

making things possible

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY TRAINING TOPICS



presented by Pennsylvania's Initiative on Assistive Technology (PIAT)

PIAT conducts training about assistive technology (AT) devices and services for Pennsylvanians with disabilities and their families, as well as others who have an interest in AT.

CONSIDERATIONS

1. Trainings are provided at no cost. Honoraria are appreciated where possible.
2. This catalog lists suggested training topics and recommends at least 60 minutes per session, but topics and session length can be customized to meet the specific needs of your group.
3. Resource materials are free for small groups, but assistance with duplicating materials for groups larger than 40 would be appreciated.
4. Trainings can occur at Temple University or at your location.
5. PIAT trainings require evaluation and feedback from participants. Appropriate forms will be supplied by the presenter and must be completed at the end of the training.
6. Act 48 credits can be provided upon request and with a small fee.
7. All training materials are available in alternate formats. Requests must be made at least 2 weeks prior to the training.
8. The host group is responsible for other accommodations needed by attendees, e.g. sign language.

To request an AT training, please call:

1-800-204-7428 toll free (VOICE)

215-204-0452 (VOICE) 866-268-0579 (TTY)

OR EMAIL: ATinfo@temple.edu



AT IN GENERAL

*AT 101: Overview of AT and AT Resources in Pennsylvania

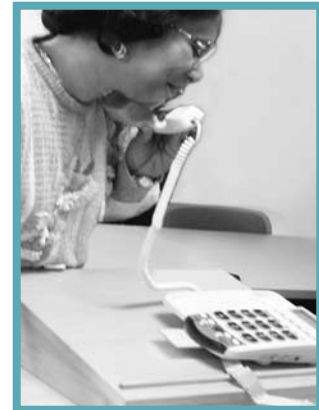
This training reviews the definition of AT devices and services, and presents an overview of different types of AT such as augmentative communication, computer access, amplification systems, magnification system, and devices for learning, organization, daily living, and recreation. Information is provided about AT resources throughout Pennsylvania, including Pennsylvania's Initiative on Assistive Technology, PA's AT Lending Library, Disability Rights Network of PA and the PA AT Foundation.

*Becoming a Wise AT Consumer

Making the right choice about AT can be a challenge. This training presents considerations for selecting AT devices and services. The importance of assessment of the user's needs and abilities, the AT available to meet the user's needs, and the places in which the AT will be used will be discussed, as well as how to choose qualified service providers and equipment suppliers. Funding sources for AT are introduced.

*Obtaining AT

This training provides information about various public and non-governmental sources of funding for AT, who is eligible for each source, and how to access the various sources. It will also provide information about sources of advocacy for obtaining AT. Other resources for obtaining AT, such as low interest cash loans, borrowing devices, and finding used devices are addressed. A specialized training on funding for speech generating devices is also available.



AT AND COMMUNICATION

*AAC 101: Overview of Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) and AAC Resources in Pennsylvania

This training defines AAC and demonstrates communication devices and strategies. It highlights issues surrounding AAC, such as identification of who can benefit from AAC, an overview of opportunities for device trials, and the development of skills after a strategy or device is recommended. The session also provides resources for AAC information and products. Hands-on use of AAC devices and sharing of personal experiences are included as time allows.

*It Takes Two: Communicating with People Who Can't Speak

This session highlights the importance of the direct support professional (DSP) as a "communication partner" for people with significant disabilities who can't speak, or whose speech can't be easily understood. Attendees will learn a variety of strategies for improving their role as a communication partner, and how the DSP can help others understand the consumer's communication.

*Pennsylvania's Telecommunication Device Distribution Program (TDDP)

Independent access to telecommunication devices and services is imperative for safety, as well as staying in touch with friends and family. This training compares and contrasts the assistive technologies available that can assist individuals with disabilities to independently use a telephone. It also reviews Pennsylvania's Telecommunication Device Distribution Program, which provides free telephones to eligible Pennsylvanians.

