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Assistive Technology Overview

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Oklahoma ABLE Tech

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Oklahoma ABLE Tech

- Assistive Technology Act of 1998 as amended – funded by the U.S. Department of Education
- Lead agency – OSU
- Mission is to enhance the provision of, access to, and funding for assistive technology - ***AT***
- All Ages…All Disabilities…Statewide

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4 Activities of ABLE Tech

- Device Short Term Loan
- Equipment Demonstration
- Device Reutilization
- State Financing Activities

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Device Short Term Loan

- *Device short-term loans* to individuals or organizations for the purpose of:
  - "Try before they buy"
  - Assessment/Evaluation
  - Allowing consumers and agencies to use as interim equipment while waiting on purchase
  - Meeting interim needs when devices go in for repair – or short term accommodation
  - For personnel development activities

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ABLE Tech Equipment Loan

- Devices are provided at no-cost
- Types of *AT* that is available is limited
- Time limited – **maximum** loan is 42 days
- Limit on the number of devices borrowed at one time – 3
- Some equipment may require a support professional to be identified

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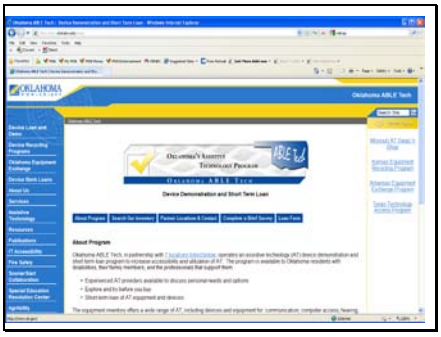

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Equipment Demonstration

- *Device demonstration* may include individual and small group exploration designed to support

  informed decision-making

  and guided experiences for a specific device or a group of devices to support effective usage.

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ABLE Tech Partners

- Department of Rehabilitation Services, Visual Services Division
- Hearing Loss Association of Oklahoma City
- New View Oklahoma
- The University of Tulsa, Mary K. Chapman Center for Communicative Disorders
- Total Source for Hearing Loss and Access (TSHA)
- Oklahoma Department of Career & Technology Education
- Department of Human Services, Developmental Disability Service Division

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Device Re-utilization

Oklahoma Equipment Exchange

- Pre-owned items are listed on a web site in a "want ad" type posting and consumers can contact and arrange purchase of the used item directly from the current owner.
- There is no charge for listing the item or purchasing the device

http://oec.okstate.edu

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State Financing Activity

Alternative Financing Program (AFP)
&
Access to Telework Fund Program (ATF)

- Partners
  - BancFirst of Stillwater
  - Oklahoma Assistive Technology Foundation
- 5% fixed interest rate loan to buy *AT*
- Guaranty loans for applicants that do not qualify for a unsecured bank loan

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Other ABLE Tech Activities

- Training & Technical Assistance
- Public Awareness & Statewide Information and Referral
- Coordination & Collaboration

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Other ABLE Tech Activities

- Oklahoma AgrAbility Project
  - Assist Farmers and Ranchers with disabilities
- Oklahoma Early Intervention Accommodation Program for Employment
  - Provide technical assistance for job *AT*
- Special Education Resolution Center
  - Manages due process hearing system
- Fire Safety Solutions for Oklahomans with Disabilities
  - Free smoke alarms for people that have hearing, vision or mobility disabilities

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AT is anything that makes things easier to…

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Assistive Technology - IDEA

- Federal Regulations under IDEA defines assistive technology (AT) devices and services under 34CFR 300.5 & 300.6
- CFR 300.24(a)(2) Consideration of Special Factors – "The IEP Team shall – consider whether the child needs assistive technology devices and services."

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What is 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 a child with disabilities"

*The term does not include a medical device that is surgically implanted, or the replacement of such a device

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What is Assistive Technology?

Services

"any service that directly assists persons with a disability in the selection, acquisition, or use of an assistive technology device."

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AT Services

1. Evaluation – including functional evaluation in a customary environment
2. Purchasing, leasing, or otherwise providing for the acquisition
3. Selecting, designing, fitting, customizing, maintaining, repairing, or replacing

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AT Services …cont.

4. Coordinating and using other therapies, interventions, or services i.e. other education or rehabilitation plans
5. Training or technical assistance for a child with a disability and/or family
6. Training or technical assistance for professionals including education or rehabilitation services, employers, or those involved in major life functions of that child

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FAPE

- Requires schools to provide ***AT*** if it is needed for a student to receive FAPE
  - Special Education
  - Related Services
  - Supplementary aids and services
  - Program modifications or support for school personnel

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FAPE

- FAPE must be provided at no cost to parents
- Schools may not unnecessarily delay the provision of ***AT*** devices and services due to funding issues if a child requires the devices and services to benefit from the IEP.

