

iPads, iPhones, Apps and Accessibility

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The buzz in both mainstream technologies and assistive technologies is on Apple's iPad, iPhone, and iPod Touch and on the many applications or "apps" that make those devices even more fun and useful. This article focuses on the appeal of these affordable devices (iPad \$499, iPod Touch \$229, iPhone \$200) in providing amazing access and independence for individuals with various needs and/or disabilities.

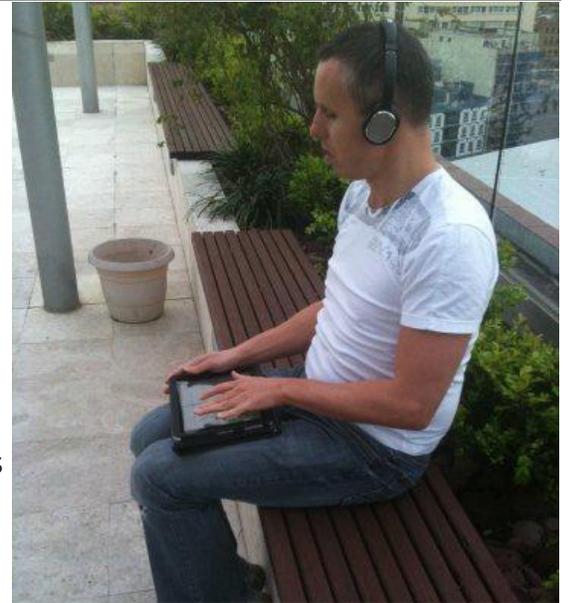
When talking about built-in features and apps available for persons with disabilities, there is no shortage. The current number of apps, as reported by Apple Inc., is over 425,000 for the iPhone and 90,000 for the iPad. Some apps are free or "lite" and other apps are purchased with prices starting around .99. The range of choices is part of the appeal of apps in that the user determines what they need, searches for an app, downloads the app, then puts the app to work all in a matter of minutes.

Blind and visually impaired smartphone users offer near universal praise for the iPhone and iPad because of the built-in screen reader, VoiceOver and the Zoom setting that magnifies the entire screen of any application. How do you use VoiceOver to navigate the phone if you can't see the screen? When VoiceOver is in use, all functions are accessed with a few taps, swipes or other gestures on the touch screen, and VoiceOver tells the user where they are. Other notable apps for individuals with visual impairments include: iCanSee (magnification), LookTel money reader (uses the camera on the device to say aloud the denomination of money), ColorIdentifier (uses the camera to speak the names of colors in real-time), access to audio books through iBooks, "A Special Phone" app (shake your phone one to six times to call your favorite numbers), SayText (camera scans a document and reads it aloud to you), iNote, and Digit-Eyes Audio Scanner and Labeler. Digit-Eyes utilizes the camera to scan the UPC barcodes on products and searches a database of 7.5 million products and reads out the name of the product. This app also allows you to record a message for a barcode, print it out and label objects around your house for audio playback.

For individuals unable to use their voice, communication apps are available. The iPad and iPhone can become an affordable communication device with apps

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Just released July 18 is the much awaited app, Read2Go (\$20), which is a DAISY book reader. Browse, search, download and read books directly from Bookshare which makes available alternative books free for students K-12 with print disabilities.



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Oklahoma ABLE Tech is a federal grant program located at Oklahoma State University Stillwater, OK

iPads, iPhones, Apps and Accessibility ... continued

such as Proloquo2go (around \$200), iCommunicate, SmallTalk, and EasySpeak. These apps vary in complexity from basic picture based symbol systems, to customizable dynamic display apps.

Education experts are raving over the Apple iPad, not only for its ability to help kids with their homework or influence secondary language fluency, but also with Apple's iPad touchscreen device which revolutionizes the way we teach children with autism. The MyHomework app can help students who have trouble concentrating keep track of their next task.

For those who have learning disabilities we found at least 40 apps such as Read2Me which imports a text file and reads it aloud to struggling readers. Other apps assist individuals with a variety of cognitive needs including medication reminders such as PillReminder or MySchedule and SchedulePlanner for keeping track of events each day and weekly.

For individuals with hearing loss, texting is always a good way to communicate, but FaceTime is an app that gives you, well, face time with each other. Using FaceTime, individuals can use sign language to communicate with each other. Other features built into the product include visual alerts and support for captioning.

Individuals with physical or motor-skill disabilities can use the onscreen keyboard with predictive text, and order a variety of hardware and software products that adapt the iPhone and iPad.