AT AND EDUCATION

*AT and the Individualized Education Plan (IEP)

The IEP and the process for developing the plan provide numerous opportunities for considering and including AT devices and services for students with disabilities. This session reviews the requirements under IDEA to address AT and the “realities” of including AT in the IEP.

*AT and Transition from School to Adult Life

AT can be crucial to success in post-secondary education, employment, and independent living. When the student leaves school, the supports provided in that environment will no longer be available in “one place”. Also, life after school may introduce new environments and activities where different assistive technologies may be useful. It is important to consider AT during the transition process so that AT is not “lost in transition”.

*AT for Reading and Writing

This training explores the use of AT for reading and writing. Specialized AT devices and software are demonstrated, along with examples of low tech and everyday devices.



making things possible

AT AND EVERYDAY PEOPLE

*AT for Older Adults

As we age and our abilities change, AT provides many solutions to help us keep doing the things we want and need to do. This session emphasizes simple, low tech solutions. Funding and vendor resources are shared. This is a great training for anyone working with older adults or caring for aging family members.

*Exploring AT for People with Autism

This training explores the use of AT for people with autism, including individuals with Asperger’s Syndrome. Topics include aids for organizing, sequencing, memory, reading and writing. Examples of low-tech and everyday devices as well as software will be shared.

*AT for People with Low Vision

This training defines AT and low vision, and stresses the importance of a low vision evaluation. Information about and demonstration of various types of AT for people with low vision is provided, including large print, portable and desk video magnification, computer accessibility hardware and software, lighting, and digital books. Vendors and other resources are included.

*AT for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities

This session offers early intervention providers information about the nature and scope of AT for young children, and why and how AT should be considered for infants and toddlers with disabilities.



*AT for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Supports coordinators and families hold the key to whether or not individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities will be able to access the AT devices and services they need for greater independence and participation. This session introduces the potential of AT and how the need for AT can be identified and met, and covers strategies for including AT in the Individualized Support Plan (ISP). *(Topics continue on next page)*



*AT for Recreation and Other Out-of-School Activities

After-school, weekend and summer activities are often “forgotten” when it comes to the training staff and providing the proper support of a child’s AT devices. Learn strategies to advocate for the inclusion of a child’s AT devices in summer camps, after-school programs, youth groups, and other recreation and community based programs.

*AT @ Work

With an aging workforce, veterans with disabilities seeking work, and injured employees returning to work, employers need to understand how AT can be an affordable solution for finding and keeping good employees. The emphasis in this session is on low-tech options and universal design. Discussion is encouraged.

*AT and Computer Access

A standard mouse and keyboard are the typical tools to operate a computer. For individuals who are unable to use these devices, computer access can be challenging. This training presents a variety of alternative pointing devices and keyboards and reviews the built-in features of operating systems. This session may be held in Temple University’s Accessible Computing and Information Technology (ACIT) lab.



*Accessible Information Technology (IT)

Timely access to information is critical for people with disabilities. Information and dissemination designs are often barriers for accessing websites, online learning and distance education, kiosks, Blackboard, and other IT. Elements of accessible IT, web validation tools, and resources for accessible IT design are discussed.

*Universal Design

Universal Design and Universal Design for Learning are popular terms but what do they really mean? How can they enhance the inclusion of people with disabilities? This session offers the basics of Universal Design and opportunity for discussion about how Universal Design can become part of any environment, program, or activity.



“For people without disabilities, technology makes things easier. For people with disabilities, technology makes things possible.”



PIAT is a program of the Institute on Disabilities at Temple University and is funded through a grant from the Rehabilitation Services Administration, U.S. Department of Education.

PIAT—Pennsylvania’s Initiative on Assistive Technology
1-800-204-7428 (VOICE) toll free, in state
866-268-0579 (TTY) toll free, in state
215-204-0452 (VOICE)
email: ATinfo@temple.edu
<http://disabilities.temple.edu/programs/assistive/piat>



College of Education

This document is available in alternate formats, upon request.