

Essential Assistive Technology Tools to Add To Your Toolbox

Rachel Kruzel, *ATP*

We ask you to join us in creating a culture that reflects...

Access and Inclusion

and

Civility and Respect

...this week and in all aspects of our organization.

*Please be respectful of your colleagues by silencing your phone.
If you need to answer a call, please go to the hallway.*

Agenda

- Landscape of the Intersection of Higher Education and Assistive Technology
- Tools to Support Students in Person or Online
 - Readings
 - Writing
 - Notetaking
 - Executive Functioning
 - Visual
 - Hearing

Utilize the Chat Function!

What We Learned and Are Expecting

- Two camps for online content
 - Innovation versus Stagnation
- *“Building the airplane as we fly it!”*

What Disability/Accessibility Resources Learned

- Decrease in intakes
 - Online works better for many
 - Self-Accommodating
 - New faces
- Need to provide proactive resources

What Are We Mindful of Moving Forward

- Increase in “remote learning” accommodations
- Less ability to rely on human supports/accommodations
- Similar tools providing support as before
 - But the ‘why’ is what’s important

Landscape of Higher Ed for 2020-2021



“We don’t know what we don’t know”



We Do Actually Know Some Things...

- The show must go on
- Time will tell
- Accommodations will be needed
- Technology based accommodations will be a key support

Key to Technology Accommodations

- What is the impact or the barriers the student is encountering?
- Is the impact the same? Different?
- Is the support they are using still needed?

Meet Students Where They Are At

- Where is the student doing the work?
 - Writing a paper in a word processing program?
 - Reading an ePub or PDF?
 - Reading content in an LMS or in a website?
 - Taking an exam online?
- Square peg – round hole
- So much content is technological – are the supports any different for online versus in-person classes?

Some Tips...

- What tools might the student (college/university) already have access to?
- It might (will) take a little bit of coaching, modeling, instruction
 - One-on-One, Peer, Flyer, Video, etc....
- Don't make it harder than it should be – K.I.S.S.

Assistive Technology for Your Toolbox

Reading Support Considerations

Increased amounts of work or screen time

- Text-to-Speech
 - Where is the student doing the work
- Facilitation of Reading Content
 - Textbooks
 - Course Readings
- Highlighting and Annotation

Tools to Support Reading

- Text-to-Speech
 - Read&Write (for Google Chrome), Kurzweil, Microsoft Learning Tools, Voice Dream Reader, Balabolka, Read Aloud – Chrome and Firefox Extension, EquatIO (STEM)
- Highlighting and Annotation
 - Read&Write (for Google Chrome), Kurzweil, Voice Dream Reader, Microsoft Learning Tools, Capti, Kami, Notability, scribl, EquatIO (STEM)

Writing Support Considerations

Due to increased amount of writing or screen time

- Dictation
- Text-to-Speech
- Grammar/Spell Checkers
- Math/STEM

Tools to Support Writing

- Dictation
 - Google VoiceTyping, Dragon Naturally Speaking, Microsoft Dictation, Windows Voice Recognition, Talk&Type (RW)
- Text-to-Speech
 - Read&Write (for Google Chrome), Kurzweil, Microsoft Learning Tools
- Word Prediction
 - Read&Write (for Google), Kurzweil, Microsoft/Windows OS

Tools to Support Writing (2)

- Grammar/Spell Checker:
 - CheckIt (RW), Grammarly, Ginger, Hemingway Editor, Built into Google and Microsoft
- STEM Content:
 - EquatIO
- Other:
 - Cold Turkey, Written? Kitten!

Proctors: Reading & Writing

Inability to work with peers with ease

- Text-to-Speech
- Dictation
- Word Prediction
- Math Editors (EquatIO)

Notetaking Support Considerations

Less need or different need for notetaking

- Is there lecture content, synchronous or asynchronous?
- Are there videos students need to watch?

