



## Communication Pathways

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### Demo & Loan program for Assistive Technology

Pine Tree Society's Communication Pathways offers a free Demo & Loan program for Assistive technology as part of their services. Assistive technology is defined as "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 the functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities." By law, educational teams that meet to plan a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) must consider assistive technology. This technology includes a multitude of tools such as software and apps for all areas of learning, augmentative communication devices, various input devices, such as adapted keyboards and switches to name a few.

Communication Pathway's Demonstration & Loan Program is funded in part by Maine CITE, the statewide coordinating center designed to help make assistive and universally designed technology more available to Maine children and adults who have disabilities.

Loans of equipment typically occur over a period of two-three weeks. These loans are provided so that people can subsequently make purchases based on first-hand knowledge of the necessity and benefits of the tool for the person trialing them.

Demonstration of desired AT can be set-up by contacting Nicole Cohen, Speech and Hearing Practice Administrator at 207-386-5905 or at [ncohen@pinetreesociety.org](mailto:ncohen@pinetreesociety.org).