

Technology Options for People with Albinism



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Assistive technology allows those with albinism to work or play equally alongside peers or colleagues, overcoming most low vision issues. A range of resources is available to assist undertaking tasks in most situations or applications - the challenge is to find what best suits you for each occasion. Children will be supported in this through education support services, and the government funded Job Access scheme will assist those in the workplace to find and provide the best solutions. Funding for use outside education or work can be sourced through NDIS.

Young Kids - Under 5

Some things to consider

- Might need the device (iPad, TV or whatever else) close to the face to see easily - often closer than 1 metre.
- May be of benefit to reduce brightness down to 50% or less.
- If child appears to struggle try and reduce lighting in room shutting blinds, turn lights off as all these things can make it easier. Beware of reducing the light too much as this can also make vision difficult.
- If a TV is wall mounted up high a child may have difficulty seeing it and cause neck pain through looking up. Mounting the TV fairly low at about child's eye level can make a big difference and reduce strain on neck.

School Years

Normally at this stage kids will use some sort of technology in the classroom whether that be looking at a smart board, TV, projector or using ipads or computers in the classroom.

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White Boards or any sort of screen in the front of the classroom can be a challenge to see, and there are various solutions depending on the level of vision. Some options are:

- Sitting in front of classroom
- Using a Monocular (like the 8x Close Focus Monocular)
- Using a device like the Connect 12 Magnifier New Gen Distance Viewing 10x, that can use a camera to zoom in on the screen in front of room and put it up on the 12inch display on the device.
- Using a Sony Camera such as the Sony Cybershit wx500, with a tripod connected to an ipad wirelessly to put whatever is displayed in front of classroom on ipad screen at the desk.
- There is also software that you can put on an ipad that will show whatever is displayed on the smartboard on an ipad or laptop screen

Another thing to consider is **reducing neck and back strain** leaning over an ipad. This can be solved with a simple stand such as the Belkin portable presenter stand.

When students begin to use computers, depending on the level of vision, there are few things you can do to make things easier to see. These include:

- making mouse pointer bigger.
- changing contrast on computer screen
- reducing brightness on monitor
- large Print Keyboard
- bigger Monitor
- adjusting font sizes within Windows or MacOS.
- Windows Zoom or Mac Zoom built in Magnifier software to enlarge what is on screen.
- Installing Screen Magnifier software such as Zoomtext magnifier reader
- For those with Particularly low vision or who suffer from eye fatigue issues or struggle reading long documents, a screen reader could be considered.

For **reading of printed materials** in a school environment you have both low tech and high tech solutions. These include:

- Reading Glasses
- Magnifier
- Portable Video Magnifier
- Desktop Video Magnifier
- iPad or iPhone
- Scanner

Higher Education and University

At University All the above ideas can be utilised however a recommendation is to go with the lightest option, especially if catching public transport to and from classes, as carrying a heavy bag could result in a sore back and neck.

In the Work Place

This will very much depend on what job you have but some common adjustments made are:

- Larger Monitor
- Desktop Video Magnifier
- Magnifier
- Adjust Screen and Mouse Cursor to make easier to see.

Typically by the time someone gets to this age they will know what works for them and how it could be of benefit. There are Job Access Assessors available when you get a job. They can look at the workplace and what you need to complete tasks, often suggesting technology options to make the job achievable and easy to manage. Government funding is available at this point for equipment to make your workplace accessible.

<https://www.jobaccess.gov.au/people-with-disability>