



Iowa's information and referral service on disability services, assistive technology (AT), AT funding resources, and AT legal advocacy.

Disability Information & Referral  
Connecting People to Programs

A PROGRAM OF THE CENTER FOR DISABILITIES AND DEVELOPMENT

# Iowa COMPASS News

## Try it with the Disability Resource Library First!

These are exciting times for assistive technology. Imagination knows no bounds in creating not only useful, but attractive tools to overcome barriers in daily life. While the price of technology remains steep for the newest products, the Disability Resource Library would like to share some of the most compelling buys of 2011. All Iowans can try these items out at home free of charge. If you wish to purchase a particular item after the three-week home trial, we can help you find manufacturer and dealers. Start today by giving us a call at 1-800-272-7713!

### Thomas the Tank Track

Wow! Switch-enabled fun allows youngsters with limited capabilities to control Thomas' movement (forward, reverse, and stop), hear the engine and the train whistle and fill up the coal car. The child can choose his or her own track layout with the help of mom and dad, siblings and cousins or friends. The set includes a motorized engine for other youngsters to enjoy on the tracks for a sociably good time.



### TouchChat HD Speech On-the-Go AT Bundle



For the nonverbal adult, teen or child, this synthesized voice system for the iPod has more than 10,000 talking symbols with which to express thoughts, feelings and needs. The app also gives users the ability to import their own images from files or to use the built-in camera and keypad to make personalized messages. A hard shell, high-output stereo amplifier case is included.

### Echo Smartpen

A computer chip and a microphone embedded in this pen can record up to 400 hours of lectures, field notes, reminiscences, story outlines, dialogues and more with only a few written symbols or notes on a pixelated notebook. Notes can be downloaded onto a computer to share the total experience with others. The Smartpen is a great tool for students with learning disabilities.



### Clipboard Portable Induction Loop

Ingenuously designed to double as a working clipboard, this self-contained hearing loop offers hearing impaired people who use T-coil (telecoil) enabled hearing aids or CI (cochlear implant) the opportunity to hear clearly in interviews, meetings, and professional exchanges. Read more at the manufacturer's website: <http://www.teccar.com/Clipboard.htm>.

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## NEW WEBSITE!



Iowa COMPASS has a new look!  
The information you rely on - now in an easier-to-navigate website.  
Check it out at [www.iowacompass.org](http://www.iowacompass.org)!

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### **Boost Personal Video Magnifier**

A nifty and sophisticated little tool to help people with limited vision optimize text or photos. Designed with a child-friendly interface, the magnifier is simple to use. Boost has two levels of magnification, anti-blur technology, an LCD screen and even freeze frame!



### **Kindle 3G + Wi-Fi**

The graphite 6" display Kindle has an optional read-aloud function, useful for all readers. Although the Disability Resource Library does not have the newest model, the Kindle will give the user a feel for similar products with a small sampling of books for ages 2 to 99.

The Disability Resource Library hopes you will visit the lending library and "test the water" on available assistive technology.

Want to see more? There are many other items listed in the [2010-2011 online Equipment Catalog!](#)



## **Assistive Technology (AT) Tips for Educators**

Are you interested in expanding your AT horizons? Then the *AT Tip of the Day* is for you! These practical ways to include and expand the use of AT in school settings come from the Iowa Center for Assistive Technology Education and Research (ICATER) at the University of Iowa College of Education. You can download them monthly at <http://www.education.uiowa.edu/html/icater>, follow them daily on Twitter at [iowa\\_icater](#) or on Facebook at [Iowa Center for Assistive Technology Education and Research](#).

## What is Telecommunication Access Iowa?

Telecommunications Access Iowa (TAI) has a solution for persons who experience difficulty communicating over the telephone. They offer specialized telephone equipment through a voucher discount program. TAI vouchers pay up to 95% of the average cost of specialized telephone equipment to those who qualify.



The voucher can be used towards amplified phones, captioned telephones (CapTel), text telephones, speech amplified phones and loud/flashing ringers. Accessories are also available for the specialized phones, such as headsets, neck loops and much more.

Telecommunications Access Iowa offers:

- A wide variety of telephones with special features including amplification, real-time captioned text of the conversation, cordless phones and built-in answering machines with amplification.
- Quick response to your application; once qualified, individuals will receive their voucher within a week.
- Great customer service and knowledgeable staff
- Multiple dealers located throughout the state that accept TAI vouchers, which makes purchasing a telephone convenient for all voucher recipients.
- TAI Telephone Showroom is open from 8-5 Monday through Friday to explore different telephones that are available. Their address is 6925 Hickman Road, Des Moines, IA 50322.

Call for application information or apply online at <http://www.relayiowa.com/tai>. Telecommunications Access Iowa (TAI) is a valuable program that provides people who are deaf, hard of hearing or have difficulty speaking over the telephone greater telephone access and a better quality of life.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact them at 800-606-5099 (Toll Free), 515-282-5099 (Voice) or 866-954-4107 (Video Phone) or via email at [teleiowa@aol.com](mailto:teleiowa@aol.com).

Looking for funding for other hearing-related assistive technology (such as hearing aids)? Call **Iowa COMPASS** at 800-779-2001 or search the COMPASS database on-line at [www.iowacompass.org](http://www.iowacompass.org).

## How do you like this newsletter?

Iowa COMPASS News is looking for YOUR input!

What do you want to see?

Help us make it better for you!

Please take our five-minute survey:

**[Iowa COMPASS News Feedback Survey](#)**

# **UERS** USED EQUIPMENT REFERRAL SERVICE

from Iowa COMPASS, a program of the Center for Disabilities and Development

**Do you know** of adapted equipment not being used?  
**Do you need** equipment but there's just no way to afford items from a vendor or store?

Then call Iowa **COMPASS** because **UERS** is a **FREE** service for buying and selling used adapted equipment.



It's as simple as a phone call to  
**800-779-2001**

Or log on to  
**[www.iowacompass.org](http://www.iowacompass.org)**  
 and look for the UERS link  
**877-686-0032** (toll-free TTY)

The COMPASS newsletter is online at [www.iowacompass.org/](http://www.iowacompass.org/)

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