information and Assistance
2. Funding and Advocacy
3. AT Depot—Equipment Loan Bank
4. Technology Redistribution
5. ATRC Financial Loan Program
6. Demonstration and Training
7. Camp Cool and additional outreach programs
8. Home Automation
9. Accessible Multimedia Workstation
10. Rehabilitation Technology Services



# AT Depot

## Equipment Loan Bank

- Lending Library for AT devices
  - Borrow device up to 6 weeks
  - Try out at home, school, meetings, appointments, work
  - To assist you in decision making
- Details online at <https://www.atrc.org/device-lending/>

# Computer Redistribution Program

A person with a verified disability may be eligible for a refurbished computer, with an approved application to ATRC of Hawai'i.



# Camp Cool



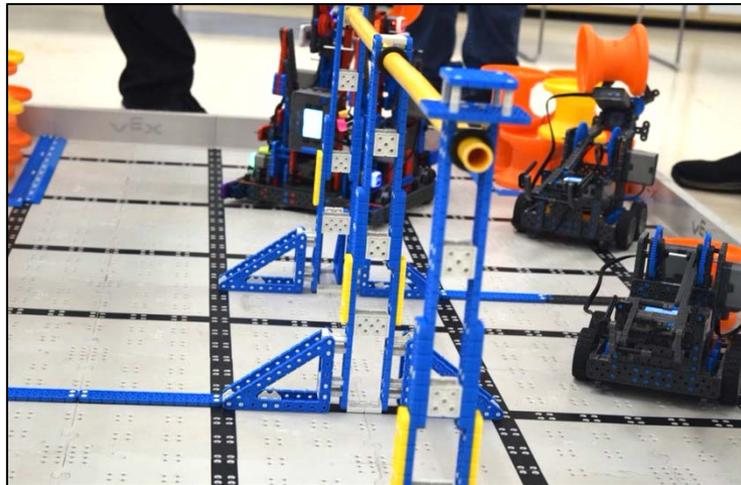
A 2-day technology exploration camp for children with disabilities and their friends/siblings.

In 2019 campers were introduced to the world of robotics and engineering as they explored, learned and played with AT.

Inter-island airfare scholarships were available to Neighbor Island participants.

# Camp Cool

Sign up for the ATRC newsletter and notifications about our next Camp Cool by emailing [hannah@atrc.org](mailto:hannah@atrc.org)





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