



## Responding to a need

The use of assistive technology (AT) can be a valuable tool for young children with disabilities, helping them to participate more fully in daily routines and activities, make maximum educational progress, and improve outcomes.

The TIKES project is a response to national and state studies which indicate that AT is greatly underutilized among children ages birth to 5. According to the research:

- Only 8.4% of children ages 3-5 with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) nationally have AT listed in their IEP.
- Among children with disabilities in Minnesota, only 7% of those ages birth to 2 years receive AT services

## PACER Center

PACER Center is a national nonprofit parent center that serves families of children and young adults with any disability. For more than 30 years PACER has been a champion of children with disabilities.

## PACER's Simon Technology Center

PACER's Simon Technology Center is dedicated to making the benefits of technology more accessible to children and adults with disabilities, through a collaborative effort involving parents, professionals, and consumers. For more than 26 years the STC has been making a difference for children and youth to learn about and use assistive technology.

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PACER Center's

# TIKES

Technology to Improve Kids'  
Educational Success



TIKES is a model demonstration project focused on encouraging parents and professionals to use assistive technology (AT) for children with disabilities ages birth to 5.



**Simon Technology Center**



## Improving outcomes for young children

TIKES is a five-year model demonstration project designed to improve outcomes for young children with disabilities ages birth to 5. Funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), TIKES is a project of PACER Center. The TIKES project is partnering with three Minnesota school districts to develop a model of parents and professionals using assistive technology.

## Committed partnerships

PACER's TIKES project staff, participating parents, and professionals will create an innovative model for children receiving early childhood special education services. The TIKES project is developing innovative curricula and support materials that incorporate evidence-based practices for the use of AT with young children, including racially and culturally diverse children.



## A Practical Approach

The goal of the TIKES project is to create an evidence-based model that can be replicated in multiple communities for children ages birth to 5.

There are five key goals of the TIKES project:

**Hands-on training:** Develop a series of training curricula for parents and professionals on a variety of topics related to the use of assistive technology.

**Child-centered AT Plans:** Help partners develop a guiding document, AT Plan, to consider assistive technology as part of the IFSP/IEP for children ages birth to 5.



**Coaching:** Provide technical assistance and on-site coaching opportunities to encourage parents and professionals to build their knowledge and capacity to provide appropriate AT tools and services for children.

**AT lending library:** Help partner schools set up their own AT Lending Library to access assistive technology. Partner schools will also have access to membership in PACER's extensive software and hardware lending library.

**AT reuse:** Assist partner sites in establishing an AT reuse program. An early childhood category has also been added to SUPER (Still Useful Product and Equipment Referral), PACER's successful reuse program.

### Learn more about TIKES

To learn more about the TIKES Project visit [PACER.org/STC/TIKES](http://PACER.org/STC/TIKES) or call the Simon Technology Center at (952) 838-9000.

### TIKES Partners

Bloomington Public Schools  
Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan Public Schools  
Anoka-Hennepin School District