

## ATC STAFF

*Barbara Welsford, M.Ed., ATP, ATS, LDATS  
Apple Distinguished Educator ADE  
Assistive Technology Specialist  
Assistive Technology Centre Coordinator*



Barbara is the coordinator of the Assistive Technology Centre. She has her M.Ed. from Dalhousie University. Barbara is also a certified Assistive Technology Professional from RESNA and has Assistive Technology Specialist credentials from California State University. Barbara served on the Disabled Persons Commission of Nova Scotia for six years, is past Chair of the Lunenburg/Queens Action Council for People with Disabilities and past Chairperson of the Lunenburg Queens Community Access Program. She designs and teaches graduate courses in Assistive Technology for Acadia University and synchronous online AT graduate courses for St.Fx University. Barbara has developed AT expertise over the past 30 years in literacy and technology, integrating technology into various program plans, UDL, mobile technologies and developing projects to respond to the various needs of people with disabilities in the education and employment fields. She has extensive experience designing and providing training programs around assistive technology for professionals.

Contact Barbara at:

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## ATC STAFF

*Anita Kingdon, B.A.  
Assistive Technology  
Facilitator,  
South Shore Regional  
School Board*



Anita has been assigned by the South Shore Regional School Board to support the Assistive Technology Centre. Her role is to support implementation of assistive technology assessments for students with disabilities in the South Shore Regional School Board. She also provides support with training in the use of recommended software and mobile devices used as AT for students and staff. Anita combines 20 years of experience as Teacher Assistant in the public school system with extensive knowledge of assistive technology to support efficient and effective implementation of assistive technology assessments.

Contact Anita at:

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# ATC



**ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY CENTRE**

Technology solutions for people with disabilities

## Enhancing Performance of students with disabilities

Assistive Technology Centre

16147 Highway 3, Hebbville

Hebbville Academy School Rm. 230

Barbara Welsford, AT Specialist

Anita Kingdon, AT Facilitator



### ***Assistive Technology Centre Services:***

- provide assessments and observations recommending appropriate assistive technology for school age students with any disability
- provide assessments for children in an early intervention program 1 year prior to entering school
- test site for new assistive technologies and beta testing of new Apps for mobile devices for students with disabilities
- training centre for various AT products including Clicker, AssistiveWare (Proloquo2go AAC App)
- provide team training on specific assistive technologies recommended for students based on program planning needs
- provide staff training on various assistive technologies as requested
- provide AT awareness to schools, staff, students, parents, administrators and community members
- develop and manage the Assistive Technology Loan Library for the SSRSB
- manage over 1,000 AT software packages and 500 AT devices including:
  - iPod Touches, iPads, iPad minis, Android Devices
  - Adapted Physical Education equipment
  - AT for student with Learning Disabilities (Kurzweil, CoWriter, iPads, iPad minis, specific Apps etc.)
  - AT for students with visual impairments
  - AT for students with physical disabilities
  - AT for students with cognitive delays
  - AT for students hearing impairments
  - Alternate keyboards
  - Augmentative and Alternative Communication devices
  - Single Switch devices and adapted toys, Sensor switches

- Sensory devices (with OT support)
- Touch screen technologies
- providing various AT enhancing performance of children Autism
  
- laptops for AT training and/or placement with students
- recommend appropriate purchases of AT for the SSRSB based on student needs as noted through AT assessments and observations
- Proposal writing and fundraising for AT

### ***Referral Process***

Student's name is brought before the school Program Planning Team for possible referral to the Assistive Technology Centre.

Program Support Teachers, classroom teacher or parent may refer students, but the referral must go through the Program Planning Team at the school level. Once agreed upon, the PPT team will fill out the Assistive Technology referral form, located in the Student Services online at [srsb.ca](http://srsb.ca). Submit the form to TieNet Action plans for all referrals received are formulated and posted back to TieNet to the contact person noted on the referral form.

### **Actions may include:**

- Assessments are done with the student at the centre or at the school.
- Observations are done with the student at the centre or at the school.
- Recommendations for training of the team to ensure effective utilization of the AT in the classroom
- Placement of the AT that is recommended once training has been provided
- Regular monitoring and follow up to ensure effective use is ongoing

**NOTE:** no Assistive Technology is placed in schools for specific students without an AT assessment. Training is a critical piece to effective use and application of the Assistive Technology. Assistive Technology assessments should be recommended every 2-3 years as "everything changes with the AT system including the student, teachers, curriculum, environment, tasks and technology.



TRAINING IN THE ATC



ENHANCING THUMB ACCESS WITH A GLOVE FOR STUDENT WITH CP



EARLY LEARNING!