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MYTHS AND REALITIES OF ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

Assistive technology (AT) is a 'cop out'

Just as an individual in a wheelchair needs a ramp to go around stairs, an individual with learning disabilities needs tools to help work around obstacle in the areas of reading, writing, spelling, numbers, memory and/or organization.

Assistive technology is a luxury

If a tool makes a task easier or more convenient to do, it is not a luxury, no matter what the cost. Assistive technology is a necessity that gives individuals with learning disabilities more independence.

All assistive technology is 'high tech' and expensive

Some of the most useful and effective tools are inexpensive, simple and are known as 'low-tech'. The idea is to find something that works 'around the deficit' while capitalizing on strengths.

Assistive technology is a magic cure

Assistive technologies are tools that help individuals with learning disabilities meet everyday challenges. AT does not remove the difficulties which come with having a disability.

One size fits all

AT tools may change. The right match between the AT tool, the learning

disability and the task at hand is critical. While one AT tool may work for one individual, the same tool may not be at all appropriate for the other individual. Different tasks may need different tools.

Only individuals with certain types of learning disabilities find assistive technology useful

People of all ages, abilities, and needs may be able to benefit from assistive technology. Matching the disability with the right tool and learning how to use it properly provides more options for greater success.

If a solution is available, assistive technology will be used

Using assistive technology successfully depends on several things. The involvement of the individual with the disability is necessary in the selection of the appropriate tool, and in the appropriate training and support of that tool.

Determining your assistive technology needs is done only once

Deciding what the needs are is a process that is nonstop and requires constant review of the desired goals. Needs may change over time and one may need to ask the question 'what would I like to do that I can't do now?'

FACT SHEET

Myths and Realities of Assistive Technology

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