

Assistive Technology Use with Young Children: Myths and Mythbusters!

CATEGORY	MYTH/MYTHBUSTER	BUSTER AIDS
AGE	<p><i>Children with disabilities ages birth - 5 are too young to benefit from AT; AT is not for children under 2; A child must be “old enough” to benefit from AT</i></p> <p>MYTHBUSTER: Use of AT for even a short time has been shown to yield positive outcomes even for the youngest child/children</p>	<p>Video - SLP working with 18 month old twins using Vantage Lite http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7eXD-6TJJ7I</p> <p>Video - Maya’s Journey (10 MInutes) http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UyGr7_B2NrK</p> <p>Tots N Tech Brief: Systematic Review of Studies Promoting the Use of Assistive Technology Devices by Young Children with Disabilities https://tnt.asu.edu/sites/default/files/ResearchBriefVolume8-1.pdf</p>
FIRST	<p><i>There are prerequisites to the use of AT that a child must have before considering AT</i></p> <p>MYTHBUSTER: There are NO prerequisites to the use of AT (ties in with Myth #1)</p>	<p>The notion of presuming competence - Emma’s Hope Book - Blog http://emmashopebook.com/2013/05/14/parenting-presuming-competence/</p> <p>Babies Driving Robots: Dr. Cole Galloway's Breakthrough Research https://youtu.be/PQnPclGY02I (research; then) https://sites.udel.edu/gobabygo/ (practice; now)</p>
DEVELOPING	<p><i>Using AT/AAC will inhibit normal speech/language development; AT can interfere with development; AT can keep children from developing as fully as possible</i></p> <p>MYTHBUSTER: Using AT/AAC will not interfere with normal speech development and may promote the development of speech and language</p>	<p>Janice Light’s AAC Kids http://aackids.psu.edu/index.php/page/show/id/2/index.html</p> <p>Neek using her PODD https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TK-YiCjEbFM</p> <p>Research: Schlosser & Wendt, 2008</p>

<p>PRICE</p>	<p><i>AT is too expensive to use with young children</i></p> <p>MYTHBUSTER: AT is made up of a range of strategies and devices that also have a range of prices</p>	<p>Rapid advances in technology are being seen and felt in the assistive technology field. Assistive technology is more numerous and available in a range of prices. Open Source technology is also resulting in free high quality web based solutions.</p> <p>http://www.oatsoft.org/Software/listing/Repository</p> <p>EZ-AT Guide PDF version: http://www.pacer.org/stc/pubs/EZ-AT-book-2011-final.pdf iBook: https://itunes.apple.com/us/book/ez-at-2/id781912747?mt=11</p> <p>Let's Participate! AT Catalog http://www.letsparticipate.org/library-public</p>
<p>SOURCE</p>	<p><i>AT comes from specialized sources</i></p> <p>MYTHBUSTER: As the world of AT and IT and ET collide more universal technology is being developed for all learners not just learners with disabilities.</p>	<p>Toy Guide for Differently-abled Kids http://www.toysrus.com/shop/index.jsp?categoryId=3261680</p> <p>Tiggly shapes http://tiggly.com/</p> <p>“Ideas to Share” on the Tots N Tech web site https://tnt.asu.edu/ideas</p> <p>Go Baby Go providing young children mobility access</p> <p>CTDs <i>The Future is Now</i> Symposium, 2016 http://ctdinstitute.org/library/2016-12-01/technology-solutions-early-childhoodthe-future-now</p>
<p>ALTERNATE</p>	<p><i>AT is only high tech or computer based technology; AT must be powered: wired, electronic or digital</i></p> <p>MYTHBUSTER: AT is comprised of a range of no tech, low tech, mid tech and high tech devices</p>	<p>fabricATE https://www.fabricate4all.org/</p> <p>WeeAT range of items for a particular activity (e.g. bubble blowers) https://sites.google.com/a/udel.edu/weeat/home/at-gamut</p> <p>TIKES Myth video #1 https://www.youtube.com/embed/IAc09Ja1TPU?rel=0&wmode=transparent&autoplay=1</p> <p>Tots N Tech Pinterest http://www.pinterest.com/totsntech/</p> <p>DIY activities http://www.pinterest.com/simontechcenter/diy-assistive-technology/</p>

