



# Learning, Cognition, & Development Organization Assistive Technology (AT) – the What, When, Who, and Why

AT for Learning, Cognition, and Development helps individuals with "Executive Function" processing skills -- such as learning, thinking, and remembering tasks. AT can help individuals with disabilities to better comprehend reading materials, compose written work, organize thoughts and belongings, store and manipulate information, apply mathematical techniques, and avoid distracting and annoying behaviors. **Reading, Math, Organization, and Writing** are the four major areas impacted by difficulty with executive function.

## What is Assistive Technology for organization support?

Assistive technology (AT) tools for organization help a person plan, organize and keep track of their calendar, schedule, and homework. "Executive functions" are high-level mental abilities that direct attention and memory and allow us to plan, organize, pay attention to and remember details, start and stop actions, form concepts and think abstractly. AT is anything that helps support someone with weak organization skills, or poor "executive function", that affect the ability to store and retrieve information for learning. Assistive technology can help students use self-monitoring techniques, visual organization, and time management.



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## When do I need to use them?

Students need the right tools -- such as notebooks and assignment pads -- and basic study skills -- such as reading and note-taking -- to succeed in school.



**Who?** Weak executive functioning skills are common in individuals with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and learning issues like dyslexia. For those with weak executive functioning skills, there are strategies to help organize thoughts and belongings at home, school, work, and the community.

### **Why are strong organizational skills necessary?**

Strong or weak organization skills affect learning in four key ways:

- Following directions
- Learning to read
- Literacy learning (combination of reading, writing, and grammar)
- Learning math. See [AT Discovery for Math](#)

### **Where in an education setting is "organization" as a skillset needed?**

Students must develop good organizational skills to be successful throughout the educational process and school system. Good organizational skills help students avoid creating barriers to developing tasks and projects.

Technology has many advantages, but careful consideration is needed to meet an individual's unmet needs in the community, educational, and employment settings. To learn more about how to navigate the world of Learning, Cognition, and Development AT, visit the area of [Organization](#)– Explore AT from AT3 Center. The assistive technology solutions provided on this site are intended as examples to give an idea of the types of Learning, Cognition, and Development AT currently available in today's market.

Also, remember to [contact your AT Act Program](#) to learn more and explore services available to help make an informed purchasing decision and obtain the AT needed.

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