

iPad-The New Assistive Technology Reading, Writing and Organizational Tools

The iPad is changing the game of portable technology for the individual with learning disabilities, with a combination of applications and accessibility features that are making it easier to interact with text. Below are a few apps I have used and that have proven useful, but there are MANY more apps to accomplish the same tasks. New apps come out and change on a daily basis, so keep your eyes open or check my website, www.assistivetechworld.net, for more options. All of these apps can be found on the Apple App Store.

Accessibility features --

iPad has built-in Voice Over support and can read books, the web browser and other apps. It can sometimes over-read and/or be difficult to control with finger swipes, so buying other applications can add features to reading and writing on the iPad.

The 3rd Generation iPad includes Voice Recognition in almost all environments!!

Read2Go --

A text reader app from Bookshare.org with which you can import books straight from the website onto the iPad app. It will let you highlight the text, change the color of the background, and read out loud on request. Also on iPhone/iPod Touch.

Web Reader --

An easy-to-use web reader that breaks the page into easily read chunks; also on iPhone/iPod Touch.

Type-O HD --

A Word Prediction app that reads your text and predictions out loud and has a supportive spelling option that will help correct errors; also on iPhone/iPod Touch.

AppWriter --

A great Text to Speech, Word Prediction app that reads your text and predictions out loud and has a supportive spelling option that will help correct errors; also has OCR or scanning text-to-speech options.

iPad case with a keyboard attached or a portable

Bluetooth keyboard -- Typing for a short time on the iPad is handy, but writing an essay is more comfortable with a keyboard.



Evernote --

Organize photos, text, and audio files and take notes that can be scanned and organized. A way to upload notes and remember appointments to help students. Also on iPhone/iPod Touch.

SoundNote --

Take notes and record lectures in the same app. When reviewing your notes click on words or drawings and hear what was being said when you wrote that note.

OverDrive --

This is an audiobook app connected to the public library system to download books directly to your iPad, iPhone or iPod Touch from your public library account.

Learning Ally Audio --

from LearningAlly.org (formerly Recordings for the Blind and Dyslexic). As a member, download specially adapted audio books directly to the app.

Notability (Usually \$4.99 but on SALE for \$.99) -- Very good for learning disabled students to fill out school worksheets and make audio notes. User can import PDF's as well as pictures.

Dragon Dictation --

(If you have an iPad 1 or 2) A voice recognition software with high accuracy. Use the app to write emails and documents and to cut and paste to most apps. Must have a web or 3G connection to dictate; also on iPhone/iPod Touch and many cell phones; by Nuance.