

## Assistive resources

You might have some learners who would benefit from using assistive resources. These include anything that will help the learner and the learning process. For example, a desk that can be raised higher to accommodate a wheelchair.

Whenever possible, you need to find out what you can about your learners' needs, to be able to support them. This could take place as part of the initial assessment process or as a one-to-one discussion at an appropriate time. Your learners will be best placed to know what works for them, so never be afraid to ask them. However, always consider what they can do, not what they can't do. It could be that they have a learning difficulty and/or a disability that can be supported by using various assistive resources.

These could include:

- braille smart watches
- cameras
- communication boards e.g. fuzzy felt and letters rather than pen and paper
- computers with special screens, keyboards and pointing devices
- desks on risers to accommodate a wheelchair
- digital recorders
- e-readers
- grab tools to pick up or reach for small items
- graphic organisers
- items for left handed use
- magnifiers to increase text size or view small items
- mobility devices to help a learner move around
- positioning and attaching devices for keeping things securely in place
- reading pens
- smart phone applications such as those which translate speech to sign language, or English to other languages (and vice versa)
- special or adjustable seating
- talking clocks and talking calculators
- technology and speciality software e.g. for speech recognition, Braille translation, and other uses
- text recognition software
- tinted glasses for learners who have dyslexia
- variable-speed recorders
- voice recognition and word prediction software.

Other apparatus which can help in the learning environment include: ramps, lifts, grab bars, hearing loops, automatic door openers, hoists, remote switches, senses and remote controls. It might be possible to borrow, hire or lease some specialist equipment if this option is available to you.