



Assistive Technology in the Workplace

Presented by:

CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities

&

Assistive Technology Program



Let's start of by defining.....

Assistive Technology:

“Any item, piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially of the shelf, modified or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve functionally capabilities of individuals with disabilities.

Assistive Technology Services:

An assistive technology service is “any service that directly assists a person with a disability in the selection, acquisition, or use of an assistive technology device.”

Assistive Technology

essentially falls into three categories:

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

No Tech

Pencil grip
Post-it-notes
Slanted surfaces
Raised lined paper
Covered overlays
Tactile letters
Magnifying bars



Low Tech

Buzzers
Portable word processors
Talking calculator
MP3 Player
Electronic organizers
Switches



High Tech

E-Readers
Touch screen devices
Computerized testing
Speech recognition software
Word processors
Text-to Speech (TTS)
Progress Monitoring



Areas that AT looks at.....







No to Low Cost Self-Made AT...



**Make
Stuff
AND
LOVE
People**

Assistive Technology Solutions
in Minutes - Book III













Therese Willkomm, PHD



Let's take a look at some AT that is used for communication not just at home, but in the workplace.... Please refer to your "Communication Access Options" Handout.



Communications Access Options For Individuals Who Are Deaf, Hard of Hearing or Have Speech Difficulties

CapTel		Captioned Telephone (CapTel) phone users can listen to the caller, and can also read the written captions in the CapTel's bright display window.	Closed Captioning		Closed captioning is the process of displaying text on a television, video screen or other visual display to provide additional or interpretive information to individuals who wish to access it.
Comm. Boards		Communication boards are a cost-effective aid for emergency communication with people who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing or have speech difficulties. They also assist people with complex communication needs.	Sign Language Interpreters		American Sign Language (ASL) Interpreters provide complete & precise communications between Deaf, hard of hearing and hearing individuals. ASL is the communication method of choice for someone who uses ASL as their primary language.
Pen, Pencil & Paper		Short emergency messages can be written out. However, many people who use American Sign Language do not read English well and have very low understanding.	Pre-recorded Messages Information on ASL		Some websites provide pre-recorded emergency preparedness messages in alternative formats, including American Sign Language, Braille and various languages.
NOAA Weather Radio with Accessories		Weather Radio with a strobe light or pillow vibrator and accessories that alerts individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing about impending dangerous weather.	Comm. Card		Communications Cards for individuals who are Deaf or hard of hearing may be used in case of emergencies with Police, Hospitals, Hotels, and Transportation providers.
Video Remote Interpreting		Video Remote Interpreting (VRI) uses video or web cameras and telephone lines to provide sign language interpreting services, for individuals who are deaf, HH through an offsite interpreter.	Video Phone		A videophone is a telephone with a video screen, and is capable of full duplex (bi-directional) video and audio transmissions for communication between people in real-time.
TTY Teletypewriter TDD Telecomm. Device for the Deaf		A telecommunications device for individuals who are deaf (TDD) is a teleprinter, an electronic device for text communication over a telephone line that is specialized for use for individuals with hearing or speech difficulties. This is being replaced with more modern tech.	Video Relay Service		Video Relay Service (VRS) is a form of Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) that enables persons who are deaf or hard of hearing who use American Sign Language (ASL) to communicate with voice telephone users through video equipment, rather than through typed text.

Group Activity



Activity Instructions:

Once assigned to a group, select a team presenter(s) and a time monitor. The group will have 10 minutes to complete the following:

1. Review the six (6) apps on the “Helpful Communication Apps” sheet
2. Each group is assigned one (1) specific app to present to the whole group (see worksheet questions provided)
3. Each group has two (3) minutes to present to the class



Helpful Communication Apps.....

Helpful Communication Apps...



Google Live Transcribe & Sound Notifications:
free, Android Ratings: 4.1 out of 5

Live Transcribe for Apple iOS \$4.99 monthly or \$49.99 annually, Ratings: 4.7 out of 5

It's an app that makes everyday conversations and surrounding sounds more accessible among people who are deaf and hard of hearing, using just your Android phone. This app provides you free, real-time transcriptions of your conversations and sends notifications based on your surrounding sounds at home. On most phones, you can directly access Live Transcribe & Sound Notifications device's Settings app.



Google Translate: free

A multilingual neural machine translation service developed by Google to translate text, documents and websites from one language to another. It offers a website interface, a mobile app for android and iOS, and an API that helps developers build browser extensions and software applications.



ASL Translator- \$4.99 Android/\$4.99 Apple iOS, Ratings: 4.3 out of 5

There are two parts to this app.

1. TEXT-TO-SIGN GENERATOR (SIGNED ENGLISH)
2. ASL PHRASES (ASL)

Type a sentence or cut and paste text into the text box and see the video translation in real time. (up to 50 words at a time). Translates over 30,000 words into Sign Language Video (Text-to-Sign) ASL Signs are in English word order. However, it is not "Signed Exact English."



AVA-free, Android/Apple iOS, Ratings: 4.3 out of 5

Lip reading can be harder in a group of people and this is one of the main reasons AVA was created. If a person who is deaf or who has hearing loss is with a group of friends, they can get those friends to connect to the app - then the person(s) who has hearing loss will see live transcriptions of the group conversation. The speech is picked up using the phone's microphone and on screen the name of the person talking is displayed in front of what that person says.



ASL Dictionary- \$7.99 Android/\$4.99 Apple iOS Ratings: 4.7 out of 5

Over 5,000 Words translated to ASL Video. Includes Quiz, favorites, search, categories, and history of played word features.



Sign 4 Me -\$4.99, Android/ \$9.99 Apple iOS, Ratings: 2.5 out of 5

Type in words or phrases or the alphabet and a 3D human avatar will demonstrate how to sign it. The 3D character can be zoomed in or out and rotated to give you the best vantage point for every sign. The library includes more than 13,000 words. Type in sentences, phrases, words and even the alphabet. Everything you enter will be saved in your history.

Lets close by sharing what the CNMI ATP can offer...

Resource and Referral:

Not sure where to start? Let us put our research and expertise to work to help guide you to the resources you need. Information and catalogues are available on a wide variety of Assistive Technology products and services.

Device Reutilization Program:

The goal of the CNMI Assistive Technology Exchange is to help get Assistive Technology Devices that are no longer being used into the hands of people who need and can benefit from them. The program brings together CNMI consumers and families who are buyers and or sellers of AT together with the goal of increasing acquisition of AT.

Please refer to our brochures for our contact and additional information. You can access our PowerPoint presentation on our website under the Events tab.



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And



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