



Easterseals Iowa Assistive Technology Center

Objectives:

- Understand the definition and benefits of assistive technology.
- Understand four considerations for comparing, contrasting, and selecting assistive technology.
- Identify statewide resources to help with the trial and selection of assistive technology.
- Discuss and identify 100 devices, both commercially available and individually fabricated assistive technology to assist with activities of daily living, employment, community living, and recreation.

Agenda

- Discuss Easterseals Iowa Services
- Define Assistive Technology
- General overview of Assistive Technology
- Examples of Assistive Technology
- Questions

Easterseals Iowa Services

- Inclusive childcare center
- Brain health/mental health services
- Programs specific for farm family members with disabilities
- Recreation camp/Camp Sunnyside
- Respite services, employment, and job placement services
- Assistive technology services, and much more

What is Assistive Technology?

- Anything that helps someone with a task that they otherwise would not be able to accomplish

Assistive Technology may be a:

- Sticky note as a reminder
- An alternative and argumentative communication device to be a voice for a person
- Assistive Technology is not always fancy, and it is often inexpensive

AT is used for a lot of reasons:

- Cooking, bathing, cleaning, and any other activities of daily living
- Completing essential job tasks
- Getting in and out of vehicles
- Participate in sports

AT can be high tech and low tech

No/Low-Tech is a device that is non-electronic or a very simple electronic device.

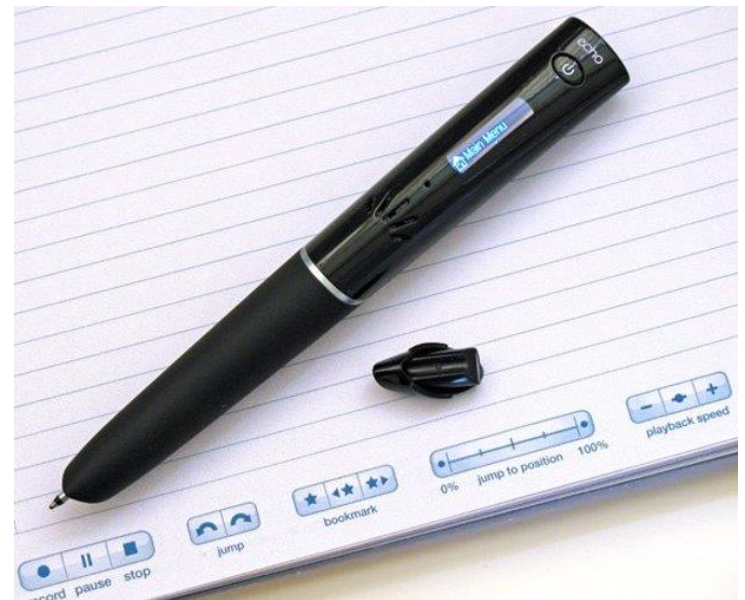
Examples: a human note-taker, reminders on a post-it note, magnifiers, and alarms.



AT can be high tech and low tech

High-Tech devices are complex electronic devices that may be expensive and may require a learning period and oftentimes additional training.

Examples: smart pens, text-to-speech (TTS) software, touch screen devices, and communication devices.



How do we select Assistive Technology?

Engage in conversation regarding the end user's abilities, the environment in which the device(s) will be used, and the task or goal.

- Abilities
- Task
- Environment

How do we select Assistive Technology?

Consult with End-User: **Abilities**

What can the individual do independently?

What, specifically, does the individual need support with?

Are there certain times that abilities change? {Illness, with medications, time of day, other}

What are their physical, sensory, and intellectual abilities?

Does the individual desire to be independent with various tasks or goals?

Get to know this individual! What are their motivations and hobbies?

How do we select Assistive Technology?

Consultation with End-User: **Task**

- How is the task performed now?
- Has it been performed differently in the past?
- What has worked before?
- What aspects are not working?
- Is there a physical barrier, learning barrier, or attitudinal barrier?
- Is there Assistive Technology they have tried in the past that no longer works?
- Is there Assistive Technology that was already trialed and did not work?

How do we select Assistive Technology?

Consultation with End-User: **Environment**



Where is the task being performed?

