



Unlocking Human Potential: Integrating Assistive & Instructional Technology

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Assistive Technology : "The term assistive technology device means any item, piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially off the shelf, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain or improve functional capabilities of children with disabilities." (20 U.S.C. §1401(a)(25)).

Instructional/Educational Technology : The theory, design, and application of technology to support problem solving and learning in an educational environment by analyzing the diverse needs of learners and implementing technology systems that meet those instructional needs.



Universal Design for Learning : "Universal Design for Learning (UDL) is a framework for designing curricula that enable all individuals to gain knowledge, skills, and enthusiasm for learning. UDL provides rich supports for learning and reduces barriers to the curriculum while maintaining high achievement standards for all." from the Center for Applied Special Technology

Primary Goal: To Develop Expert Learners; learners who are . . .



1. **Strategic**, goal-directed learners. They formulate plans for learning, devise effective strategies and tactics to optimize learning; they organize resources and tools to facilitate learning; they monitor their progress toward mastery; they recognize their own strengths and weaknesses as learners; and they abandon plans and strategies that are ineffective
2. **Resourceful**, knowledgeable learners. They bring considerable prior knowledge to new learning; they activate that prior knowledge to identify, organize, prioritize and assimilate new information. They recognize the tools and resources that would help them find, structure, and remember new information; and they know how to transform new information into meaningful and useable knowledge
3. **Purposeful**, motivated learners. Their goals are focused on mastery rather than performance; they know how to set challenging learning goals for themselves and how to sustain the effort and resilience that reaching those goals will require; they can monitor and regulate emotional reactions that would be impediments or distractions to their successful learning

http://www.cast.org/publications/UDLguidelines/version1.html#intro_learners