

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 writing support?

Assistive Technology (AT) can be a big help to individuals who struggle with different types of writing challenges. There are AT tools that can make the physical act of writing easier. AT can also help individuals who have trouble with spelling, grammar, and organizing and expressing their thoughts.



When do I need to use AT for writing?

AT for writing may be needed when the motor aspect of writing is challenging. Motor aspects of writing include:

- Holding the writing utensil.
- Stabilizing the paper.
- Visually guiding the hand.
- Moving the writing utensil along the paper.
- Visual recall of the letter.
- Kinesthetic memory of letter formation.
- Word formation and writing and re-writing as a part of the editing process.

Writing support may be needed for individuals who have difficulty organizing and expressing their thoughts, known as composition.

Who needs AT to help with writing?

Struggling writers may be young students who are beginning to learn to use writing utensils and need help with the motor aspects of writing. Individuals of all ages may continue to have trouble with writing. Or individuals may not struggle with the mechanics of writing but, instead, have difficulty organizing before and while drafting or composing essays, letters, papers, or work assignments.

Why? Assistive Technology for writing mechanics and composition can provide the support to bridge the gap to the skills an individual needs. Some learning and attention issues can cause trouble with writing. Individuals who struggle with writing may struggle with the mechanics of handwriting, expressing ideas in writing, or both. Dysgraphia is a common reason that individuals struggle with writing.

When individuals struggle with writing, they may be having trouble in two areas. One is the mechanics of handwriting. The other is expressing ideas in writing. [Dysgraphia](#) is a learning issue that can affect either area—or both.

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 navigating the world of Learning, Cognition, and Development AT, visit the area of [Writing](#) – 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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