DIY Assistive Technology
Tips & Tricks for Your Student During a Pandemic and Beyond
October 2020

Scheduling/Time Management

- Visual schedule cards: printables

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

Writing

- Pencil grips

- Adapted-grip crayon

- Easy-grip stylus: for writing or selecting on a touchscreen

- Adapted paper: printable pages for students who struggle with letter formation, letter size, line use, spatial awareness, or margin use

- Slant boards: a board that has been set at an angle, usually with clips attached at the top to hold paper and exercise books. They bring paper closer to student, which can improve hand positioning, tracking, and posture.

- Chromebook text-to-speech: hear text read aloud

Measuring & Choosing

- Math Manipulatives Around Your Home: Math manipulatives are objects kids can move to demonstrate more abstract concepts they are learning. They are often used when counting, measuring, making patterns, sorting, and more.

- Tactile paper ruler

- Choosing: Answer boards, answer sticks, slant boards

Auditory Processing, Reading Comprehension, and Dyslexia

- Speak Selection**:** listen to the words on screen, with customizable rate of speech, word tracking

    - [Select to Speak for Android](#)

    - [Select to Speak for Chromebooks](#)

    - [Speak Selection on iPad](#)

- Type with your voice: translate speech to text

    - [For Google Docs (in Chrome browser)](#): for Mac or PC

    - [For Microsoft 365 programs:](#) Word, Outlook, OneNote, PowerPoint

- Invert colors improves screen clarity with higher contrast

    - [For Chrome OS](#)

    - [For iPad and iPhone](#): invert colors or turn on Color Filters

    - [For Windows-based devices](#)

- Zoom magnify anything on the screen

    - [For Chrome OS](#)

    - [For Mac or iOS](#)

    - [For Windows-based devices](#)

- Closed captioning on all visual media

- Sound: reduce background noise (e.x. fan, TV, washing machine) and use headset

- Lighting: facing student, rather than behind student (and all others in video meetings)

    - This is important because some hard of hearing students may rely on lip reading. If they cannot see the speakers face and mouth, that becomes a barrier for them

General

- [Tots 'n Tech Research Institute's Pinterest Board](#): Simple ways to enhance the participation of young children within everyday routines and activities. DIY adaptations and assistive technology to support young children.