

Alternative strategies and options for assistive technology tools



Many students who normally use assistive technology tools at school are very proficient with them. Such tools can also be used at home to support learning.

Ask your child to show you what they know how to do with the tool they have. This may motivate them to share what they know and to use a variety of resources.

If you do not have the full set of tools, here are some alternatives

My child uses digital assistive technology tools to read or write. I don't have these tools, but I do have a computer.	You can go on each tool's website. You will normally be able to find information for children and parents there.
My child normally uses one or more assistive technology tools. I have a tablet.	Most tablets are equipped with word prediction technology, a voice synthesizer and an immersive reader. Different explanatory videos are available on the Internet.
My child is not able to type very quickly.	There are several software packages and websites geared toward helping children learn to type quicker. Search using the words "type faster" to find a variety of resources. In addition, some school boards offer resources. Don't hesitate to go to your school board's website or your usual portal.
My child uses assistive technology to read.	What's important here is to help your child have access to reading. You can do this in several ways, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ask your children to read books to each other, or you could read to your child.• Suggest audio books. They are available on a number of websites, including the following:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- jeunes.banq.qc.ca (you can choose English from the scroll-down Language menu)- www.cbc.ca/books/kids
I don't have any technological devices.	The best strategy is to use your voice. Take a little time to read your child a story, let them read the words they know, provide them with challenges at their level. Your child will enjoy this reading time with you.

The important thing is to introduce your child to reading and to suggest some writing activities. Make these happy times. Give yourself permission to write, read, laugh and smile together.