

Assistive Technology Use with Young Children: Myths and Mythbusters!

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CATEGORY	MYTH/MYTHBUSTER	BUSTER AIDS
AGE	<p>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</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>
PRICE	<p>AT is too expensive to use with young children</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. 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>

SOURCE	<p>AT comes from specialized sources</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>http://www.fisher-price.com/en_US/brands/laughandlearn/products/66016</p> <p>Tiggly shapes http://tiggly.com/ (sold in Apple stores)</p> <p>“Ideas to Share” on the Tots N Tech web site www.tnt.asu.edu</p> <p>Go Baby Go providing young children mobility access</p>
ALTERNATE	<p>AT is only high tech or computer based technology; AT must be powered: wired, electronic or digital</p> <p>MYTHBUSTER: AT is comprised of a range of no tech, low tech, mid tech and high tech devices</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/lAc09Ja1TPU?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>
SEVERE	<p>AT is only for low incidence disabilities; AT is primarily for children with severe/significant disabilities</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>TIKES - mythbuster video #1 http://www.youtube.com/embed/lAc09Ja1TPU?rel=0&wmode=transparent&autoplay=1</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>

FIRST	<p>There are prerequisites to the use of AT that a child must have before considering AT</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</p>
DEVELOPING	<p>Using AAC will inhibit normal speech/language development; AT can interfere with development; AT can keep children from developing as fully as possible</p> <p>MYTHBUSTER: Using AAC will not interfere with normal speech development and may promote the development of speech and language</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> <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-YiCiEbFM</p>
SPECIALIST	<p>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</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>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>

SCREEN	<p>Screen time is inappropriate for young children. (when, how and if it is appropriate; active vs. passive)</p> <p>MYTHBUSTER: When used intentionally and in a planful manner, screen time opens doors to possibilities that other (passive) technologies do not provide.</p>	<p>Lakeside Aitism Center: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZvSUI4zmjaU</p> <p>iTikes Keyboard http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZRxl7BQfneU</p>
SKILL	<p>AT can be selected based only on a child’s skill level (excluding environment/expectations/adult caregiver perceptions)</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 and http://penxy.com/hadu</p> <p>Participation-based service approach presented by CFSRP http://jeffline.tju.edu/cfsrp/pbs.html</p>
EQUIPMENT	<p>AT is another term for Durable Medical Equipment</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>United States Department of Education, Office of Special Education & Rehabilitative Services, Office of Special Education Programs DOE/OSEP Memos: AT Clarification of Public Policy, (rev. 1/03) http://atto.buffalo.edu/registered/ATBasics/Foundation/Laws/OSEPlatters.pdf</p>

REUSE	When a child no longer needs a particular AT item it cannot be reused by other children MYTHBUSTER: There are options for re-distributing AT devices	Example AT reuse programs: California https://exchange.abilitytools.org/ Delaware http://www.dati.org/v3/home.php Michigan https://www.atxchange.org/ National http://www.passitoncenter.org
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