Communication - High Tech Methods

"High tech" devices are like computers, allowing for the greatest number of options.

Computer Programs

Full-sized computers are a great vehicle for learning and play in the classroom, although they are not very portable. When used with communications software meant for a communication device, computers respond much more slowly. However, they are very good for cognitive development and interactive games. Computer programs and games can be very motivating, especially those with sound and action. Sound cards, external adaptive devices and software can be easily added to your computer to provide needed input and output methods. Some external adaptive devices include:

This is a clear plexiglass cover, attached to a full sized computer monitor and it responds to light touch. It can also sometimes be removed from the computer screen and used as a large switch for some cause/effect programs.

Intellikeys keyboard

This is a large, flat board which comes with various alphabet and number overlays which are large and easy to access. Software is available from the company, including Intellipics and Overlay maker which can easily be used to create your own overlays. These can be used for learning and some communication. Some software from Intellitools and other companies comes with overlays designed for use with it. Keyguards can be purchased for any of the overlays which come with Intellikeys, and for some other standardized overlays.

Discover Switch, Switch Activated Mouse, Switch Interfaces

The Discover switch is a way to use scanning setups with a student. Scanning can have a high cognitive load for many girls, and requires precise timing of the switch press to coordinate with the screen. The other switch interfaces are generally used more for cause/effect and simpler, but fun software. Several companies put out software which can be activated with a switch. A switch can be activated with any part of the body and any switch will work with any of the interfaces. A switch activated mouse or other interface is needed to connect any switch to the computer.

Eye Tech Digital Systems

Along with several other manufacturers, Digital makes an eyegaze setup for a computer which uses a video camera focused on the user's eyes watching for pupil movement and eye blinks. It requires rather precise eye control, but some girls are able to use it. New adapted access comes on the market constantly, and adaptations other than those mentioned here may fit a specific girl's needs better, so that it is important to explore several possibilities. She may find that different access methods work best for different purposes.

New adapted access comes on the market constantly, and adaptations other than those mentioned here may fit a specific girl's needs better, so that it is important to explore several possibilities. She may find that different access methods work best for different purposes.