Disability Academy Module 15

Appendix IV: Assistive Technology

# Slide 1

Disability Academy Module 15

Appendix 4 Assistive Technology

# Slide 2

Assistive technology consists of different categories depending on the level of complexity

# Slide 3

First, what is assistive technology

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) of 2004 states: An assistive technology device is defined as “any item, piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially off the shelf, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of a child with a disability

The resource link is from Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center

# Slide 4

The following are definitions from the ADA National Network.

**Accessible information technology** – Technology that can be used by people with a wide range of abilities and disabilities. It incorporates the principles of universal design, whereby each user is able to interact with the technology in ways that work best for him or her.

**Adaptive technology** – Name for products which help people who cannot use regular versions of products, primarily people with physical disabilities such as limitations to vision, hearing, and mobility.

**Assistive technology (for short AT)**– Any item, piece of equipment, or product system that is used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities. Examples include message boards, screen readers, refreshable Braille displays, keyboard and mouse modifications, and head pointers.

# Slide 5

There are three types of assistive technology

Low or no tech

Mid tech

And high tech

# Slide 6

No or low tech assistive technology is the most common form of assistive technology. These devices or equipment are usually simple, don’t plug in, are less expensive, and do not have complex or mechanical features. They are commonly easily found in the user’s familiar living or work space.

# Slide 7

Examples of no tech or low tech include

Graphic organizer

Visual schedules

Adapted pencil (weighted, fat, skinny, triangular, golf etc.)

Adaptive paper (graph, special spacing or texture)

Pencil grip

Adapted eraser

Slant board

Sticky notes

Highlighter

Squishy ball or sensory input

Tactile ruler

Velcro

Page protector or colored transparency

Binder clip (for grip for turning pages)

Jumbo anything

Manipulatives

# Slide 8

Mid Tech Assistive Technology is not as complex or expensive as the high tech solutions. Although some training may be required, Mid Tech AT includes simple battery-powered items without computerized parts.

# Slide 9

Examples of mid tech include

Electrical device

Screen magnifier

Audio book

Adapted cd player or music player

Voice amplification

Scooter

Gait trainer

Wheelchair

Braille translation software

Switch adapted games or toys

Closed Caption Televisions

Adapted seating

Adapted keyboard or mouse

Calculator

Electronic speller or dictionary

And Word prediction software

# Slide 10

High Tech AT refers to the most complex devices or equipment. They may have digital or electronic components, may be computerized, will likely require training, and may be more expensive.

# Slide 11

Examples of high tech assistive technology include

Computer

Electronic tablet

Power wheelchair and scooter

Portable word processor

Digital hearing aids

Computers with specialized software such as voice recognition or magnification software

Electronic aids to daily living

Voice activated telephones

Smart pens such as a Livescribe

Digital hands-free headset

Smart board

Alerting device

Augmentative and alternative communication device

Communication devices with voices

Bluetooth integration

DigiDrive technology

Text to speech and speech to text software

# Slide 12

Technology assessments

# Slide 13

Each college may have different ways of assessing student needs. Most assistive technology assessments consist of an interactive meeting designed to determine what technology best suits the students’ needs

At Wilkes Community College, we meet with the student and go over the above requirements for example, a student’s reading comprehension may qualify for Read and Write, a program that reads tests aloud to the student

Ideally this interactive meeting is not a onetime occurrence, as meetings need to take place to see how the student is doing on the new assistive technology they are provided.

During the assessment the student’s abilities, the environment, the task, and the needed tools need to be considered

If students qualify for equipment are not on hand, referrals can be made to agencies such as the NCATP (North Carolina Assistive Technology Program).

# Slide 14

The North Carolina Assistive Technology Program is a program that promotes independence for people with disabilities through technology

The NCATP is a federally and state funded program

They provide Services that are statewide and are available to all ages and abilities

Services include:

Device demonstrations

Short-term device loans

Reutilization of assistive technology

A reference link is provided to the NCATP website

# Slide 15

This concludes module 15 on assistive technology