How does one go about finding apps? There are three typical ways to do this: 1) search the App Store available on the iPhone, iPod, or iPad; 2) search the App Store through iTunes; or, 3) search for apps using any internet search engine. To find apps using either the App Store or iTunes, just type keywords into the search window. Apps relating to the keywords will then come up, complete with description, screen shots and user reviews. The nice thing about searching for apps using the mobile device itself is that if the decision to download the app is made, it is readily installed on the device for immediate use. In contrast, when searching for apps using iTunes or via internet search engine, in order to download an app, the mobile device must first be synced to a computer for the app to install. The advantage of an online search versus iTunes is the additional amount of information available about the apps from which to base a decision. Articles often cover categories of applications, individual apps, and provide links to a website from which the app can be then be downloaded.

Did you know Oklahomans with any type of disability can borrow an iPod Touch or an iPad from Oklahoma ABLE Tech? It's true! Through our short-term loan program, individuals can borrow devices for free up to six weeks. Just call toll free at 888.885.5588 or visit the ABLE Tech website to see the variety of assistive technology available at www.okabletech.okstate.edu.



SoonerStart - Early Intervention and Assistive Technology

ABLE Tech partners with SoonerStart to enhance assistive technology (AT) services impacting early intervention for children 0-3 yrs of age. The SoonerStart Early Intervention Program uses an individualized, comprehensive, coordinated system of services and supports to enhance the abilities of Oklahoma infants and toddlers with disabilities and developmental delays and strengthen the capacity of their families to support their development. Young children with disabilities may have a hard time doing everyday activities. Assistive technology can provide exciting devices especially for children, to help them

learn and develop. ABLE Tech purchased AT Kits for SoonerStart assessments and home visits. ABLE Tech rewarded the Garfield County SoonerStart team with \$800 of new AT to be added to their kit for use with the children they serve because, to date, they've had the most consistent AT reporting of any team state-wide.



Oklahoma AT Center Locations

Oklahoma ABLE Tech and partners operate assistive technology (AT) device demonstration and short-term loan programs to increase accessibility to AT. The assistive technology inventory is available and searchable online at <http://oec.okstate.edu/loan/>. Oklahoma ABLE Tech allows individuals to borrow devices for six weeks at no cost.

The Visual Services Center & Low Vision Clinic
 "Opening Doors To Opportunity" The Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services
DRS
 Oklahoma City
 405-522-3442

Hearing Loss Association
 of Oklahoma City
 405-717-9820

THE UNIVERSITY of TULSA

Mary K. Chapman Center for Communicative Disorders
 918-631-2913

ABLE Tech

Stillwater, OK
 800-257-1705

OKDHS
 EXCELLENCE

Developmental Disabilities Services Division, Tulsa, OK
 918-794-7632

tsha

Total Source for Hearing Loss & Access, Tulsa 918-832-8742

newview
 OKLAHOMA
 IT'S NOT WHAT YOU CAN SEE IT'S WHAT YOU CAN BE

Oklahoma City
 405-232-4644

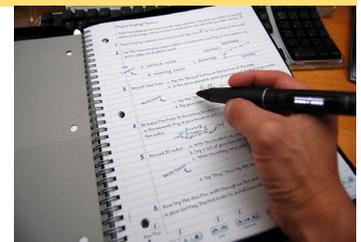
The Children's Center

Search the inventory of 1400 devices:
<http://oec.okstate.edu/loan>

Focus on ABLE Tech Partners and AT Centers

Oklahoma ABLE Tech, Stillwater - LiveScribe Echo SmartPen

The Echo is a new smartpen with a microphone to record everything you hear and write from meetings to lectures. The pen stores notes and can replay audio that corresponds with written notes. Touch on the note, graph, or math problem and the recorded note is replayed. Notes also transfer to computer. Download apps to customize. \$149 www.livescribe.com.



NewView Oklahoma, Oklahoma City - SAPHIRE Handheld Magnifier

Macular degeneration, glaucoma, cataracts, and other causes of vision loss no longer will prevent you from reading small print on menus, maps, receipts, pill bottles, and other items. Battery-operated. Magnify reading and detailed illustrations from 3.4 to 16 times on a bright, high-contrast display screen while at the store, on trips near and far, and at home as you move from room to room. \$1195 www.freedomscientific.com.



Hearing Loss Association, Oklahoma City - Infant Day and Night Video Monitor and Vibrating Baby Monitor

The day and night video baby monitor from features nighttime LED lights on the baby's unit that make your little one fully visible both day and night. Babies R Us \$99. HLA also has a Fisher Price sound-activated monitor that vibrates to let you feel your baby's call. Sound lights to see as well as hear baby. \$44.95 www.maxiaids.com



Total Source for Hearing Loss and Access (TSHA), Tulsa - Domino Pro Personal Hearing System

Revolutionary personal hearing system that uses digital state-of-the-art sound processing and wireless wideband technology to bring out speech in difficult listening situations at home, work, school, in restaurants, in the car, & while watching TV. Designed for both non-hearing instrument users and hearing instrument users; delivers crystal-clear stereo sound, free from background noise and feedback. \$995 www.harriscomm.com.



