

Option 1 -

Oh no! You wrote Chris but he's on vacation, well, sort of anyway. I mean, he's in Buffalo probably swimming in Lake Erie, the most polluted of all the Great Lakes. Right now he's probably busy dodging syringes and pulling used band-aids from his mouth. Maybe, if he's lucky, he'll get to eat some wings. So, he's not complaining (too much). He'll be with his family and that's got to count for something...right? RIGHT?

If you're writing him here it probably means you need some sort of help with this, that, or the other thing. Perhaps it is in reference to a student who needs support to achieve an educational goal? Perchance it is because you'd like some support brainstorming educational resources? Whatever the reason, Chris wants to be there to help but he can't right now. Don't worry! Chris would never leave you hanging out there to flounder all by yourself! Resources abound! Try one of the following solutions...

1. If you work for LCPS and need something for ESY or Summer School, call the AT Office at 571-252-2111. If no one is there, give them a day or two to get back to you. Summer is crazy, hectic busy usually. Be patient!

2. Did you know Chris has hosted over 145 podcast episodes featuring tools and strategies to differentiate learning experiences and solve students' problems? Yeah. It's true. You can subscribe for free in iTunes at <http://bit.ly/attipscastitunes> or go to the blog <http://attipscast.com> to listen. On the blog you can do a search for your topic and then listen to the shows that come up as a result! It might just help you find that for which you seek! If you enjoy what you hear, go ahead and "like" it on Facebook at <http://facebook.com/attipscast>. Happy listening!

3. Maybe you want to take a break for a bit? Relax and listen to one of the 60 stories Chris has co-written with his wife, Melissa. You can visit the website, <http://nightlightstories.net>, to read short descriptions of each story. Have a listen and share the stories with every kid you know! You can like Night Light Stories on Facebook too by going to <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Night-Light-Stories/188139509742>

4. Do you need something fun to read over the summer? How about The Practical (and Fun) Guide to Assistive Technology in Public Schools? Monkeys, pirates, robots, and more keep you engaged and entertained as you learn about how to create effective assistive technology services in your institution. Check it out at <http://iste.org/chewat> and, of course, you can like it on Facebook too where resources are always being shared <http://bit.ly/atbookfb>

You're still reading, eh? Good for you for sticking with it! Just for that, here's a few other tasty nuggets.

5. Many of Chris's presentations are online, free to view to the public! Check them out at

<http://www.slideshare.net/attipscast>.

6. Did you know that Chris authored an app that helps people conduct evaluations and consultations to brainstorm technology solutions for students? It's called ATEval2Go and you can learn more at <http://bit.ly/ateval2go> .

7. But when can I see Chris present LIVE and in person? Well, funny you should ask because there are many presentations coming up which you can learn about at <http://bit.ly/bugajpresentations>. Chris also presented at a TEDx event! Check out the video at <http://bit.ly/bugajtedx>.

Sick of hearing about Chris and his endeavors? I understand. Who wouldn't be at this point? Let's talk about something much more interesting...his wife and kids. You can read all about their exploits and adventures as written and produced by his wife over at <http://accordingtomags.com> .

And that's it. That's everything. While Chris is off doing who knows what with who knows whom, you're left to fend for yourself, but with tons of resources at your disposal to help you out (like this one ---> <http://bit.ly/lcpsatdiigogroup> - If you're in the field of education, you're going to LOVE that one. Tons of searchable resources there).

Chris will get back with you once he gets back from shoveling snow.

Have fun exploring!

Chris's AutoReply Robot

Option 2 -

Oh no! You wrote Chris but he's away. He can't tell you where he is, because, well, you'll be jealous. It's warm there. There is a pool there. It's even an outdoor pool. The sun is probably shining right now. If you really want to know that badly, because you just can't stand not knowing, you can find out at <http://attipscast.com>.

Now, don't be too too jealous. The reason Chris is there right now isn't because he's on vacation. No, nothing like that. He's working. He's at a conference learning new stuff to help you and your students. He'll be inside listening to awesome presentations, consulting with others in the field, and learning what works in other parts of the country.

That's enough about Chris and where he is...let's talk about you for moment. How can Chris help you? If you're writing him here it probably means you need some sort of help with this, that, or the other thing. Perhaps it is in reference to a student who needs support to achieve an educational goal? Perchance it is because you'd like some support brainstorming educational

resources? Whatever the reason, Chris wants to be there to help but he can't right now. Don't worry! Chris would never leave you hanging out there to flounder all by yourself!

Resources abound! Try one of the following solutions...

1. If you work in the district in which Chris works and you need something so urgently it can't wait until Chris gets back next week, call the AT Office at 571-252-2111. If no one is there, give them a day or two to get back to you. It is always crazy, hectic busy. Be patient!

