

REACH & AT: Looking to the Future

Providing access to AT has been identified as a priority within REACH, and for the students we support. Our vision includes continued expansion of our lending library to ensure we have access to AT that is compatible with the newest technology in the schools. As well, REACH consultants are dedicated to ongoing professional development within the vast field of AT. We will continue to support families and school jurisdictions to fundraise at a local level to provide students with permanent AT solutions. Finally, we will continue to advocate within the schools, and at a government level, for the use of AT with students to help meet the challenges of their unique learning needs.

To refer a student to REACH or to inquire about REACH services, please call (403) 777-6983.

REACH

REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL
ASSESSMENT &
CONSULTATION SERVICES



ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY



Calgary Board of Education

Produced with the assistance of
Media Services
2005-141ww

Windsor Park School
5505 - 4A Street SW
Calgary, Alberta T2V 0Z7
Telephone: (403) 777-6983
Fax: (403) 777-6997
e-mail: reach@cbe.ab.ca
website: www.reachservices.ab.ca

REACH, the Classroom and Assistive Technology (AT): Putting AT into practice

Students with special needs often require a variety of AT supports to help them succeed in classroom learning. As part of a student's learning team, REACH consultants assist in identifying educational goals and learning needs. REACH AT knowledge and expertise supports the learning team in identifying AT solutions that will best help the student to meet these educational goals.

In order to determine the most appropriate and cost effective AT solution for students, REACH team members trial AT equipment from the REACH AT lending library and/or use technology to create customized materials. Assessment and trial of AT occurs in the student's natural setting: the classroom. REACH consultants provide ongoing support to ensure the effective and efficient use of the AT in the learning environment.

Assistive Technology Team

REACH has committed to the growing field of Assistive Technology by developing an AT Team. The AT Team represents a variety of disciplines and meets regularly to support the use of AT both within REACH and with students.

AT Team Leaders facilitate the REACH AT team. These individuals are available for inservicing school teams, collaborating with REACH team members about specific students with AT needs, and keeping REACH up-to-date on the latest AT products and upgrades.

REACH Mobile Assistive Technology Library

REACH has an expanding AT library that is dedicated to in-house use, demonstration and one-month loans to students. This comprehensive library consists of a variety of hardware and software options:

- Communication – e.g. picture boards, voice output devices, word/picture processing programs, communication display maker/graphics database
- Written Output – e.g. portable word processors, tape recorders, Braille writer/notetaker, rate enhancement software, voice recognition software
- Vision – e.g. screen magnification software, screen reading software, audiotapes, large print materials

- Software – e.g. early learning, educational, organizational, keyboarding, games, single switch, Braille translation, talking word processor
- Play – e.g. switch toys
- Environmental Controls – e.g. devices to enable remote, ultrasound, and infrared switch access to operate appliances and environmental control units
- Computer Access – e.g. specialized keyboard, adapted mice, touch screen, joystick, switches

In addition to the materials available in the lending library, REACH team members will create customized materials using technology for students to trial. REACH will also collaborate to support the use of technology in the school that has been provided by other community agencies. REACH team members support families and school jurisdictions to fundraise at a local level in order to provide students with a permanent AT solution.