Success! Assistive Technology and My Story

During the 2011 school year, ABLE Tech assisted a young man from Tulsa with his assistive technology needs. ABLE Tech received his letter describing the way he uses assistive technology and his experience with our loan program. His words say it best, so we have included his letter in our newsletter this month!

Dear ABLE Tech, I am a ninth grader in Tulsa, Oklahoma. I am blind and use Braille technology to complete my class work. Recently ABLE Tech loaned me a Braille Note Apex QT to try out for a few weeks. I really liked the Braille display and the other features on the Apex! I especially liked the scientific calculator because I used it in Geometry Class. I thought it was easy to learn how to use. It was very helpful! I like the Apex much better than what I have been using because it does not 'freeze' up very often. It is very frustrating when the equipment fails to work as it is supposed to because I



have to go back to using a manual brailier. I don't like that! I really liked the Apex and enjoyed using it! Thank you ABLE Tech!

OKLAHOMA SPECIAL EDUCATION RESOLUTION CENTER

ABLE Tech

OKLAHOMA ABLE TECH

The Special Education Resolution Center has been asked to attend and make a presentation at the Office of Special Education Programs annual MEGA Conference in Arlington, Virginia. Jo Anne Blades, along with the CADRE (Consortium for Appropriate Dispute Resolution) representatives, will present exemplary project information to attendees. The session is titled, "From Here to Exemplary: Designing High Performing Special Education Dispute Resolution Systems".

SERC is very busy this summer training school districts and Oklahoma Parents Center staff in Engaging in Challenging Conversations. Greg Abell, Sound Options Inc., will conduct three 2-day trainings for approximately 56 school districts. Each district that

attends will be able to utilize a 6 module staff development series to train throughout their districts. SERC will be approaching a variety of stakeholder groups to participate in future trainings.

In October, SERC will be presenting in three different sessions, information about the Oklahoma dispute resolution model and stakeholder engagement at CADRE's national symposium. The symposium is an information disseminating conference for all 57 states and territories. Presenters representing Oklahoma are Malissa Cook (SDE), Linda Jaco (OSU/SERC), Sharon House (Oklahoma Parents Center), Andrea Kunkel (CCOSA) and Jo Anne Blades (OSU/SERC).

AgrAbility Arthritis Seminar

The Oklahoma AgrAbility Project supports the rehabilitation and assistive technology needs of Oklahoma farmers and ranchers who have been impacted by disabilities and face barriers to continuing participation in agriculture. Arthritis is one of the more prevalent disabling conditions that impact this target population. AgrAbility along with the Oklahoma Arthritis Chapters in Tulsa and Oklahoma City are jointly hosting a seminar on August 31, at the Seretean Wellness Center at OSU in

Stillwater, Oklahoma from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm. Amber Wolfe, with the National Arthritis Foundation, will be the speaker. Amber is responsible for all aspects of the Arthritis Foundation's National AgrAbility Program (NAP) grant where she works closely with the 24 states that participate in an AgrAbility Project. Registration is \$10 and will cover lunch and refreshments. For more information call 888.885.5588.

The Oklahoma Equipment Exchange is a free program to help Oklahomans with disabilities acquire affordable equipment. Log onto the Equipment Exchange website, <http://oec.okstate.edu>, or call ABLE Tech to list your devices or inquire about products at 888.885.5588. Below is a list of items currently for sale or FREE.

Computers and related

Two Lomak Alternative keyboards - FREE
 orbiTouch Keyless Ergonomic Keyboard – FREE

Daily Living

Cassette Tape Recorder (2) – FREE
 Full Body Large Mesh Sling Invacare for hydraulic lift
 Hospital Bed – Electric - Price Reduced
 Hospital Bed - for youth – FREE
 Hydraulic Lift - In-home lifting system - Price Reduced
 Invisible Clock-Pager (2) - FREE
 Mattress-Jay Dermafloat Low Air Loss - Price Reduced
 Mic-Key button low-profile gastrostomy feeding tube,
 Kimberly Clark - FREE
 Offset Trapeze Bar-Octagon Tube, Invacare
 Panoramic Rearview Car Mirror (2) - FREE
 Portable Commode Chair - FREE
 Private Page Transmitter with vibrating pager - FREE
 Sock N Stocking Aid - FREE
 Swivel Clamp & Bracket, Invacare

