

27<sup>th</sup> August 2020

We're continuing our back to school theme with lots of free resources/webinars for you to check out. Please share as you feel appropriate.



Widgit know that this is a busy time for teachers. To help you prepare and set up your classroom for a new, and socially distanced, academic year, they've been busy over the summer putting together a range of useful (and free!) resources.

In the Back to School Teacher Toolkit, you will find over 50 pages of resources, including:

- Materials to help support **signage, wayfinding** and **personal care around a socially distanced school environment**.
- **Visual timetables** and **reward charts** to support structure, routine, behaviour and independence.
- **Emotional and wellbeing supports** to help children and young people talk about how they are feeling.

[\*\*DOWNLOAD FREE BACK TO SCHOOL TEACHER'S SCHOOLKIT\*\*](#)



Setting up your classroom is half the battle of preparing for Back to School. Twinkl have some great [Displays](#) that cover all you need to get your classroom ready and welcoming for those smiling faces coming back into you this week.

Some children may be nervous about coming back to school and are not sure what to expect. They may be shy about expressing their concerns out loud but Twinkl has you covered with this great [Returning to School Transition Activity Pack](#). Use some of our [About Me](#) activities to learn all about the students in your class.

With children being assigned to 'pods' and each area of the classroom needing to be marked clearly, our classroom displays and [editable name labels](#) are perfect to make sure everything is clearly marked for the children.

You can find us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) or [Twitter](#)



**TextHelp are running a webinar on 'Creating accessible & inclusive digital content'** which will take place live on 17th September @ 2 p.m.

In this webinar **Sarah Richards, Founder of Content Design London, Daniel McLaughlan, Accessibility and Usability Consultant at AbilityNet** and Donna Thomson, Marketing Manager at Texthelp bring you easy, practical advice from communications and accessibility experts.

**[FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR TO RESERVE YOUR FREE PLACE](#)**



AbleNet offer a wide range of free AT training, resources and free webinars for those working with people with disabilities including:-

Wednesday, September 9th

*Online and Face-to-Face - They Want Me to do What? Thriving in a Blended Learning Classroom*

Tuesday, September 29th

*Positive Approaches to Addressing Problem Behaviors of Students with Severe Disabilities - Part 2*

Wednesday, October 7th

*Promoting Access, Engagement and Learning Success for Students with Severe Disabilities*

For a full list of upcoming webinars please see [ABLENET WEBINAR SCHEDULE](#)



**AHEAD Journal #11 Highlight: Gaining insight into transition and progression of students on the autism spectrum - DISCOVER a transition programme with a difference**

Under the workstream of Enabling Transitions, the Disability Support Service (DSS) in Cork Institute of Technology (CIT) set out to develop transition programmes for students on the autism spectrum. This project sets out to create a roadmap of support for students who are on the autism spectrum and who are potentially entering Higher Education. Structured into three elements - pre-entry, entry and post-entry, this pilot project seeks to draw on research conducted with students, parents and professionals, to gain insight into transition and progression experience of students on the spectrum in CIT.

[READ THE FULL ARTICLE HERE](#)

# Closing The Gap



## [BACK TO SCHOOL FREE RESOURCES & SPECIAL OFFERS](#)



**Don't forget to register for this year's Assistive Technology Summit hosted by Disability Rights New Jersey.** Join consumers and professionals for a day of learning and sharing about all areas of Assistive Technology.

Last year's event was attended by over 190 individuals and featured over 25 concurrent sessions focused on all areas of Assistive Technology. **This year's virtual event will be even bigger and better** - with speakers and participants from all across the country!

### **Sessions will include:-**

- AT Supports for the Classroom
- Workplace Accommodations
- Transition Services / Strategies
- Augmentative and Alternative Communication
- Smart Home Technology / Internet of Things

**DATE: Tuesday, September 15<sup>th</sup> 2020**

## [FURTHER INFORMATION/REGISTER FOR SUMMIT](#)

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[www.enableireland.ie/at](http://www.enableireland.ie/at)