

## Apply the research to practice

### Objective(s)

Learners describe the relevance of a research summary to a dilemma presented earlier in the module.

### Description

In this activity, learners apply information from a research summary on assistive technology to a specific context.

### Required Materials/Resources

#### Learner Materials

- [Video 5.3: Dr. Philippa Campbell- Research on AT](#)
- [Handout 5.1: Research Summary on Assistive Technology Interventions](#)
- Format for learner responses (written activity form, guidance for discussion)

### Detailed Facilitator Instructions

1. Provide learners with Video 5.3.
2. Ask learners to respond to question (1) on Activity 5.3a:
  - (1) Why does Dr. Philippa Campbell say it is hard to get “samples,” or large groups of children, for research studies on assistive technology?
3. Provide learners with Handout 5.1.
4. Ask learners to respond to questions (2) and (3) on Activity 5.3a:
  - (2) What were the findings from the research synthesis about teaching children to use assistive technology?
  - (3) What further research is needed?  
How relevant is the research to the context portrayed in the dilemma?
5. Provide feedback.

### Suggested Assessment

- (1) All children who use assistive technology are different and their families, communities and needs are different. So even if you have two children that are the same age and use the same AT device, you will still get two different outcomes. Most of the AT research is single case research (only one child) and it is hard to do larger studies with many children.
- (2) Research on AT has shown that all children, including very young children, can learn how to use AT equipment successfully. Further research is needed to evaluate if AT interventions are effective, not just on performing isolated skills, but for promoting children’s successful participation and learning within the context of everyday activities.

This activity is part of Module 5: Assistive Technology Interventions. To view the content related to this activity, go to [Step 3: Evidence](#).

**Instructional Method**  
Discovery

**Level**  
Intermediate

**Estimated Time Needed**  
7-8 minutes for instructor preparation

30-45 minutes for learner activity

**Learner Form**  
[Activity 5.3a](#)

- (3) The research was conducted with children age 2.5-60 months with a variety of disabilities, so the characteristics of the child participants were similar to the child in the dilemma. Characteristics of the adult participants and of the research settings were not clear, so cannot be compared with the dilemma. The research found that young children can be taught to use AT equipment successfully, but most of the research focused on switch activation whereas the dilemma focuses on use of communication boards. More research is needed on the effectiveness of AT for promoting children's successful participation and learning in the classroom and in everyday activities.

Hint provided to learner: Consider the research settings, characteristics of the adult and child participants, and the assistive technology interventions and outcomes examined. Your answer should mention specific ways in which these are similar to or different from those in the dilemma.

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### **Facilitation Tips**

- Learners can respond in class, online, or using the PDF form; which can be printed, emailed, or submitted online.
- Break into groups to discuss and respond.

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### **Alternate Version(s)** (refers to different levels of difficulty)

- [Activity Guide 5.3b](#): Use family-friendly language to describe research
- [Activity Guide 5.3c](#): Connecting to the research

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### **Credits**

The CONNECT Content Team