2. Lately, many people have been writing Chris with questions about where to find great apps for education. That is sort of a broad question and if Chris were here to answer you live he'd be asking you question to help narrow your search. He might ask what sorts of goals are you trying to achieve? So, are you looking for apps? Is that why you're writing him? If so, he'd probably also tell you that there are number of resources available that review apps for educational purposes. The following are just a few places you could go to streamline your search:

a. Teacherswithapps.com - This site is an educational app discover site where each of the apps listed are vetted by educators. They field-test every app with a cross-section of students and other educators as part of the review process.

b. <http://bit.ly/gatfl> - The Georgia Tech Tools for Life app review portal allows the user to search for an app select to see apps based on a dropdown list of categories.

c. <http://bit.ly/appolearning> - If you'd like an app that reviews other apps, check out the app learning app by appolicious. AppoLearning is an app by Appolicious that showcases the five best educational apps for school-aged students as selected by teachers and app experts across 150 different subjects

d. If these don't meet your needs, you can always search the Loudoun County Public School's Diigo Group at <http://bit.ly/lcpsatdiigo> for the term "appreview" to find additional app review sites that anyone from the Loudoun County Public School's assistive technology team has found.

3. Also lately, people have been asking Chris a lot lately about reading strategies with regard to teaching multisyllabic words. Now, that might sound pretty specific, but the strategies used to help students who struggle with that skill are really pretty universal when it comes to helping anyone read anything. Chris compiled these resources for some educators on the subject that you might find interesting:

a. Article from Scholastic on tried & true strategies for decoding multisyllabic words such as inviting student to work with a partner in front of a mirror saying words. While one person says a word the other person counts how many times the first person's mouth opens up. These openings correspond with vowel sounds and a syllable can only have one vowel sound. Try it now yourself. Go ahead. No one is looking. If you like that activity, there are others over at <http://bit.ly/scholasticdecoding>

b. Broward County in Florida has published a free e-book/slideshow/PDF that reviews some of the basic strategies for teaching decoding of multisyllabic words. An example of an one strategy they share is to circle or highlight the vowel sounds in words. You can check out the file for yourself at - <http://bit.ly/browardreading>

c. The Reading Rockets website also shares PDFs with lessons, research, and literature suggestions to work on the suggested activity. One example shared at <http://bit.ly/readingrocketssyllables> is to put syllables on index cards (or, if you're gonna high tech it up, on cells on an interactive whiteboard, copmuter, or graphic organizing app) and then jumble them up. Students can then slide the cards or cells around to make words using the syllables.

d. Write syllables on full-size pieces of colored paper. Put the syllables on the floor and ask student to step to syllable to make word (think, Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade when he has to spell the word over the huge pit by stepping on stones). See how many words you can make with the syllables by jumping from paper to paper. Like that strategy? That's one that I came up with all by myself! I like to incorporate gross motor whenever I can!

Are you still with me or did you click to the next e-mail already? Well, if you're still here...

4. Did you know that Chris authored an app that helps people conduct evaluations and consultations to brainstorm technology solutions for students? It's called ATEval2Go and you can learn more at <http://bit.ly/ateval2go> You did know that? Awesome! Well, here's something that you might not know about that app. It was in the running to win the best mobile app in the 2014 Edublog Awards. The awards were decided by voting this year and it came it second place beating out apps like Twitter, Evernote, and Dropbox. Not only did it come in second place, but it only lost by 5 votes! Wanna know which app one? Well, it's a pretty neat app indeed. It is called, AR Flashcards and it is free! You purchase the app and get it on your device. Then, from their website you print PDFs of cards. There are currently two sets of cards, a space one and an alphabet one. When you launch the app and hover over the card a 3D version of the object on the card appears. My own kids tried it and loved it. They were so curious to see what would pop up on the screen! The AR stands for Augmented Reality and if you haven't messed around with any AR apps yet, you're missing out! Let this be the first one you try. You can learn more about it at <http://arflashcards.com>. If ATEval2Go had to lose, I'm glad it lost to this cool app.

5. Maybe you want to take a break for a bit? Relax and listen to one of the 60 stories Chris has co-written with his wife, Melissa. You can visit the website, <http://nightlightstories.net>, to read short descriptions of each story. Have a listen and share the stories with every kid you know! You can like Night Light Stories on Facebook too by going to <http://bit.ly/nightlightstoriesfb> . The latest story, Terrapene Ornata, Part 1 is about a student who is exploring geocaching. In the story a teacher conducts a lesson that you might try with your own students. It could be fun! You can listen to the story by going to <http://nightlightstories.net>.

6. Did you know Chris has hosted over 145 podcast episodes featuring tools and strategies to differentiate learning experiences and solve students' problems? In fact, what you're reading right now is one of his episodes. Trippy right? Wanna hear it? You can subscribe for free in iTunes at <http://bit.ly/attipscastitunes> or go to the blog <http://attipscast.com> to listen. On the blog you can do a search for your topic and then listen to the shows that come up as a result! It might just help you find that for which you seek! If you enjoy what you hear, go ahead and "like" it on Facebook at <http://facebook.com/attipscast>. He even did not one, but two episodes where he talks about how automatic e-mail replies can be used as a form of professional development!

And that's it. That's everything. While Chris is off doing who knows what with who knows whom in sunny who knows where, you're left to fend for yourself at least for now, but if you made it this far into the e-mail then you know that Chris just left you with tons of resources to explore.

Chris will get back with you once he gets back with his tan.

Have fun exploring!

Chris's AutoReply Robot