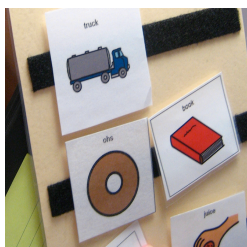


# Low Tech Gadgets and Gizmos

by Charmaine Thaner [charmaine@visionsandvoicestogether.com](mailto:charmaine@visionsandvoicestogether.com)

For people without disabilities, technology makes things easier.  
For people with disabilities, technology makes things possible.  
IBM training manual 1991

## Low Tech Gadgets and Gizmos are...



less complicated tools, usually can be easily made or obtained and are cost effective ways to assist individuals to actively participate at home, school, and in the community.



tools that usually do not require a computer to use. A student may need a high tech tool for one subject and only a low tech tool for another area.

## Steps to Selecting the *Right* Low Tech Tool:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Have families and educators collaborate in selection & evaluation of tools.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Determine the individual's strengths, needs, and what tasks they want to accomplish, in what variety of settings.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> List what tools have already been tried and how successful they were.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Consider if there is a low tech device(s) that will meet individual's needs.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Honor individual's preferences for which tool they are interested in.
- 6<sup>th</sup> Try selected device(s). Evaluate effectiveness based on agreed upon criteria.

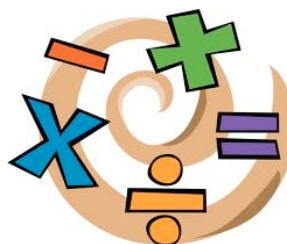


## Examples of Low Tech Tools:



### Reading

- \* highlighter tape
- \* picture schedules
- \* rebus directions
- \* book holder
- \* page turner aids
- \* magnetic letters
- \* books on variety of levels
- \* large print



### Math

- \* numeral stamps
- \* graph paper
- \* adapted rulers
- \* number line
- \* white board
- \* magnetic numerals
- \* manipulatives
- \* calculator with large keys or talking calculator

Continued on next page.

# Low Tech Gadgets and Gizmos continued

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## Additional Examples of Low Tech Tools:

### Writing



- \* raised lined paper
- \* adapted pencil/pen
- \* buddy notes
- \* 4" binder as slant board
- \* letter rubber stamps
- \* Model Magic wrapped around pencil or pen
- \* Quick Draw Paper™

### Organization



- \* color coded notebooks & folders
- \* picture symbols for classes
- \* peer support
- \* study guides
- \* set of textbooks at home
- \* sticky notes

### Home



- \* adaptive dishes & silverware
- \* non slip mats
- \* velcro for clothing
- \* grab bars
- \* ramp
- \* single-lever handles

### Community/Recreation



- \* adaptive toys & games
- \* walker
- \* adaptive bicycles
- \* car modifications
- \* Braille signs

### Follow up:

- \* ensure families have low tech tools to use at home and in the community
- \* include list of low tech tools in student's IEP
- \* maintain on-going communication between home and school or home and work
- \* develop self-advocacy skills so student can request assistive technology tools needed

### Websites

Supporting Early Education Delivery Systems  
Family Center on technology & Disability  
AbleData  
AT Online Training Project  
Infinitec

[www.scoe.net/seeds/resources/at/atToolkit.html](http://www.scoe.net/seeds/resources/at/atToolkit.html)  
[www.fctd.info](http://www.fctd.info)  
[www.abledata.com/abledata.cfm](http://www.abledata.com/abledata.cfm)  
[www.atto.buffalo.edu](http://www.atto.buffalo.edu)  
[www.infinitec.org](http://www.infinitec.org)