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Take Home Regulation

- 34CFR 300.105(b)

On a case-by-case basis, the use of school-purchased ***AT*** devices in a child's home or in other settings is required if the child's IEP team determines that the child needs access to those devices in order to receive FAPE."

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Oklahoma Assistive Technology Center - OATC

Assistive Technology Program for Oklahoma Public Schools

- Information & Referral
- Assistive Technology Consultation
- Assistive Technology Technical Assistance
- Assistive Technology Evaluation
- Staff Development Activities
- ***AT*** Short Term Loan Program

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Contact OATC

Oklahoma Assistive Technology Center (OATC)
1600 N. Phillips
Oklahoma City, OK 73104
(405) 271-3625
(800) 700-6282
http://www.ah.ouhsc.edu/oatc/
Maria-jones@ouhsc.edu

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AT Consideration – Ability to:?

- Produce written work efficiently and progress in the general curriculum
- Read effectively
- Communicate effectively
- Independently sit, stand walk
- Independently feed him/herself
- Participate in activities such as art, music, physical education, recess, play, etc.

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AT Evaluations

- Can be a part of the educational evaluation or reevaluation
- Parents or other team members can request an ***AT*** evaluation (based on barriers) at any time
- Some students may need ***AT*** to meet their IEP Goals
- Is ***AT*** necessary to achieve goals, benefit from education or make reasonable progress in the general curriculum

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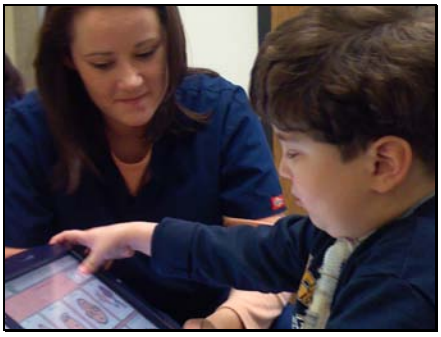

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Ten Common Areas of ***AT***

- Mobility
- Seating/Positioning
- Communication
- Computer Access
- Environmental
- Daily Living
- Sensory
- Transportation
- Vocational
- Recreation/Leisure

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Range of ***AT*** Options

- Low Tech
  - simple tools and adaptations
  - often readily available
  - inexpensive
  - require little training
- High Tech
  - more complex electronics
  - may be highly customizable
  - costly
  - require training

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AT Solutions

Individuals - regardless of the severity of their disability - may need and use the entire spectrum of low tech to high tech devices

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Physical Needs

- Individual has decreased strength, dexterity, flexibility, endurance, or balance.
- Functional limitations in areas of walking, reaching, bending, grasping.

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Simple Solutions

- Larger grips/buttons/targets
- Padded grips
- Holders/stabilizers
- Walkers
- Wheelchairs

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Sensory Needs

- Limitations in acuity (visual & auditory)
- Limitations in perception
- Difficulty discriminating colors
- Difficulty discriminating pitch/frequency

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Simple Solutions

- Vision Loss
  - Increase lighting/higher contrast
  - Enlarge/magnify
  - Add sound or speech
  - Use tactile labels/output

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Simple Solutions

- Hearing Loss
  - Clear visual display
  - Volume control
  - Vibration alert
  - Visual signal

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Communication Needs

- Poor verbal skills
- Difficulty expressing wants and/needs
- Difficulty with sign language due to motor coordination issues

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Simple Solutions

- Communication boards or books
- Low tech speech output-digitized
- High tech speech output-synthesized

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Cognitive Needs

- Decreased speed of information processing
- Difficulty learning new skills
- Memory and attention span issues

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Simple Solutions

- Memory reminders and organizers
  - visual organizers
  - auditory schedules
  - voice organizers
  - pre-programmed sequence
  - **P**ersonnel **D**igital **A**ssistant

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Activities of Daily Living

- Eating, drinking, cooking
- Personal hygiene
- Getting dressed
- Reading, writing
- Leisure

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Computer Access Needs

- Accessibility options–operating system
- Keyboard typing aids and supports
- Alternative input devices
  - Typing aids
  - Voice recognition software
  - Alternative mouse devices

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Contact ABLE Tech

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