At home; In the park; At work; At school; At the store; In the swimming pool...
Anywhere else?



Will the same AT be used in all environments?



Will the AT travel?



Will a different device be necessary for certain environments?



Does the funder allow it to be used in various environments?

How do we select Assistive Technology?

Individualized and Location-Specific

Assistive Technology needs to be assessed on an individual basis, there is no 'one-size-fits-all'.

Does funding play a part in the selection?

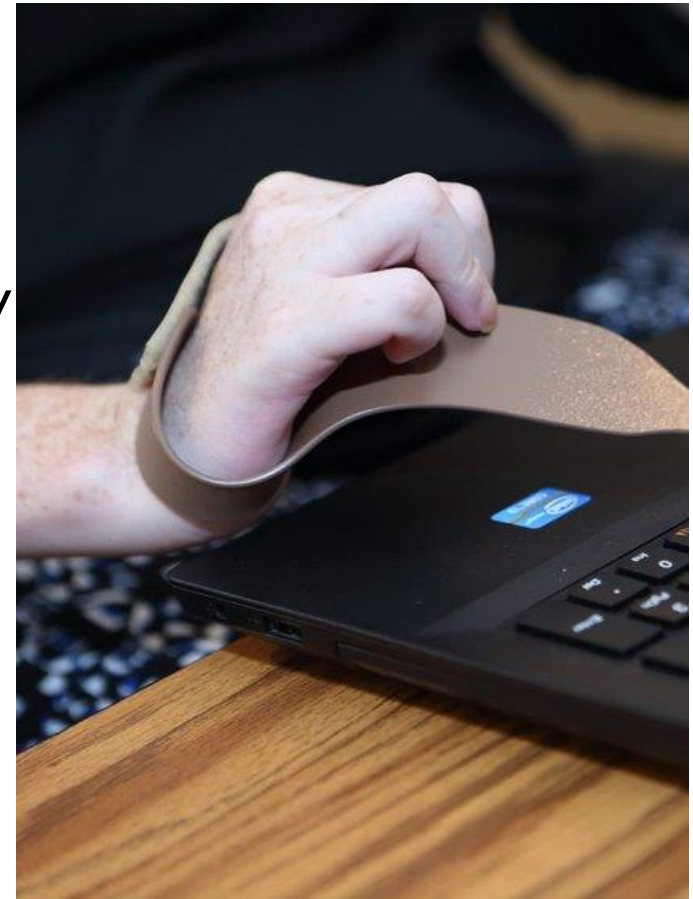
When the location changes, there might be a need to reassess what AT works best.

As a reminder: ADA is a minimum requirement for the community.

How do we select Assistive Technology?

Individualized and Location-Specific

The keyboard and cuff combination (in the image to the right) might be the best match for an individual with limited grip and dexterity when they are at home, but it may be exhausting to use this system at a job that requires several hours on the computer. Consideration and assessment of other options such as dictation may be helpful.



How do we select Assistive Technology?

Individualized and Location-Specific

Two individuals are playing UNO™ in the image to the right. They both need to view their cards, but one individual is using their hands to hold the cards and the other is using a Playing Card Holder.



Why is it important to try out AT?

The average person tries 7 different pieces of assistive technology before finding one that works for them.

This process includes trial and error with various devices.

Avoid AT abandonment through proper consultation and assessment.

Why is it important to try out AT?

Try it before you buy it!

Many times, people try 7 or more devices before they find the one that works best for them. For example, individuals may purchase several versions of fitness trackers.



Samsung Galaxy
Watch



FitBit Versa



Garmin Activity
Tracker



Samsung Gear
Fit2

Why is it important to try out AT?

Try it before you buy it!

If people had to buy all these devices, it would become very expensive - and wasteful!



\$250



\$150



\$150

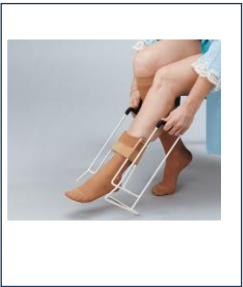


\$170

= \$720!

