



Student With a Physical Disability

Classroom Scenario

Terri is a third grader who comes to you with a documented physical disability. She uses a walker or crutches, depending on her surroundings. She struggles with handwriting, and therefore has difficulty with writing activities. She works well in a group and has good ideas, but it sometimes takes her a little while to get her thoughts out verbally. You have never worked with a student who requires so much individual support. Terri belongs in your class because she is bright, but you need to find a way to help her to do her work more independently.

Potential Solutions

- This student may need an alternate keyboard or portable keyboard such as the Big Keys or IntelliKeys keyboard or software such as Kurzweil 3000 or Dragon Naturally Speaking to help with writing
 - Older students might use a Live Scribe pen or audio recorder to capture lectures.
 - She may need a communication device to participate in classroom activities.
 - The accommodations and Assistive Technology solutions for individuals with physical disabilities could be few or numerous and are many times a unique set of tools. All of these questions should be supported by someone with expertise in AT as part of the IEP team. Things to consider are:
 - Communication – Is the individual able to talk? If so, are they intelligible? If not, what kind of communication system will they be able to use?
 - Reading – some individuals can read and need help with page turning while others can hold a book but need help reading the text.
 - Writing – the individual may be able to use a keyboard or may require an on-screen keyboard with a mouse, switch, or eye gaze technology.
 - Younger individuals may use classroom tools such as an All-Turn-It Spinner to participate in games or a Bookworm book reader to read a library book by hitting a switch.
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