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## Assistive Technology **Q&A** for *HOME INSTRUCTION* and *HOSPITAL SCHOOL* Teachers

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**Q: I just picked up a case and the student is non-verbal. What should I do?**

A: First, contact your Principal (Ramona Pizarro for Home Instruction OR Mary Maher for Hospital Schools) to discuss the possibility of referring the student for an Assistive Technology Evaluation. Then go to [www.vimeo.com/D75](http://www.vimeo.com/D75) and watch videos that illustrate students using Assistive Technology devices to communicate. Then contact the speech therapist that is working with the student and find out what you can be doing to communicate with the student.

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**Q: I want to try to use some simple Assistive Technology to try to build some basic communication skills for the student, but I do not have anything available to me. What can I do?**

A: Contact Karen Gorman at [kgorman@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:kgorman@schools.nyc.gov). She is the Coordinator of the Assistive Technology Evaluation Department. She may have some low-level equipment to loan to you to try with the student. Ms. Gorman can also direct you to the D75 Website where there is an enormous amount of materials ready for download that can be used with the student.

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**Q: How can I learn more about using Assistive Technology with students who are physically impaired.**

A: Go to [www.vimeo.com/D75](http://www.vimeo.com/D75) to view numerous videos showing students with various levels of physical abilities engaging with technology.

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**Q: What if the student's parent wants an Assistive Technology Evaluation but I do not feel the student is capable of using anything?**

A: Having an AT evaluation will be helpful regardless of the outcome. There may be things the team can show you that do not involve AT but can help you in your education of the student. There may also be some technology that you were unaware of that can be very useful for that student. Going through the process is always a learning experience and is beneficial for the family and student as well.

**Q: How long does it take to have a student evaluated for AT?**

A: Once the referral is received by the Assistive Technology Evaluation Office, the evaluation is generally scheduled within a month. It can sometimes take longer to get to completion depending on the complexity of the case and how many visits may be required to get a recommendation.

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**Q: How can I learn more about Assistive Technology?**

A: Visit the D75 Assistive Technology Website at:

<http://schools.nyc.gov/Offices/District75/Departments/Technology/AssistiveAdaptive/default.htm>.

There is an enormous amount of information posted here that you will find helpful.

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