Assistive Technology and General Information

Accessible Resources	Names/ Function	Target Population
Text to Speech or Speech Synthesis	Natural Readers, Read and Write Gold, ClaroRead, Web Reader, Balabolka, TextAloud, Alex Voice on Mac Desktop	Learning Differences
Literacy Software	Read and Write Gold, Premier Literacy https://www.texthelp.com/en-us/products/read-write/read-write-for-education/ Google Translator, Translation Software.	Learning Differences
Speech to Text or Speech Recognition	Dragon Naturally Speaking, Dragon Dictate https://www.nuance.com/drag-on.html	Fine motor issues, Learning Differences
Screen Readers as a navigational tool and it reads every part of the screen	JAWS (Job Access with Speech), NVDA (Non Visual Desktop Access) free, Windows eyes.	Low Vision Users and Blind
APPS for your cell phone	Various types understood.org http://dyslexiahelp.umich.edu/tools/apps Do a Google Search	ADHD, Learning differences, Autism, Blind, Low Vision, Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Audio Books Catalogue	Learning Ally (uses Mp3 and DAISY files) learningally.org	Dyslexia, print disabilities, blindness and visual impairment
Reading Apps	ClaroPDF, Google Play Books	Dyslexia and other learning differences
Text to Speech Apps	Reads aloud (speak) the text on the screen:Voice Dream Reader, Natural Reader, Web Reader, Talk App	Learning Differences
Digital Recording Device	Sony, Olympus devices used to record information	ALL
Handheld Magnifier	Same as CCTV, but with smaller screen: Ruby, Pebble, Amigo	Low Vision Users
CCTV	Uses a video camera to enlarge onto screen: Onyx, Topaz, Merlin Transformer (portable)	Low Vision Users

Accessible Resources	Names/ Function	Target Population
Video Magnification Software	Enlarges the entire screen: Magic and ZoomText	Low Vision Users
Amplification System	Wireless FM System: reduces background noise and poor acoustics. Child wears a headset and teacher a clip on mic.	Learning Differences such as those with Dyslexia. Auditory Processing Disorder, ADHD

2. General Tools/Resources

Accessible Resources	Function	Target Population
Quite Space	For Testing, Homework and for general use to support calming of senses.	Dyslexia, Auditory Processing and Language Processing differences, ADHD
Sound Blocking Headphones	To block out an over abundance of noise.	Dyslexia, ADHD, Autism, etc..
Nutritional Needs	Challenging for learners to retain information when under nourished and not meeting health needs. Seek out free meals locally, educators providing snacks at school helps	ALL, Any Learner
Squirmers	Wiggle Seats: kids to stay seated for longer periods of time. CoreDisk (another type)	Autism, ADHD
Provide Fidget Objects	Worry Beads, Wikki Stix, and Squeeze Balls	ADHD, High Energy Kids and Adults
For educators specifically: Allow time in between lessons for kids to release their energy Send students with added energy, to run errands for the class.	Exercise	ADHD, High Energy Kids, ALL

3. Additional Resources: Informative Links

Attentional- Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
https://add.org
https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/attention-deficit-hyperactivity-disorder-adhd/index.shtml
https://impactadhd.com/

Developmental Disorders
http://autismspeaks.org/
http://autism-society.org/
https://www.thearc.org
http://www.mychildwithoutlimits.org/understand/developmental-delay/developmental-delay-resources/

Dyslexia
http://www.mylowrites.com/
http://www.simplewordsbooks.com/
http://www.readingrockets.org/article/assistive-technology-kids-learning-disabilities-overview
https://www.teacherswithapps.com/top-11-resources-students-dyslexia-learning-disabilities/

Podcasts, blogs and such:
http://www.elishevaschwartz.com/free-resources-products-courses/
http://parentingadhdandautism.com/parenting-adhd-podcast/
https://www.additudemag.com/
https://livesinthebalance.org/about-cps
http://www.thesensoryspectrum.com
https://www.lwtears.com/hwt

Sensory Processing Disorder:
https://www.spdstar.org
https://www.sensorysmarts.com/helpful_websites.html

4. Definitions of Assistive Tools:

A Screen Reader:
A screen reader is an essential piece of software for a blind or visually impaired person. Simply put, a screen reader transmits whatever text is displayed on the computer screen into a form that a visually impaired user can process (usually tactile, auditory or a combination of both). While the most basic screen readers will not help blind users navigate a computer, those with additional features can give people with visual impairment much more independence.

Apps that read text aloud, especially those that highlight words as they go make reading a more pleasant and more productive experience. There are also apps that can read PDF documents aloud, apps that convert pictures of text to readable text through optical character recognition (OCR):

Types:

ClaroPDF
Since PDF files are essentially images of documents, they present a problem for basic text-to-speech technology. ClaroPDF is an app that can recognize image text and read it aloud with synchronized highlighting. Unlike most OCR apps, it preserves the formatting of the original document. Includes text-to-speech with synchronized highlighting, annotation tools, ability to add audio and video notes, and Dropbox integration.

Google Play Books
This is a great e-book app for Android devices because it integrates with the operating system's TalkBack accessibility feature in order to provide continuous text-to-speech with synchronized highlighting. It should be noted that Google Play Books is also available for iOS devices, but that version lacks the "Read Aloud" feature present in the Android app. Includes integrated text-to-speech ("Read Aloud") with synchronized highlighting, and annotation tools.

Learning Ally
Learning Ally is an affordable source for human-narrated audio books. After purchasing an annual membership, users with dyslexia (or vision impairments) can use the mobile app to access and listen to books in Learning Ally's collection. Includes access to VOICEtext books (human narration synced to printed text), ability to adjust text appearance and reading speed.

Essential Software: A Screen Reader
A screen reader is an essential piece of software for a blind or visually impaired person. Simply put, a screen reader transmits whatever text is displayed on the computer screen into a form that a visually impaired user can process (usually tactile, auditory or a combination of both). While the most basic screen readers will not help blind users navigate a computer, those with additional features can give people with visual impairment much more independence.