



Iowa's information and referral service on disability services, assistive technology (AT), AT funding resources, and AT legal advocacy.

Disability Information & Referral  
Connecting People to Programs

A PROGRAM OF THE CENTER FOR DISABILITIES AND DEVELOPMENT

# Iowa COMPASS News

## Happy New Year!! From everyone at IPAT and Iowa COMPASS



Many people start next year's IEPs (Individualized Education Plan) in the winter/spring of the year. Here is some information that might help.

The IEP is the "cornerstone" for the education of a child with a disability. It should identify the services, including assistive technology, a child needs so that he/she may grow and learn during the school year. An IEP should clearly identify who is responsible. It should tell you who is responsible for setting up and delivering services. It should tell you who is going to order the textbooks in alternative formats. It should tell you what assistive technology will be needed and who provides it. The IEP should also tell you when all of this is going to happen. There are many good web resources that explain the IEP process:

**A Guide to the Individualized Education Program**  
<http://www.ed.gov/parents/needs/speced/iepguide/index.html>

This guide has information that will help any parents understand the IEP process. This includes information about the IEP team, what is in an IEP, how to write an IEP, and what to do after the plan is written.

There are also web resources with information about the IEP for specific populations, here a just a few:

**LD on Line** <http://www.ldonline.org/indepth/iep>

This site has a lot of information about IEPs for students with Learning Disabilities and ADHD. On the home page, look to the left column and click on "LD in Depth" and then click on "IEPs." They have 33 different articles. There is an article for students about the IEP process. There is also one that explains what can be done to help your child learn. There is also a cute article called *Dr Seuss on IEPs*.

**Managing school and learning** <http://www.schwablearning.org/>

This is another website that has a lot of information about education and the IEP for students with Learning Disabilities. On the home page, at the right, click on "Managing School and Learning."

### Autism Society of America <http://www.autism-society.org/site/PageServer?pagename=IEP>

This is a great site for general information about Autism and IEPs. On the top tool bar, click on "About Autism" and then go to "education" to find information about the IEP process and learning approaches.



### Order accessible format textbooks for next year -- NOW!

Schools should be ordering now for 2010-2011 to get accessible textbooks and teaching materials in formats like Braille, large print, audio or digital text. It may seem early, but you need plenty of time to search for the materials and then create the alternate formats. This should be part of a student's IEP. The school is responsible to provide accessible textbooks and materials at the same time other students get their textbooks. Check with your child's teacher to be sure next year's textbook and materials are being ordered.

### Free Online Tool Helps Students with Science Writing

The CAST Science Writer (<http://sciencewriter.cast.org>) is a free online tool to help guide middle and high school students on how to write a science report. Many students have a hard time when looking at a blank white page. This tool breaks down the writing process into steps and offers support that allows students to write about scientific concepts. CAST Science Writer is just one of the free online learning tools on their website at <http://www.cast.org/learningtools/index.html>.



Like many of CAST's learning tools, the inspiration for Science Writer came from classroom teachers. The teachers saw that many students have trouble organizing and writing about their findings.

CAST encourages teachers to explore Science Writer and offer it to their students as a resource to use at school or at home when writing science reports. CAST has created an online community (<http://castsciencewriter.ning.com/>) to support teachers who have questions, to share suggestions, and give feedback on the tool.



### Math Vocabulary Resource

The Education Resource Center on Deafness has developed a great math sign language dictionary for grades k-12. See the Texas School for the Deaf site at <http://www.tsdvideo.org/index.php?lvl=all> for more than 500 different terms.

### EZ AT Assistive technology Activities for Children Ages 3-8 with Disabilities

This guide started from ideas submitted from around the country. Staff from PACER Center's Project KITE (Kids Included through Technology are Enriched) reviewed all the suggestions. They looked for the ones that were the best at using technology to teach and include all students. The result of their search is called *EZ AT*. You can find ideas that will help you in the classroom or at home. Children with disabilities can do great things. It is easier for them to do this if they are included in all parts of the classroom or at home. This guide can help them succeed. It is free at <http://www.pacer.org/stc/pubs/ezat.pdf>.



## PEPNET

This site offers consulting, training, professional development, cutting edge technical assistance, and other resources to colleges, universities, community rehabilitation programs, and continuing education programs. If the program you are attending needs help to enhance your education experience and outcomes, check out [www.pepnet.org](http://www.pepnet.org).

## Disability Resource Library

The DRL at the Center for Disability and Development has a wide range of books and other resources. You can search the DRL resources at <http://www.healthcare.uiowa.edu/cdd/multiple/drl/drl.asp>.

The following might be of interest:

### Idaho AT Program Assistive Technology Handbooks

It is available as a PDF for free. The basic information is good, even if it comes from Idaho. You will need to find and use Iowa services instead of the Idaho ones mentioned in the handbooks. Iowa COMPASS can help you do that.

**AT for School Age Children**

**AT for Infants and Toddlers**

**AT for Cognitive Impairments**



### The Toolbox CD, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition and Assistive Technology for Rural Youth Curriculum

This CD is produced by Breaking New Ground Resource Center as part of the national AgrAbility Project. It contains an assistive technology awareness curriculum for rural high school or community college trades programs. It is designed to introduce students to the basic concepts involved in assistive technology and expose them to a variety of examples used in agricultural settings or related jobs.

## Did you know about the Iowa Program for Assistive Technology Device Loan Program Learning and Communication Aids for Iowa Students and Lifelong Learners?

*"My daughter is enjoying the TouchScreen overlay a lot. The software that was sent with the screen is right on target!" Parent of a child with autism.*

The DRL at the CDD is home to an array of top-notch loaner devices, offering communication hardware and touch switches, computer peripherals, and software. Our Software/Hardware Lending Library consists of 150 newer items funded by the Iowa Program for Assistive Technology and its partner, the Variety Club of Iowa. This equipment is primarily for the use of learners age 3-21, their parents and teachers, as well as for adults with learning differences. The educational software has been chosen by CDD clinicians for effectiveness in educational, behavioral, and communicative remediation. Anyone may borrow the equipment for a 3-week trial, free of charge. We are happy to send materials to clients who cannot come to the library in person – simply e-mail our librarian, [mary-hubbard@uiowa.edu](mailto:mary-hubbard@uiowa.edu), or call us at 1-800-272-7713. Current favorites are: iPod Touch loaded with Proloquo2Go and iConverse applications; the Logan Proxtalker; Talking My Way: Object Communication System; Impulse Switch; ClassMate Reader; Boardmaker; Earobics; Dragon Naturally Speaking; plus Faceland and Simon SIO for students with autism. You can find our [software/hardware complete catalog](#) on our website.



The COMPASS newsletter is online at [www.iowacompass.org/](http://www.iowacompass.org/)

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