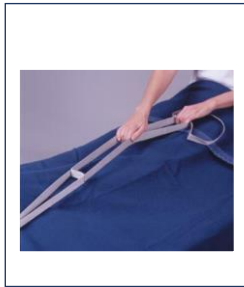
Lending Library Program

If people had to buy all these devices, it would become very expensive - and wasteful!



Sock Aid

\$37



Bed Ladder

\$16



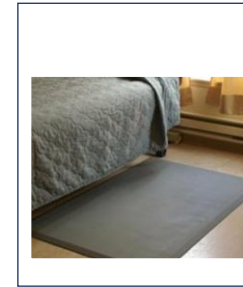
Wiping Aid

\$50



Long-Handled Brush

\$9



Pressure Mat

\$280



Soap Dispenser

\$22

It would cost you a total of \$414!

Lending Library Program

Save \$414 and try them for free through the Lending Library!



Lending Library Program

Did you know?

- The Lending Library has over 2,000 devices available free of charge
- You or a client can check out up to 5 devices at one time for 30 days
- After the 30-day trial period is over, we can work with you on funding and purchase options

Lending Library Program

It can be difficult to know what will or will not work.

The Easterseals Iowa Assistive Technology team can help!



How can ESI AT Team help?

What do we do?

The Assistive Technology Team supports Iowans in:

- Identifying
- Researching
- Trying out
- Obtaining

tools to support their daily living, employment, or educational goals.

How can ESI AT Team help?

- To know what AT is available that may be helpful
- To brainstorm solutions when there is a task that is hard to complete
- To loan and try out AT and see if the device is helpful
- To explore funding for AT
- To discuss ideas on how to advocate for AT and navigate systems
- To access medical equipment

How to find out what AT we have?



Luckily for you, our team members are aware of a lot of different devices and are experts on what to trial, so all you need to do is call us!



BUT...



You can become more aware of the devices we have and request them on your own too!



Visit our inventory at www.eastersealsia.at4all.com



Let's review AT4all now!

We know you are busy!

That's why we keep the check out process as simple as possible.

- Find our [Lending Library application](#)
- Contact us and find out more information at <https://iowaat.org/>
- Or browse our inventory and request items at <https://eastersealsia.at4all.com/>

Once you submit an application or reach out to us, we will work with you to determine the next steps for you and your client.

The world of AT is vast and ever changing

It can be overwhelming and difficult to know what to ask for.

Easterseals Iowa Assistive Technology Center is here to help with this journey.

We support:

- All age groups
- All disability types
- Persons in all 99 counties
- Parents, guardians, staff, and individuals with disabilities
- Anyone who can benefit from AT
- Many of our services are free of charge

Questions?

Contact us!

If you are interested in any of these devices, or if you would like to inquire about other devices, we have please feel free to reach out to us at any time!



Call 866-866-8782
TTY 515-289-4069

Email
ATINFO@EASTERSEALSIA.ORG

We Want to Hear
from you!

Competency Quiz & Survey

To receive your certificate of completion, use the following QR code or link to complete the competency quiz on page one and the survey on page two.

A certificate of completion will be sent to you within a week of completing the quiz.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ATwitheastersealsiowa>



Email HCBSTTA@dhs.state.ia.us with any questions or technical issues.

Upcoming Training:

Self-Assessments for Home- and Community-Based Providers

November 30, 2022 | 10:00AM - 11:00AM | Virtual Training | [Registration open](#)

The annual Provider Self-Assessment will be released soon and is due to be submitted with all supporting documents by December 31, 2022. The self-assessment is required for any provider that is reviewed by the HCBS QIO. These services are listed on the self-assessment form if you need to confirm that this training is applicable to you or your agency.

Transition Planning from Hospital Care

December 2, 2022, 12:00PM - 1:00PM | Virtual Training | [Registration open](#)

Understand best practices and planning methodologies for serving clients being discharged from hospital care. Learn what to prepare for, how to coordinate care, and why transition planning is crucial to the discharge process.

Quality Assurance and Quality Improvement for Home and Community Based Providers

December 15, 2022, 11:00AM - 12:30PM | Virtual Training | [Registration open](#)

Understand quality assurance and improvement in ways that your agency can design policy and procedure in accordance with rules, regulations, and best practices.

Now let's have some hands-on experience with Assistive Technology and discuss specific scenarios!