



ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY AND THE IEP: Resources for Families, Youth and School Districts During the IEP Meeting

During an Individualized Education Program (IEP) meeting where assistive technology is being discussed, it's important to be well-prepared and effectively advocate for your child's needs. Remember, the goal of the IEP meeting is to create a plan that supports your child's learning and development. Effective communication and collaboration with the IEP team are key components of this process.

TIPS: Remember that each child's situation is unique, so tailor these tips to your child's specific needs and circumstances.

- **Be Informed:** Familiarize yourself with your child's strengths, weaknesses, and specific learning needs. Understand how assistive technology can address these needs.
- **Bring Documentation:** Bring any relevant documentation, assessments, or reports that highlight your child's challenges and the recommendation for assistive technology.
- **Clarify Goals:** Clearly articulate your child's academic and functional goals. Explain how assistive technology can support the achievement of these goals and enhance their overall learning experience. Practice with someone before the meeting.
- **Collaborate with Professionals:** Work collaboratively with the IEP team, including teachers, special education professionals, and therapists. Share your insights and expertise and listen to theirs in determining the most suitable assistive technology solutions.
- **Ask for Demonstrations:** If possible, request demonstrations of specific assistive technology tools during the meeting. This can help everyone involved better understand how the technology works and its potential benefits.
- **Discuss Implementation Strategies and Training:** Address how the chosen assistive technology will be integrated into your child's daily routine, classroom activities and at home. Discuss training opportunities for your child, people in the home, teachers and support staff.
- **Explore Trial Periods:** Consider proposing a trial period for certain assistive technology solutions. This allows everyone to assess its effectiveness and make any necessary adjustments before committing long-term.
- **Establish Communication Channels:** Discuss how communication regarding your child's progress with assistive technology will be maintained. Establish a feedback loop to address any concerns or modifications needed. This will help ensure that the chosen tools are effective and meet your child's evolving needs.
- **Be Assertive, but Open to Collaboration:** Advocate assertively for your child's needs, but also be open to collaboration and compromise. Finding common ground with the IEP team will contribute to the overall success of the plan.
- **Follow-Up After the Meeting:** At the end of the IEP meeting, schedule a date to follow up with the team to ensure that the agreed-upon assistive technology solutions are being implemented effectively. Address any concerns or adjustments that may be needed.



Resources:

- [Title: Assessing Students' Need for Assistive Technology](#): Decision-making guides using the SETT model (Student, Environments, Tasks, Tools) for multiple topics such as AT for communication, writing, mathematics, recreation and leisure, organization, low vision and more, WATI (Wisconsin Assistive Technology Initiative), 2018 pdf (Families and Professionals)
- [Title: WATI- AT Continuum](#) - WATI (Wisconsin Assistive Technology Initiative), 2017 pdf (Families and Professionals)
 - List of categories in areas to assess for Assistive Technology consideration and to assist in IEP goals.
 - Mobility
 - Communication
 - Reading
 - Writing
 - Organization
 - Information Management
 - Time Management
 - Recreation & Leisure
- [Assistive technology: Questions to ask the school](#): Q and A for Parents including downloadable pdf, Understood, 2023 (Families)
- [9 examples of assistive technology and adaptive tools in school](#): Low and medium tech examples of assistive devices, Understood, 2023 (Families)
- [Resources for Assistive Technology in the IEP](#): hands on tools to support reading, writing, mathematics, organization and more, Adam Krass, MS, ATP, 2023 pdf (Families)
- If you would like to view more fact sheets about how to support your child's assistive technology needs, see below:
 - [Addressing Assistive Technology Before the IEP Meeting](#).
 - [Addressing Assistive Technology After the IEP Meeting](#).
 - [Addressing Assistive Technology Before, During and After the IEP Meeting](#).
- Visit the [Parent Center Hub](#) for more resources and information about assistive technology.