

# Current Assistive Technology & Devices

## What is Assistive Technology?

*“Assistive technology refers to the devices and services that are used to increase, maintain, or improve the capabilities of a person with a disability.”*

Assistive technological devices are designed to help people living with disabilities to perform daily activities, participate in their communities and be fully included in society. Here are some of current Assistive Technology Devices available in Canada:

*With the ever growing availability and reliance on technology, individuals with disabilities now more than ever, have more of an opportunity to live and work independently because of it.*



- **C-Pen Reader** is a portable, text-to-speech scanner with a human-like digital voice. It is offered in English, French and Spanish and can also work as a voice recorder. It comes with the C-Pen, a USB to Micro USB cable (for charging and transferring files), ear buds, and a protective carrying case. There is no software required and is suitable for anyone 6 years and older.

- **Big Blu Kinderboard** is a large-key computer keyboard that is an excellent first keyboard for any child or to assist those with vision or motor-skill impairment. It has big 1-in/2.5-cm oversized Keys and large, bold, easy-to-read numbers and letters. Features include colour-coded consonants, vowels, numbers and punctuation marks to help children learn their character sets.



- **Wordpower for the Grid** is a series of pictures in a grid like structure that has some of the most common noun, verbs and combined questions that one would ask. It has a combined core vocabulary, spelling and word prediction to create a comprehensive resource for efficient communication. It is built around a core vocabulary of 100 words that make up 48% of the words we speak. It can be used by hand, switch, eye gaze, or any other pointing devices such as a joystick.



- **EyeLearn Desktop or Rolling** is a type of gaze technology that allows children to use the movement of their eyes, to operate a laptop, computer or speech-generating device. It can be used for playing games, accessing the internet and communicating with family and friends. The EyeLearn can also be used in conjunction with the Wordpower Grid.



# Assisted Technology Devices Apps

## References:

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<https://thinksmartbox.com/product/wordpower/>

<https://cerebralpalsy.org.au/our-research/about-cerebral-palsy/interventions-and-therapies/eye-gaze-technology-for-children-and-adults-with-cerebral-palsy/>

<https://www.everydaysight.com/best-apps-for-visually-impaired/>

<https://www.educationalappstore.com/best-apps/5-best-apps-for-special-educational-needs>

There are several apps available on a simple Smartphone or Tablet that can also be used as an assisted device. Here are some apps available in Canada:

- **Otsimo Speech-Language Therapy** is an app that acts as a virtual speech-language therapist that uses voice to speech recognition technology to enhance the speech-therapy experience. There are 15+ categories such as first words, shapes and body parts etc. The exercises focus on repetition, which is common method used for ABA (Applied Behaviour Analysis) and Augmentative Communication (AAC) to help children reach speech development milestones. Subscriptions can be purchased monthly, annually or lifetime.
- **Be My Eyes** is a free app that provides live assistance from sighted volunteers to help lend their eyesight for everyday tasks. Available in a moment's notice with wait times typically 15 seconds. This services is available in 185 languages 24/7.
- **KNFB Reader** reads any printed text out loud or will show it as a connected Braille display to the by the user. Simply taking a picture of the printed text/documents with its view-finder assist and/or automatic text detector. Available in 13 languages. There is a free trial download currently but limited to 25 document scans. Unlimited version is \$139.99.
- **ICan Special Education Fun** is an add-free app that has an endless library with of "educational videos and games that promote children's socio-emotional, self-care, cognitive, and academic skills." The app provides children opportunities to practice daily routines, develop independence, understand social situations and both letter and number understanding. The app was developed for children with ADHD, Autism, Developmental delays and Sensory Processing Disorder etc. There is a 1-week free trial with a monthly subscription fee afterwards.

