Assessment of assistive technologies

Assessments are usually undertaken by a health professional such as a physiotherapist, occupational therapist or speech therapist.

The assessment process will generally involve the student, parent/carer and relevant staff.

Consult the SERU website for details of what should be considered in the assessment.

Trial and evaluation

The technology needs to be trialled and evaluated in the context in which it will be used. This should involve direct observation of the student using the technology.

Go to the SERU website for details of various points to consider in a trial of assistive technology.

Training required

The teacher or district coordinator needs to identify the training requirements for staff and the student, before the technology is trialled.

Equipment and selected software can be previewed at SERU by appointment.

Assistive Technologies

Special Education Resource Unit
72A Marlborough Street
Henley Beach SA 5022
Telephone: 8235 2871
TTY: 8235 0465
Facsimile: 8235 1907
Email: admin@seru.sa.edu.au
Website: http://web.seru.sa.edu.au
(Click: Equipment/Assistive Technology)
What are assistive technologies?

Assistive technologies include devices, tools, hardware or software that can promote greater independence and support the learning of students with disabilities and learning difficulties. These can be low tech, such as a pencil grip or high tech, such as a word processor.

Successful use of assistive technologies involves careful planning, selection, training and monitoring.

Criteria for long-term loan

Assistive technologies are available for long-term loan from SERU, subject to all of the following conditions:

• the student with a disability or learning difficulty attends a DECS preschool/school
• the student’s strengths and needs have been assessed to identify the most appropriate technology
• the technology has been successfully trialled and evaluated
• the assistive technology and the goals needed to support the student are documented in the student’s Negotiated Education Plan.

How to apply for a long-term loan

The application form is available on the SERU website. It is called: Request for ICT Equipment — Long-term Loan.

Send the following information to SERU:

• the completed application form (including details of staff training required)
• an assessment report and recommendation by a health professional such as a physiotherapist, occupational therapist or speech therapist
• details of a successful trial and evaluation
• a copy of the student’s Negotiated Education Plan.

Short term loan

Equipment is available for a 10 week short-term loan for trial and evaluation.

How to apply for a short-term loan

The application form is available on the SERU website. It is called: Request for ICT Equipment — Short-term Loan.

Complete the form and send it to SERU.

Equipment available for loan

Equipment available for loan includes:

• laptop and desktop computers*
• portable word processors such as QuickPads, Alphasmarts
• alternative keyboards such as those with Big Keys, Intellikeys
• alternative pointing devices such as big mice, pointers, joysticks
• switches
• Perkins Braillers
• closed circuit televisions.

When a student leaves or changes sites

As soon as the preschool or school becomes aware that the student will be transferring, that site must notify SERU.

SERU will then send the loan agreement to the new site. The preschool or school must organise for the assistive technology to be transferred to the new site.

Repairs

For repairs to assistive technology contact SERU.

*Note: SERU will provide computers with system software and the Microsoft Office Suite. It is the local preschool/school’s responsibility to install the printer driver as well as virus software and updates.