

Talking to your child's school about technology to support their learning



Is your child struggling with accessing their learning in school or at home? Do you think there might be technology that could help your child but don't know how to talk to the school about options or what type of technology might be best? Enquire and CALL Scotland have worked in partnership to provide practical information and tips to help you.

Good to know

The law says that local authorities must make sure that each pupil's education helps them develop their personality, talents and mental and physical abilities to their fullest potential.

- Local authorities must identify children who have additional support needs and provide "adequate and efficient" support to meet their identified needs.
- If your child is disabled the school must make reasonable adjustments to avoid them being significantly disadvantaged. Reasonable adjustments could include technology to help them access their learning.
- In schools, technology to support learning usually refers to devices, software, or equipment which can be used to help children with their learning (for example, ipad app to help pupils with dyslexia make mindmaps or screen readers for visually impaired learners). It can sometimes be called inclusive digital technology or assistive technology.
- Every child is different and will need different types of support to help them to do their best. Technology may form part of a package of support to help your child access their learning.

CALL Scotland

are a national service providing support for learning through Assistive Technology (AT) and Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC).

Technology can help pupils access their learning in lots of ways. It can help them:

- communicate in school
- see or read learning materials
- make notes in class
- remember or recall information
- hear what is being said in class
- work independently
- sit exams.





Here are 8 tips to help you have positive conversations about technology with your child's school:

- 1 If you feel your child would benefit from using technology, speak to their class teacher or the person responsible for their support. If your child has a learning plan you can raise the use of technology at your child's next planning meeting.
- 2 Ask for the name of the person in the school who has responsibility for support for learning and suggest they are involved in the discussion or attend the meeting.
- 3 Ask staff to share with you if, or how, they have considered the use of technology to support your child's needs.
- 4 If appropriate, ask for your child to be involved in discussions and decisions about what technology will be used. Involving your child at an early stage should mean they are happy to use the technology put in place.
- 5 If your child is using technology at home, or you have ideas for specific technology you think could support their learning in class, share this information with school staff.
- 6 If action outside of the meeting is needed to research, test or obtain software or devices ask for technology to be a standing item on the planning meeting agenda or agree a date to discuss progress.
- 7 If the use of specific technology is agreed, ask the school how they will teach your child to use it. If relevant, ask if there is a need for your child's teachers to know how to use the technology and how this will be done.
- 8 Ask the school to explain how the technology can be used to support homework or revision at home.

Good to know:

In some local authorities there is a dedicated team to support schools to assess and support children's needs for technology. You can ask your child's school if this support is available in your area or find details of local authority contacts on the CALL Scotland website.

CALL Scotland have contracts with some local authorities to assess and advise how technology can support children's learning. Visit their website for more information.



More information:

If you would like advice or information about technology that might help your child before or after you speak with your child's school, Call Scotland can help. Contact them on 0131 651 6236 or visit their website www.callscotland.org.uk/contact

For advice and information about additional support for learning contact Enquire on 0345 123 2303 or visit our website www.enquire.org.uk

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This infographic was written in collaboration



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