Hearing

Clarity Portable Amplifier – FREE
 Door Beacon Knock Sensor (2) - FREE
 Portable Phone Amplifier (2) from Ameriphone - FREE
 Shake Awake Alarm Clock - FREE

Learning, Cognitive, & Developmental

Voice Cue Messenger - FREE

Mobility, Seating & Positioning

Pedal EZ Wheelchair - Price Reduced
 Scooter - Go-Go Elite Traveler
 Wheelchair - Electric Hoveround - Price Reduced
 Wheelchair Recliner – Tracer - Price Reduced
 Wheelchair-Tilt Recline Invacare (Power) - Price Reduced

Speech Communication

Recording Picture Frame (2) - FREE
 ZAM Communicator - FREE

Vehicle Modification and Transportation

Carony Wheelchair System for Van, Bruno Turnout
 Hand Controls (Portable) for Vehicle-Price Reduced

Hercules 3000 van lift, Pride Mobility
 Van - 2000 Dodge Grand Caravan - manual ramp
 Van- with lift 2004 Ford E250 Full Size
 Van – with lift 2005 Dodge Grand Caravan
 Vehicle-1997 Ford Crown and Bruno Turnout with
 Carony

Vision

CCTV (2) - ClearView 17" - FREE
 CCTV - MagniSight (Explorer) – FREE
 CCTV -Merlin 14" - FREE
 CCTV - TravellerPlus (Portable)
 Max digital color magnifier (2) – FREE
 Talking Calculator – FREE
 Talking Travel Alarm - FREE
 Thermostat Magnifier - FREE

Items Needed

Daily Living

Medline Supra Low Air Loss Mattress: need internal
 bladders that fit the original Medline supra mattress
 both vented and non-vented.

Learning, Cognitive, & Developmental

Stander or standing wheelchair

Recreation, Sports, and Leisure

Tricycle (Adult) for paraplegic, hand pedals

Vehicle Modification and Transportation

Van with wheelchair access and lift



4 Wheel Elite Traveler
 Scooter Wheelchair

Oklahoma ABLE Tech

AA-5-36511

**Seretean Wellness Center
Oklahoma State University
1514 W. Hall of Fame
Stillwater, OK 74078
Phone: 800.257.1705 V/TDD
405.744.9748 V/TDD
Fax: 405.744.2487
INFO-Line: 888.885.5588**

Kent Bunker, Director, OSU Campus
Recreation

Oklahoma ABLE Tech

Linda Jaco, Director of Sponsored
Programs OSU Seretean Wellness Center

Milissa Gofourth, Program Manager

Diana Sargent, Senior Administration
Support Specialist

Brenda Dawes, Grant Coordinator and
Marketing

Shelby Sanders, AT Project Specialist

Allyson Robinson, SLP, AT Project
Specialist

Kate Miller, Loan Coordinator

Sandra Stevenson, AgrAbility Case
Manager

Stacy Bauter, AgrAbility Assistant

Jo Anne Pool-Blades, SERC Program
Manager

Shannon Esmeyer, SERC Administrative
Assistant

We're On The Web!

www.okabletech.okstate.edu

This publication is available in alternative formats; please call 1-800-257-1705 V/TTY for more info. The Oklahoma State University Seretean Wellness Center is the lead agency for Oklahoma ABLE Tech. The program is funded by the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) of the U.S. Department of Education. Grant #H224A050036. This publication does not necessarily reflect the position of the policy of RSA/ED, and no official endorsement of the material should be inferred.

Calendar of Events



Seretean Wellness Center
REAL SOLUTIONS FOR REAL PEOPLE

July is Juvenile Arthritis Awareness Month

www.arthritis.org/juvenile-arthritis.php.

August is Children's Eye Health and Safety Month

www.preventblindness.org.

September 18-24 is National Farm Safety & Health Week

www.nsc.org/necas/

August 1-2: 44th Annual Oklahoma Career and Technology Education Summer Conference, at the Tulsa, Oklahoma Convention Center
www.okcareertech.org/summer-conference/

August 31: Arthritis Seminar, OSU Seretean Wellness Center, Stillwater, OK. For more information, call Oklahoma AgrAbility at 888.885.5588.

September 9: Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council Advocacy Conference, 8:30 to 4 p.m., Tulsa DoubleTree Hotel at Warren Place. For more information call 405.951.3579 or www.okrehabcouncil.org.

September 27: On The Road Family Perspective Conference, Guymon, OK. For more information and to register call 800.426.2747.

October 25-26: Oklahoma Web Developers Conference plus WebAIM Web Accessibility Track. Metro Tech Springlake Campus, OKC. For more information call ABLE Tech at 800.257.1705.