

## Easy to use tools to assist your child at school



[1]

Here are some easy to use tools to assist your child at school. Different tools will suit different children or settings. Your child might like to use one or even a few of these tools together.

### Communication apps

These apps allow your child to communicate with others at school, using common, mainstream devices.

#### OpenAccess Chat

OpenAccess Chat allows people who are Deaf or hard of hearing to communicate with people who are hearing, through text based conversation. The app is designed for spontaneous conversations between people who are Deaf and people who are hearing, so it's ideal for use in noisy classrooms, breakout sessions, and on excursions. Children can use a single iPad to chat back and forth, or connect to another iPad using Bluetooth. Using the microphone option, the app provides real time captions with its speech to text function, so people can communicate using speech if they prefer.

For more information on OpenAccess Chat, [click here](#) [2]

#### OpenAccess Face to Face

OpenAccess Face to Face is a free iPad app that allows real-time communication between spoken English and Auslan. It's a great tool to encourage conversation between students, teachers and classmates where one person is Deaf and communicates using Auslan, and the other is hearing. The person speaking English chooses the words or phrase they want to say and then a pre-recorded video shows an Auslan interpreter signing it. You can use one iPad or link two together. When iPads are linked, the video plays simultaneously on the other person's iPad. This allows the two parties to communicate.

For more information on OpenAccess Face to Face, [click here](#) [3]

### Speech to text technology

With speech to text technology, a person speaks into the device and what they say is then displayed as text on the screen. The person speaking needs to be close to the device and speak clearly. Speech to text technology works best in environments with minimal background noise. It's good for one-on-one situations. For example: When there is no interpreter present or a Deaf or hard of hearing student is having trouble understanding when communicating

with someone who is hearing; such as visiting the sick bay or being called to the principal's office.

### **Dragon dictation**

Dragon Dictation transcribes the speech of the person you are listening to and provides you with captions. Simply hit 'tap and dictate' to record speech and once the recording is complete the text will appear on your device screen. You can purchase Dragon Dictation as software for your computer or download for free on your smartphone or tablet.

For more information on Dragon Dictation, [click here](#) [4]

### **Siri**

Siri is an Apple software program that translates speech to text. It's built into most iPhone, iPad, iPod touch, Apple Watch and Apple TV products.

For more information on Siri, [click here](#) [5]

### **Note taking**

There are many different programs your child can use to type notes. They range from basic blank page type things to sophisticated tools.

#### **Evernote**

Evernote is a digital notebook app that lets you type notes, save things you find online, take photos and more. The information is stored in the cloud, so notes you take on your phone or tablet will appear on your computer and vice versa. Users create "notes" which can be a piece of text, a webpage, photo, voice file and more. You can share your notes on Evernote, which makes it a great tool for working with other people in your workplace or working on university group assignments. The basic version is free and available on Apple, Android and the web.

For more information on Evernote, [click here](#) [6]

#### **Other tools**

You can use a Word document or even your phone's inbuilt notes tool.

### **Audio recording**

Audio recording lets your child focus on the presenter's face while they're speaking, instead of looking down to take notes. They can also go back and listen to what was said in a quieter setting, as well as pause, rewind and replay as often as needed.

#### **Sonocent**

Sonocent is an audio note taking software. It displays the audio it captures in bars of colour, so you can easily navigate to a specific part when you're going back to review. Sonocent integrates with [Dragon Dictation](#) [4], so you can convert audio to text. The high-quality audio recording has been designed to capture the speaker's words without background noise. You can record audio using a digital voice recorder, laptop or the free Sonocent Recorder app.

For more information on Sonocent, [click here](#) [7]

#### **Other tools**

Try using the built in recording apps on your phone or laptop/device, such as QuickTime or Sound Recorder.

Does your child use any other tools at school? [Make a suggestion](#) [8] to [techfinder.org.au](http://www.techfinder.org.au)

**Source URL:** <http://www.techfinder.org.au/resource-centre/easy-use-tools-assist-your-child-school>

#### Links

[1] [http://www.techfinder.org.au/sites/default/files/CXU\\_TF\\_RC\\_F2F.jpg](http://www.techfinder.org.au/sites/default/files/CXU_TF_RC_F2F.jpg)

[2] <http://techfinder.org.au/product/openaccess-chat>

[3] <http://techfinder.org.au/product/openaccess-face-face>

[4] <http://techfinder.org.au/product/dragon-dictation>

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