		<p>Bumbo adapted wheelchair DIY instructions http://www.whatdoyoudodear.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Build-a-BUMBO-Wheelchair1.pdf</p>
SEVERE	<p><i>AT is only for low incidence disabilities; AT is primarily for children with severe/significant disabilities</i></p> <p>MYTHBUSTER: AT can provide benefits for all disabilities and identified based on the need of the child and the expectations of the caregiver/teacher/environment</p>	<p>EZ-AT Guide PDF version: http://www.pacer.org/stc/pubs/EZ-AT-book-2011-final.pdf iBook: https://itunes.apple.com/us/book/ez-at-2/id781912747?mt=11</p> <p>Research: Sadao + Robinson, 2010</p>
SPECIALIST	<p><i>AT can only be used in a setting where an AT specialist is available; At must be determined and provided by an AT specialist; AT must be selected by a specialist (who chooses as above); AT use requires extensive training</i></p> <p>MYTHBUSTER: AT can and should be used by multiple professionals and family members across a variety of routines and activities and environments (home, school, community, etc.)</p>	<p>PEAT's Suite Connect Module https://connectmodules.dec-sped.org/product/peats-suite/</p> <p>CARA's Kit (for Preschoolers and for Toddlers) http://inclusioninstitute.fpg.unc.edu/sites/inclusioninstitute.fpg.unc.edu/files/handouts/Milbourne_SA%20CARAs%20Kit%20NECTAC%202012.pdf http://www.kirkwood.edu/pdf/uploaded/1163/caras_kit_7_adaptation_lessons.pdf</p> <p>CONNECT Module - http://community.fpg.unc.edu/connect-modules/learners/module-5</p> <p>The IRIS Center - Early Childhood Environments: Designing Effective Classrooms http://iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu/module/env/#content</p> <p>ECTA Training Resources http://ectacenter.org/topics/atech/training.asp</p> <p>Research: Mistrett, 2006; Wilcox et al, 2006; Parette + Blum, 2013</p>

<p>SCREEN</p>	<p><i>Screen time is inappropriate for young children. (when, how and if it is appropriate; active vs. passive)</i></p> <p>MYTHBUSTER: When used intentionally and in a playful manner, screen time opens doors to possibilities that other (passive) technologies do not provide.</p>	<p>Lakeside Autism Center: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZvSUI4zmjaU</p> <p>iTikes Keyboard http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZRxl7BQfneU</p> <p>CO Results Matter Videos: iPads in Early Childhood http://www.cde.state.co.us/resultsmatter/RMVideoSeries_iPadsInEarlyChildhood</p> <p>Zero to Three Brief: Screen Time https://www.zerotothree.org/early-learning/screen-time</p> <p>US DOE/HHS Early Learning & Education Technology Policy brief, 2016 https://tech.ed.gov/files/2016/10/Early-Learning-Tech-Policy-Brief.pdf</p>
<p>SKILL</p>	<p><i>AT can be selected based only on a child's skill level (excluding environment/expectations/adult caregiver perceptions)</i></p> <p>MYTHBUSTER: AT that is easy to use, familiar, that "fits" the environmental context, and selected with family/caregiver input is best because it will be used</p>	<p>Virginia's Integrated Training Collaborative - http://www.veipd.org/main/sub_assist_tech.html</p> <p>Participation-based service approach presented by CFSRP http://jeffline.tju.edu/cfsrp/pdfs/Supporting_Learning.pdf?origin=publication_detail</p> <p>Baby STEM learning at home https://stem4ec.ning.com/blog/enhance-stem-learning-and-participation-for-young-children-with-d</p> <p>Research: Sadao et al, 2010; Judge, 1998</p>
<p>EQUIPMENT</p>	<p><i>AT is another term for Durable Medical Equipment</i></p> <p>MYTHBUSTER: AT is used to support developmental and educational needs of a child compared to <u>most</u> durable medical equipment (DME) which is used to support a child's medical needs; some may consider a wheelchair AT, others DME.</p>	<p>US DOE/OSEP Memos: AT Clarification of Public Policy, (rev. 3/03) https://www2.ed.gov/policy/speced/guid/idea/letters/2003-1/goodman032503earlyinter1q2003.pdf</p> <p>Rifton's Funding Guide for (AT + DME) Equipment for Young Children http://www.rifton.com/resources/articles/2011/february/funding-adaptive-mobility-equipment-for-young-children-with-disabilities</p>

REUSE	<p><i>When a child no longer needs a particular AT item it cannot be reused by other children</i></p> <p>MYTHBUSTER: There are options for re-distributing AT devices</p>	<p>Example AT reuse programs:</p> <p>National Pass It On Center: http://www.passitoncenter.org/</p> <p>California https://exchange.abilitytools.org/</p> <p>Delaware http://www.dati.org/v3/home.php</p> <p>Michigan https://www.atxchange.org/</p> <p>North Carolina http://www.ncatp.org</p> <p>Minnesota https://www.facebook.com/groups/863267887136492/</p>
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