Spinal Muscle Atrophy is a devastating genetic condition that causes weakened muscles and poor motor skills. Children with Type I SMA have difficulty eating and swallowing. They also cannot walk, and need assistance sitting up, and they have a very short life span of about two years. Children with this diagnosis need a variety of assistive technology to help improve their quality of life and ensure their comfort at all times. Technology is including but not limited to the following:

| Website | Description | Ideas for Use |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *Glenda’s Assistive Technology Information and more*  *<http://atclassroom.blogspot.com/2010/04/aac-resources.html>* | PECS stands for Picture Exchange Communication System. It’s an ingenius idea that helps nonverbal children communicate what they want to other people by pointing and using pictures. | PECS is a great tool, and children of all ages are able to use it. This is great for these young children who are nonverbal but still need to communicate with their parents and caregivers about their wants and needs. This helps give the children independence, helps them self advocate and ensures their comfortability. |
| *Descriptive Teaching Model*  *<http://teachinglearnerswithmultipleneeds.blogspot.com>* | The Descriptive Teaching Model is a way to teach children with profound, and often complex disabilities core vocabulary and important words that they will need to know. It helps sort out the important words and core content from things that are “non-recyclable” and will never be used again. | This is a really cool concept because I feel like so many of the vocabulary words being taught are “non-recyclable” words that have little to no meaning to most children. This would be great to use in a classroom because it helps teach the most important parts of vocabulary and helps students better retain the information. |
| *Implementation of iPads for AAC in a Specialist School*  *<http://www.janefarrall.com>* | iPads and other Apple products are now being marketed as assistive technology. There are many apps, and the large touch screen is easily accessible to a large variety of students. | iPads are such a great resource for children with special needs. There are new and improved apps coming out every single day, and with the touch screen, many students are able to fully take advantage of all of it’s benefits. |
| *AssistiveWare*  *<http://www.assistiveware.com/products>* | Assistive Ware offers a variety of apps for people (including children) who cannot speak or have trouble with fine motor skills. They can be used on almost any Apple product. | There’s an app on Assistive Ware called Keeble that helps make the keyboard accessible to students with poor motor skills. This is so important because children who otherwise may not be able to type or use an iPad/iPhone of any sort are now given an opportunity to express themselves and use technology through this app that helps make it more accessible to people with poor fine motor skills. There are a variety of modified keyboards that are for all different levels of typists and for all different ability levels as well. |
| *Point to Pictures*  *<http://www.rjcooper.com/ptp-pc/index.html>* | RJ Cooper began designing his own assistive technology in 1986. Over the years he has developed quite a large client base, and he works on designing his own software for severely disabled individuals. The Point to Pictures software can be installed in a PC, which is the first thing I’ve seen not exclusively built for Apple products, and it allows people to change the pictures and communicate how they're feeling using a series of images. It’s not menu-based and it flows nicely from one item to the next. | This is an affordable and relatively easy to use and customizable picture board for people who may not be able to communicate otherwise. And since it’s for PCs it is more widely available to schools and homes who do not have pricey Apple products. |