Introduction to Assistive Technology at UCP of Central PA

Assistive Technology Department

UCP of Central PA

Serving the following PA counties: Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Mifflin, Perry, and York

What is Assistive Technology?

Assistive technology (AT) is any item, piece of equipment, software program, or product system that is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of persons with disabilities – TechOWL

Types of AT

Low Tech	Medium Tech	High Tech
• No electronics or programming • Usually cheapest • very limited functions • Typically easiest to make and use	• Preprogrammed • Limited or no customization	• Highly customizable • Multifunctional • Typically more expensive

Low Tech – No electronics, limited

Noise reduction headphones

Wedge pillow

Easy Grip Mugs/utensils

Reachers

Wheelchairs

Pictures

Mounts and holders

Medium Tech- Pre-programmed, limited

Specialized home phones

Bed shakers

Switches

Dedicated speech devices

Magnifiers

Alert systems

Reading devices

High Tech - multifunctional

Speech devices

Chromebook laptop computers

iPad

Nobody's disability is unique,

You don't need to start from scratch,

But everyone experiences their disability uniquely.

But you may need to adapt.

Common Items for AT Making:

Situation:

Deonte has autism and is without speech causing heightened anxiety. One of Deonte's goals is to help with getting ready for dinner which is proving to be a challenging task for him. Each night seems the same. Deonte enters the kitchen and gets frustrated because he can't remember which items are in which cabinets and it is causing him great stress and anxiety.

What tech could you use to help Deonte be successful?

Situation:

James has a spinal cord injury and is unable to hold papers in his hands or bend is head down to read papers laying flat on a table. What kind of device could you use or make to hold up papers for James.

What tech could you use to help James?

Situation:

Vera is six years old and is starting first grade. Her disability inhibits grasping standard pencils well which makes her handwriting illegible. She is afraid using jumbo pencils or anything too different will be embarrassing for her.

What tech could you use to be successful?

Situation:

You work in a home with more than one participant. One of the participants is prone to leaving the home without asking or telling anyone. According to the participant's ISP, leaving alone is not safe for this participant.

What tech could you use to know if someone is leaving?

What if you were helping another participant elsewhere?

Our Programs in Conjunction with TechOWL

- Free Assistive Technology Lending Library
  - Nine week loans
  - On site or shipped from central library
  - Low, medium, and high-tech equipment
  - Anyone can borrow
- Changing Hands
  - Donation-based
  - Free permanent re-use
  - Anyone can use
- Free Special Phone Program
  - Pennsylvania Residents with disabilities and low income
  - Disabilities such as limited speech, mobility, vision, and hearing.

Learn More About Us

About Us

- https://www.facebook.com/ATUCPCentralPA/

- https://www.ucpcentralpa.org/services/assistive-technology/

- Email us at ATUCP@ucpcentralpa.org

More Lending Library and Free Special Phone information

- https://techowlpa.org/

Changing Hands *in action…*

https://www.facebook.com/ucpcentralpa/videos/486923888533288/

(3-minute video)