

# Funds For Equipment As An Adult

Families and school teams often ask, "What can they do once our student becomes an adult and SET BC or school purchased equipment is reclaimed?" Often equipment used by students with severe/profound cognitive disabilities is fairly low tech. Some examples include ...

- simple voice output devices such as the BIGmack, Step-by-Step Communicator, Voicepal, Introtalker, etc.
- AbleNet Powerlink to run electrical appliances with a switch
- switches to assist accessibility such as a jelly bean switch, micro switch, lever switch, head switch, etc.

This equipment is crucial for students as adults to continue to ...

- practice their skills as life-long learners
- have a voice in their communities
- partially participate in their inclusive environments

We as educators and family need to advocate for this equipment and ensure that the student will continue to have access to needed equipment to enhance the quality of their lives. This equipment can also be used to participate in service related activities as well as promote the individual's continued learning.

The following are some options to consider...

- Contact CAYA through SET BC, early on in the transition process to fill in a request form for student equipment, which your team feels may facilitate your student's participation and learning once he/ she is an adult. This form can be accessed through...

[www.cayabc.org](http://www.cayabc.org)

Student equipment may be necessary to assist with employment or service related activities.

The following are some examples which may be viewed in the video: Transition To Adulthood on the PISP website.

- A student (Cameron) using an AbleNet Powerlink to run a blender to make dog to sell at the market.
- A student (Kathleen) using her voice output device to greet and communicate with seniors at the local hospital for snack time.

The following are some additional considerations regarding the search for equipment funding:

- Various schools seek financial support through their local parents group who raise money on a regular basis. Perhaps there is a local community group who may be interested in including your student in their fund raising projects.
- Fund raising could occur within the student's school during the last two years, with the goal being working towards purchasing equipment that the student will be able to take with him/her when s/he leaves school. The following are some examples
  - requesting Club Z points donated by families and their friends and relatives

- hot dog or pizza day as fundraisers
- SPCA stamps which are reimbursed for dollars
- Canadian Tire money is collected which is used towards equipment
- Student could use a switch and the AbleNet Powerlink and a blender make dog biscuits, muffins, cookies, cakes, cards made from recycled paper in a blender and these be sold.

- In some situations, the “At Home” Program or other family based supports may be able to provide equipment for students’ primary use at home. This would need to be explored while the student still has access to the “At Home” program.

- Local stores and clubs are often more motivated to donate funds for a specific piece of equipment when they know what it is going to be used for, and perhaps have an opportunity to get to know the student. For example, if your student goes to a local Dairy Queen Restaurant to pick up orders for the staff on a regular basis, perhaps the owner may be interested in assisting with some augmentative communication or equipment or equipment which will assist accessibility and participation (e.g., BIGmack or Powerlink II).

- The Lions Club or other clubs in your local area, may also provide possibilities.



Equipment is vital to providing adults with opportunities to have a voice and continue to practice communication skills.



Here is an individual using a switch to shuffled cards for a game. This allows the individual to be more of a participant.

*Most of our students’ learning and participation is dependent upon the use and availability of equipment. We need to advocate for this equipment to be available for the student as they transfer their skills and participation In to their lives as adults.*