Creating Independence
An Introduction to Assistive Technology
What’s up . . . what we’ll cover

Define Assistive Technology
Benefits of Assistive Technology
Selecting Assistive Technology
The Illinois Assistive Technology Program
IATP Projects
Resources
Assistive Technology Device

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 individuals with disabilities.
Assistive Technology Service

Any service that directly assists an individual with a disability in the selection, acquisition, or use of an assistive technology device.
It’s All Assistive. . .

Clocks & wrist watches
Wheelchairs
Forks, knives & spoons
Braille printers
Shoes with Velcro rather than laces
Hearing aids
iPad
Communication devices
Benefits of Assistive Technology

School age children remain in regular classroom
Adults & children stay in own home
Reduce dependence on family members & paid assistants
Participate in the community
Participate in activities
Promotes independence

www.udservices.org

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Considerations for Choosing Technology

Personal
Ease of use/Training
Access
Maintenance/Repair
Financial
System of Selection

Start with lowest tech solution available
Work upward only when the lower tech device doesn’t work
Continuum from No/Low Tech to High Tech

- **No/Low Tech**
  - *Simple*
  - *Little Maintenance*
  - *Limited/No Electronics*

- **Mid Tech**
  - *Some Maintenance*
  - *Some training*
  - *More Electronics*

- **High Tech**
  - *Complex Electronics*
  - *More training*
  - *More Maintenance*
Who is IATP?

The Illinois Assistive Technology Program (IATP) is a not-for-profit agency that promotes the availability of assistive technology (AT) devices and services for people with disabilities. IATP serves all people with disabilities in the state of Illinois, their families, service providers, state agencies, private industry, educators, and other interested individuals, regardless of age or income.
What does IATP do?

- Demonstration Center
- Device Loans
- AT Assessments
- School Based AT/AAC Assessments
- AT Reuse & Reutilization
- Financial Loans
- IEP Support
- WIPA
- Training
- ICAT
- Website & Facebook
Demonstration Center

- Located in Springfield
- Showcases a variety of AT
- Provides hands-on exploration of AT
- Resource information available
- If you can’t come to us, we can bring it to you
Device Loan

IATP loans devices to:

- Determine compatibility between user & device
- Use as a backup while waiting for repair
- Conduct evaluations by therapists

Device loans are for 5 weeks & are available to anyone in Illinois
AT Assessments

ATS staff provide:

- AT assessments for DHS/DRS customers, as requested, to identify AT needs
- On-site employment evaluations
- Recommendations for home modifications
- Individualized training
- Follow up services
School Based AT/AAC Assessments

- Provided through a grant from ISBE
- Free to schools
- Suggested devices loaned to schools for trial
- Training provided on AAC & AT as requested
AT Reuse & Reutilization

- Recycling AT
- AT Classifieds
- Donated equipment
- Project with DRS to make used equipment available to VR counselors for customers
Financial Loans

IATP ATLOANS are open to eligible borrowers to purchase AT for daily living and make limited home modifications.

- Credit Builder Loan amounts range from $250 to $1,000
- Regular loan amounts from $1,001 to $30,000
- Home modification loans restricted to $5,000
- Terms are based on the life of the item
IEP Support

- Assist parents with IEPs & 504 plans
- Train teachers & parents on IEP process
- Work with college students on getting accommodations
- Need does not have to be AT related
WIPA

- Work Incentives Planning & Assistance Program for individuals receiving SSI/SSDI
- Explains Social Security work incentives and other State & federal benefits
- Open to anyone between age 14 & retirement age receiving Social Security disability benefits who wants to work
Training

• Provides general training on topics related to AT
• Sessions can be customized to fit a group’s needs
• Training on AT devices is also provided to individuals through the AT Assessment Project & the School Based AT/AAC Project
Sharing Devices
Where Do I Find AT

Contact the Illinois Assistive Technology Program for information on Assistive Technology and where to find it

800-852-5110 v/tty

www.iltech.org
Resources

MaxiAids
maxiaids.com  800-522-6294

L S & S
lsproducts.com  800-468-4789

Independent living aids
independentliving.com  800-537-2118

Enablemart
enablemart.com  888-640-1999
No one who ever bought a drill wanted a drill. They wanted a hole.

— Perry Marshall

It’s the task that matters.
time for questions