**Assistive Technology**

***For most people, technology makes things easier.***

***For children with disabilities, technology makes things POSSIBLE.***

 **Assistive Technology (AT)** is a system of tools, strategies and services that enable a person with disabilities to function to his/her maximum potential educationally, vocationally, socially and in their daily living activities. The goal of AT is to help students overcome barriers to personal independence. Communication is vital to personal independence.

Students at Nina Harris School benefit from using a wide variety of technology and assistive technology devices (depending on their individual abilities) to participate in activities and to communicate with others.

**For our students, this means . . .**

* Expanded educational opportunities
* Increase communication skills and expressive abilities
* Access to state-of-the-art augmentative communication technologies and voice output devices
* Alternative communication strategies including project core, MELD, picture symbols, picture schedules, photographs, Tactile and 3-D printed symbols
* Adapted switch activated toys and Accessible books
* Computer adaptations like eye gaze, touch screens, switch interfaces, adapted keyboards, screen magnification
* Access to adapted writing tools
* Adaptive positioning equipment and AAC mounting devices

**Services**

* Consultations with the Pinellas County Schools Assistive Technology Department
* Trials and assessments with the most current augmentative communication technologies including eye gaze and tablet devices
* Software and technology to support academic performance and life skills.
* Assessment for methods of access for AAC devices, computers and software
* Substantial In-house inventory of AAC devices, switches and technology supports