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**Spotlight on Success**

This thirteen-month-old has Down syndrome, and is learning to hand-knee crawl, pull to stand, and cruise thanks to the work from the Kingfisher County SoonerStart team!

The team accessed a step stool through the AT kit provided by ABLE Tech. This kiddo is now able to strengthen the muscles in his arms, legs, and core to help him more easily move around his environment!



## Free Smoke Alarm Project Expands with New FEMA Grant

For the third consecutive year, the Oklahoma Assistive Technology Foundation (OkAT) has been awarded a grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to install smoke alarms and specialized alert equipment in the homes of Oklahomans with disabilities.

The newest grant has expanded eligibility to include individuals who are blind, have low vision or use a mobility device. The grant will also continue to provide equipment for those who are deaf or hard of hearing. OkAT contracts with Oklahoma ABLE Tech, Fire Protection Publications, and Fire Service Training to install the free life-saving equipment across the state for individuals of all ages who have vision, mobility or hearing disabilities.

In addition to smoke alarms, the equipment installation includes a loud, low-frequency bedside alert and bed shaker for those who are hard of hearing. In the homes of individuals who are deaf, an alarm with a strobe light is also installed to provide visual notification in the event of a fire. During a scheduled appointment to the home, trained fire safety professionals assist household members by creating a customized home fire escape plan along with a home safety survey which helps

with the prevention of fires and burns, falls, accidental poisonings, and other common home injuries.

Applications are available at [www.okabletech.okstate.edu](http://www.okabletech.okstate.edu) or by calling Oklahoma ABLE Tech at (toll free) 888-885-5588 to request an application by mail. To qualify, applicants must have a professional attest to their disability as part of a completed application.

### Congratulations to NewView Tulsa for being recognized as Partner of the Year



Terry Rairdon, Low Vision Specialist at NewView Tulsa, accepts the award from Shelby Sanders, ABLE Tech's AT Specialist

In their first 20 months of partnership with ABLE Tech, they have made 199 loans and 363 demonstrations. That's an absolutely amazing accomplishment! Thank you, NewView!

## SoonerStart Recognition Winner 2015

**4th Quarter:**  
Oklahoma County Team

**Annual Winner:**  
Kingfisher County Team

These SoonerStart teams will receive new AT to include in their county kits. Children three years old and under and their families will be able to receive demonstrations of the new AT items. These services help families determine appropriate accommodations for children and decide whether or not a piece of AT will be needed.

**Congratulations,  
Kingfisher and  
Oklahoma County!**

## Assistive Technology Highlight (AT)

### Noise Cancellation Hush Buddy Bear Earmuff Protectors

Designed for your children with noise sensitivity, these noise reduction earphones are comfortable and user-friendly. Just pop them on and they go to work! A terrific tool for children who need quiet for sensitivity or for focused activities.

For a six-week trial, visit:

[http://oec.okstate.edu/loan/detail.php?item\\_id=3058](http://oec.okstate.edu/loan/detail.php?item_id=3058)



## ABLE Tech's Visit from Congressman Tom Cole

**ABLE Tech welcomed Congressman Tom Cole and staff August 4. Representative Cole toured Oklahoma ABLE Tech to learn more about assistive technology programs and services in Oklahoma and around the nation.**

Representative Cole and his staff often refer Oklahoma constituents to Oklahoma ABLE Tech for AT supports and services. Two years ago, he toured Oklahoma ABLE Tech's Durable Medical Equipment Reuse Program in Oklahoma City to learn how durable medical equipment is safely reutilized for Oklahomans. This year, he visited ABLE Tech's Stillwater office and toured the assistive technology device and demonstration room.

It was a wonderful opportunity for ABLE Tech's Director, Linda Jaco, to visit with him about ongoing support needed for AT Act Programs nationwide.



Pictured left to right: Jeff Peters (Staff for Rep. Cole), Linda Jaco, Director of Sponsored Programs Department of Wellness at OSU, Congressman Tom Cole, Allyson Robinson, ABLE Tech Speech Language Pathologist, and Will McPherson (Staff for Rep. Cole).

## AT Support Team Training Update

ABLE Tech's AT Support Team training is underway with 116 educators from 25 school districts participating in workshops held in Oklahoma City and Stillwater in September. Gayl Bowser, nationally-known assistive technology (AT) expert, led participants through the steps of creating a successful implementation plan for students who use AT.

ABLE Tech staff also presented an AT Round Robin, demonstrating a variety of AT devices in the categories of communication, vision, academic, hearing and environmental controls. Teams left the workshop with an assignment to work with their administration to adopt district AT implementation guidelines. A follow-up webinar, "Legal, Ethical, and, Cost-Effective AT Solutions," will be held on Oct. 29 at 3:30 p.m. It is designed to facilitate communication with administration and help the teams develop AT procedural guidelines for their district.

