



# FACT SHEET

## THE ADULT WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES AND ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

### WHAT DOES THE TERM 'ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY' MEAN?

Assistive Technology means any item, piece of equipment, product or system, whether acquired commercially off the shelf, modified, or customized that directly assists, maintains, or improves functional capabilities of individuals with learning disabilities. The key to effective assistive technology is finding the right match between the technological tool, the problems, and the implementation. Adopting the tool is easy, addressing the problems and implementation may not be as easy.

### HOW CAN ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY HELP ADULTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES?

Individuals with learning disabilities often have difficulty with skills that others take for granted. Reading, listening, organizing information or writing skills may benefit from the use of assistive technology.

### WHAT ARE SOME OF THE "ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY" TOOLS AVAILABLE FOR ADULTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES?

Appropriate assistive technology for adults with learning disabilities can include:

#### 1 DIFFICULTIES IN WRITTEN EXPRESSION, HANDWRITING EDITING MAY BE OVERCOME WITH:

a computer with a good word processor (spell checker, grammar and style checker), editing/ proofing help, notetaker. The visual appeal and speech ability of a computer program, combined with the adult typing or verbally giving responses, provides the multi-sensory dimension of learning that benefit the adult with learning disabilities.

#### 2 DIFFICULTIES READING MAY BE OVERCOME WITH:

taped instructions, taped lectures, taped books, readers services, page scanner with speech ability of computer program to read back the scanned page.

#### 3 ORGANIZATIONAL DIFFICULTIES MAY BE OVERCOME WITH:

electronic date books or day planner.

#### 4 DIFFICULTIES WITH MATHEMATICS MAY BE OVERCOME WITH:

an electronic calculator, graph paper or sample list of steps to follow.

Devices (or equipment) may be high tech, using sophisticated electronics, or low tech such as sticky notes, chart systems, calendars and check lists.

Technology allows people to do things a little faster or a little easier and allows people to do things...period. It means adults with learning disabilities become more than they - and often others - ever thought they could be.

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*Adults with Learning Disabilities*

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