Tools to Support Notetaking

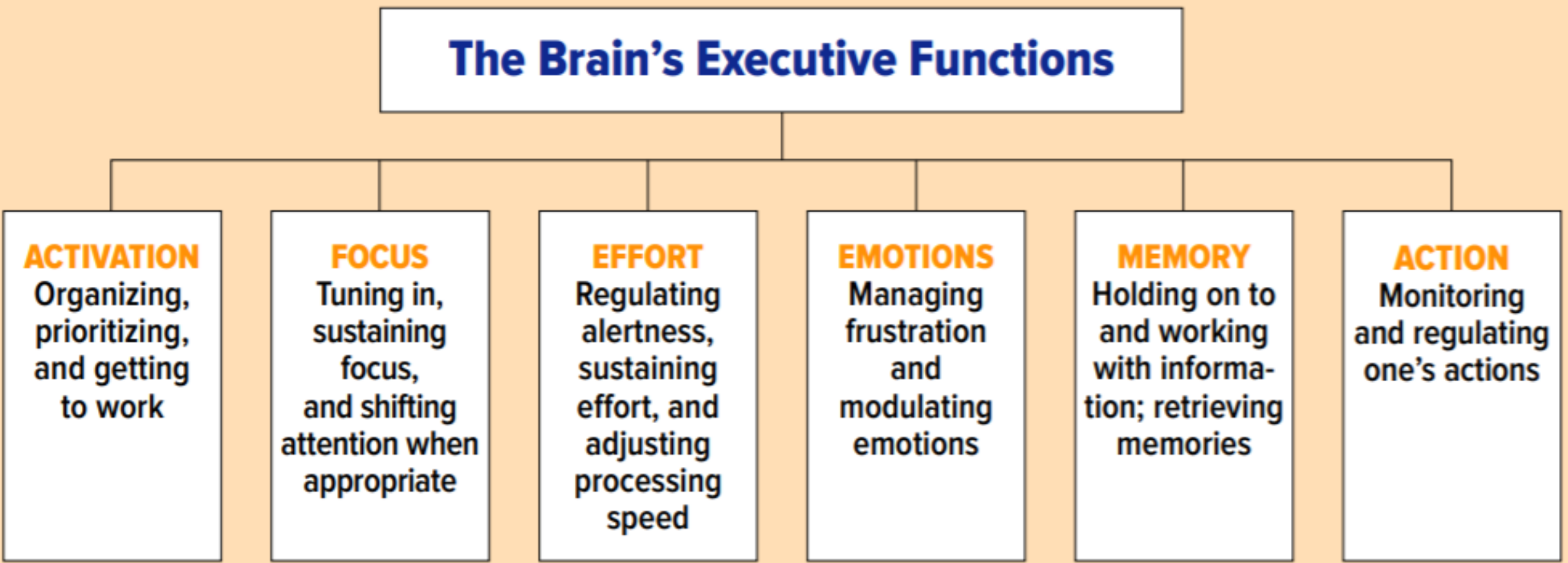
- Digital Voice Recorders
- Sonocent – Audio Notetaker and Gleam
- Smartpens – various models
- Otter.ai
- Noteability
- OneNote - Microsoft

Executive Functioning Support Considerations

What part of EF is the student struggling with?

- Activation
- Focus
- Effort
- Emotion
- Memory
- Action

From Thomas Brown's Model of Executive Functioning



Learning Style and Space

- Move Your Body
 - Walk
 - Yoga
 - Mindfulness
- Clean Learning Environment
- Move Around – Different Space
- Investment in Chair, Desk, Yoga Ball, etc.

Tools to Support Executive Functioning

- Calendars and Planners
 - Google Calendar, Tasks & Keep, Microsoft Calendar & Tasks
- Time Management
 - Pomodoro Technique, Do Not Disturb, Guided Access, Strict Workflow, TimeTimer, focus boosters
- Task Management
 - Todoist, Minamalist, Trello, Cold Turkey, Priority Matrix

Visual Support Considerations

- Increase in screen time
 - Screen fatigue
- Platform ease of access
- Accessibility of tool?

Visual Support Tools

- Screenmasking Tools
 - Read&Write (for Google Chrome); Built into OS; Beeline Reader
- Visual Clutter & Simplification
 - Mercury Reader, Simplify within Read&Write for Google Chrome
- Audio Files as alternative
 - Mp3 makers, Read&Write (for Google Chrome), Kurzweil

Auditory Support Considerations

- Automatic captions within programs
 - Captions or ‘craptions’
- Attention, focus
- Different method being online or in class

Auditory Support Tools

- Video Conferencing Captions
 - Google Hangouts
 - Zoom
- Slides/Presentations
 - Microsoft
 - Google
- On the Fly Captioning
 - Ava

Session Evaluation

- Please complete the session evaluation via the link in the chat box.
- Your feedback helps shape future programming.
- Thank you for attending!

Let's Connect!

Rachel Kruzel, *ATP*
Territory Director
Texthelp

Email: r.kruzel@texthelp.com

Phone: 651-245-3128

Twitter: @TH_RachelK