



"Disability Solutions Through Technology"

Kentucky Assistive Technology Service (KATS) Network

1-800-327-5287

Fact Sheet 14 – Cognitive Disabilities and Assistive Technology

What is a Cognitive Disability?

Cognitive disabilities affect a person's ability to reason, understand, and learn. An individual with a cognitive impairment may have difficulties with processing information, decision-making, communication, expression and memory. Cognitive limitations can be found in varying degrees in individuals who have been classified as having learning disabilities, mental retardation, autism, multiple disabilities or those who have been diagnosed as having acquired brain injuries.

Individuals with cognitive disabilities often times have difficulties with functional skills, such as communication, self-care, daily living skills, social skills, self-direction, health and safety, recreation, school and work.

Assistive Technology for Cognitive Disabilities

Individuals with cognitive disabilities can benefit from a wide array of assistive technologies ranging from Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC) devices, adapted technology, daily living aids, adapted seating, and mobility aids.

5 Things to Consider before Purchasing Assistive Technology

- What is the cause and course of my disability?
- Where will I use this equipment (Home/Community, School, Work, etc)?
- How am I currently performing these skills and how can I modify this with assistive technology?
- Does this device accommodate my physical, sensory, and cognitive needs?
- What funding sources are available for this purpose?

The KATS Network has four (4) Regional Assistive Technology Resource Centers (ATRC's) that can assist you in answering these questions.

Our ATRC's can provide you with one-on-one demonstrations of assistive technology (AT) and short-term loans of AT so that you can try the equipment out at home, work or school before you make a purchase. We can also assist you in locating funding resources and qualified vendors once a purchase decision has been made.

KATS Network Assistive Technology Resource Centers

Enabling Technologies of Kentuckiana (enTECH) at Spalding University

901 S. 3rd Street
Louisville, KY 40203
Toll Free - (800) 896-8941, ext. 2648
Local - (502) 992-2448
www.spalding.edu/entech
enTECH@spalding.edu

Bluegrass Technology Center

961 Beasley Street, Suite 140
Lexington, KY 40505
Toll Free - (800) 209-7767
Local - (859) 294-4343
www.bluegrass-tech.org
office@bluegrass-tech.org

Redwood Assistive Technology Center

71 Orphanage Road
Ft. Mitchell, KY 41017
Toll Free - (800) 728-9807
Local - (859) 331-0880
www.redwoodnky.org
tcallahan@redwoodnky.org

Western Kentucky Assistive Technology Center at Wendell Foster's Campus

815 Triplett Street
Owensboro, KY 42302
Toll Free - (800) 209-6202
Local - (270) 689-1738
www.wkatc.org/WKATC
wkatc@wfcampus.org

Resources on the Web

- [The Family Center on Technology and Disability](#)
- [A Parent's Guide to Assistive Technology](#)
- [Resources for Parents of Children with Learning Disabilities](#)
- [An Overview of Assistive Technology for Kids with Learning Disabilities](#)
- [An Overview of Low-Tech Assistive Technology](#)
- [How to Help Struggling Writers: Classroom Accommodations](#)
- [Software Solutions for Reading & Writing Difficulties](#)
- [Assistive Technology for Students with Learning Disabilities](#)
- [Overview and Resources for Switch Users](#)
- [Learning Disabilities Association of Kentucky](#)
- [Learning Disabilities and Assistive Technology](#)
- [Kentucky Unit of Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic \(RFB&D\)](#)
- [ARC of Kentucky](#)
- [Kentucky Department for Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Addiction Services](#)
- [Autism and Communication](#)
- [Kentucky Autism Training Center at the University of Louisville](#)

Visit www.katsnet.org/resources for additional internet resources.