To meet the needs of all of my students, I must integrate technology and often it should be assistive technology. I would say one of the concerns in today's world is just what Estes and Castillo said, "Designing training for the teacher and student on how to use the technology is key to successful inclusion." (Estes and Castillo, 2020, p. 212) I was given a new Clear Touch whiteboard that was quite intimidating. We must learn to use technology before we can teach others to use it. Technology is not going away, and the right tools can take your teaching to the next level.

Some examples I have used in my teaching career include for pre-k 3, the purchase of wide pencils and pencil grips. In a book by Morrison he says, "Assistive technology can be an important tool in your work with children with special needs." (Morrison, 2019, p. 224) For example, he says "putting a pencil grip on a pencil makes it easier to hold; the pencil grip is an example of low-tech assistive technology." (Morrison, 2019, p. 224) Just last year, I had several students that struggled and needed not only super wide pencils but also grips to force the hands to hold the pencil. Some other tools for assistive technology that are more of a higher tech would be that of e-books. Many e-books for young children can read aloud to the child while the child follows along in the text." (Morrison, 2019, p. 224) It is super cool to see this done on the interactive whiteboard for a special needs child. Their eyes light up because they get to participate with reading in their own unique way. For the vision impaired, one can also buy a Big Keys keyboard. I priced one on Amazon for $38. It is rare to meet a parent that is unwilling to help their child when they need assistance.

References

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