

Partners in Learning

Video Suite



Assistive technologies – parents, carers and home tutors

What is discussed in this video?

An Advisory Visiting Teacher – Assistive Technologies (AVT-AT) discusses how parents, carers and home tutors can support students' reading through assistive technology.

What are the key messages that can be used to inform the school community?

- Assistance to support reading development can be enhanced through the use of assistive technology.
- There is a wide range of technologies that can be used to enhance the capacity of a student to engage more effectively with the curriculum and support reading capability.
- There may be many reading support tools on computers, laptops and mobile devices that students already have available to them.
- Tools and settings in a computer, or device operating system, can provide substantial reading support to assist curriculum engagement and could be effective tools to assist students to read and comprehend text.
- Students may need content provided to them in an alternate format to allow curriculum access and engagement.
- Many curriculum web browsers and word processors have built-in read modes that change how content is displayed including:
 - iPad safari web browser – read mode tool available in the web browser's address box;
 - word processors and other text-based applications can alter text to a format appropriate to the needs of individual students; and
 - Microsoft Word Online – Immersive Reader provides additional content, delivers text in a range of formats and provides tools that will display text effectively for students. There is also a built-in text-to-speech function.
- Technologies have the capacity to enable access, provide curriculum support and increase literacy skill development. Consider investigating specific suggestions discussed in the video regarding assistive technologies.