ABLE Tech staff will offer an encore workshop for returning teams who were unable to attend the September workshops. Twenty-nine educators from four districts are currently registered for the workshop scheduled Nov. 9 in Lawton. Approximately 20 seats remain open.

ABLE Tech also kicks off a series of workshops and webinars for teams who are new to the process. "AT Assessments Made Easy" will provide the basics of the provision of AT, including consideration, selection, and acquisition. Workshops for new teams will be held Oct. 19 in Ada, Oct. 28 in Woodward, and Jan. 22 in Seminole. Webinars for educators who attend training for new teams will be held Nov. 3 and Dec. 3. Registration is full for the workshop in Ada; however, seats are still open for the workshops in Woodward and Seminole.

Register at <http://weba.im/ATTeam>

ABLE Tech AT Support Team Training is provided free to public schools through a contract with the Oklahoma State Department of Education.



**SEARCH OUR ONLINE INVENTORY!**

## Oklahoma Equipment Exchange



The Oklahoma Equipment Exchange (OEE) is a FREE program to help Oklahomans with disabilities acquire affordable equipment. To donate, sell, or locate equipment, visit our website or call us at 888.885.5588 (v/tty).

Here is a quick preview of items you can find online at the exchange!

Item Description	Asking Price
Medical and Diabetic Supplies: bandages, surgical tape, gauze dressing, disposable diapers, etc.	FREE
Sitz Baths Raised Toilet Seats	FREE
Child's Specialized Wheelchair	\$200
Bariatric Hospital Bed, Twin	\$500
Elec Hospital Bed, Full - with mattress & low bend ends	\$1000
Nebulizer - Mini Elite	\$50

In Oklahoma City, you may call the Oklahoma Durable Medical Equipment Reuse Program (OKDMERP) at 405.523.4810 for FREE durable medical equipment such as canes, scooters, and hospital beds. Donations are always needed for items such as: wheelchairs, commodes, and walkers.

## Oklahoma AT Center Locations

Oklahoma ABLE Tech and its partners operate device demonstration and short-term loan programs to increase access to AT. Inventory is available and searchable online, and individuals may borrow devices for up to six weeks at no cost. <http://oec.okstate.edu/loan>



Oklahoma ABLE Tech



Hearing Loss Association



Department of Rehabilitation Services  
Visual Services Center Division



NewView Oklahoma



Department of Communication  
Sciences and Disorders



Total Source For Hearing  
Loss and Access



The Children's Center

## The Special Education Resolution Center (SERC)

The Special Education Resolution Center (SERC) works with the Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE) to help parents and school districts resolve disputes regarding the special education of students. The SERC provides stakeholder training in communication skills at the "prevention" stage of conflict. Once conflict has reached "disagreement," SERC provides innovative programs to assist parties in resolving their differences as quickly as possible.

In instances where the parties are unable to resolve their dispute, SERC provides a fair and impartial hearing system. Fair, impartial and knowledgeable hearing officers conduct administrative hearings to settle the differences of the parties in a timely manner.

Contact the SERC for more information at [serc.okstate.edu](http://serc.okstate.edu), or by phone at 888-267-0028 or 918-270-1849.



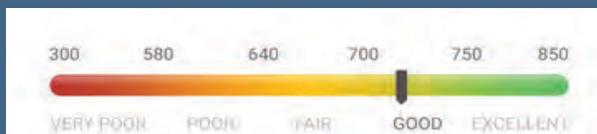
## What is a Good Credit Score?

A good credit score is crucial for financial success. A credit score is a three digit number calculated from an individual's data-rich credit report and is one factor used by lenders to determine creditworthiness for a mortgage, loan or credit card.

This score can affect whether or not an individual is approved as well as what interest rate is charged. A good credit score is generally considered to be 720 or higher.

Lenders, however, can each have different standards for what they consider to be a good credit score, so it's important to keep building a credit score to receive the most favorable interest rates and highest rates of credit approval.

For more information, you can contact Shelley Gladden at 800-257-1705, or email her at: [shelley.gladden@okstate.edu](mailto:shelley.gladden@okstate.edu).



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## Events and Training

**Oct. 23** | SoonerStart AT Training; El Reno, OK

**Oct. 27** | UCO AAC Class

**Oct. 28** | AT Team Workshop; Woodward, OK

**Oct. 29** | OK Association of Career & Employment Professionals Fall Conference

**Nov. 7** | Boot Camp for new Special Education Teachers

**Nov. 9** | AT Team Workshop; Lawton, OK

**Nov. 24** | Cherokee Nation Early Childhood Conference; Tulsa, OK

**Dec. 10** | Oklahoma State Department of Education AEM Meeting

CONNECT WITH US >>>



This publication is available in alternative formats; please call 800.257.1705 (V/TTY) for more information. The Oklahoma State University Department of Wellness is the lead agency for Oklahoma ABLE Tech. ABLE Tech is funded through the the Administration for Community Living of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and maintains coordination and collaboration efforts with partners throughout the state of Oklahoma.