

# Assistive Technology Lab and Lending Library

The Allegan County Development Center is the home of the Assistive Technology Lab and Lending Library. Throughout the regular school year staff, students and parents can visit the lab to see some of the latest technology available for students with special needs.

Free hands-on workshops are scheduled throughout the school year. Some of the topics for the trainings are:

[Using the Internet with Special Needs Students.](#) Receive a calendar of internet resources to supplement your curriculum and/or therapies.

[Low Tech items for students who are struggling with reading and writing.](#) Great for teachers and ancillary staff who are working with students with Learning Disabilities.

[Boardmaker 5.0:](#) Learn how to use the newest Boardmaker. (For windows only.) Focus will be on creating visual strategies for your students.

[High Tech items for students who are struggling with reading and writing.](#) High tech doesn't necessarily mean expensive or difficult to use! (Kidspiration, Inspiration, AlphaSmarts, Text readers, and word prediction software are a few of the types of technology we will explore)

[Adapted Literacy:](#) Find tons of different ways to adapt books so that students will be reading them over and over again. Receive some pre-made books as well as create your own and take it home with you.

[Using Power Point as Assistive Technology:](#) Learn how to create electronic books for students with low vision, physical challenges, non readers, etc...

[Ideas for Implementing the AlphaSmart in the Classroom:](#) Can't read your students' handwriting? Do you have only one computer in your class? The AlphaSmart can be used for a variety of subjects with a variety of students. Find out what your students can do with an AlphaSmart.

[Assistive Technology Tool Kit:](#) This tool kit has a variety of software, hardware and low tech items that help students who are struggling with reading and writing. This training will show participants how to use the technology as well as provide classroom activities and ideas on to implement the technology into the curriculum.

[Handhelds in the Classroom:](#) Using Palms, PDA, Pocket PC's...whatever you want to call them, handheld devices in the classroom can help students keep organized as well increase academic skills. Find out how to use a handheld in the classroom with your students.

## Benefits of using the AT Lab and Lending Library:

- You can TRY BEFORE YOU BUY. Allegan County staff can borrow software for 30 days to try in their classroom (We will work with your Technology Coordinator to get it installed on a computer that is convenient for you.) or staff members can schedule a time to come in to the lab to try software out.
- Save time and money by purchasing the right stuff. Because our specialty is Assistive Technology, we know a lot about it. You may be looking at something that costs \$400 and we know of something that does the same thing for \$125. Please check with us before buying anything for students with special needs. We may be able to give you the stuff you need.
- The Lending Library has ready to use activities that can be loaned out for 1 week at a time. Most activities are geared towards young students. Check them out.
- We also have an Assistive Technology tool Kit that includes a variety of High tech and low tech tools that help students participate more fully in reading and writing. The tool kit can be checked out for 2 weeks at a time.

For more information about the Assistive Technology Lab and Lending Library please contact:

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