

EZ wee AT

Using Ordinary Items in New Ways to Promote Child
Participation in Everyday Activities

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Assistive Technology Model Demonstration Projects

Johan de Besche - Let's Participate!

Lillian McCuen - weeAT & fabricATe

Bridget Gilormini - TIKES

Sue Mistrett - Let's Participate!

Belly Time

Lilly Lynn video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZNrygeX4y3s>



Today...

We will learn about and experience hands-on activities to discover YOUR potential for providing AT to young children.



Unlocking Our Potential

Assistive Technology is... Federal definition - 2004

“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 a disability.”

Our AT Definition...

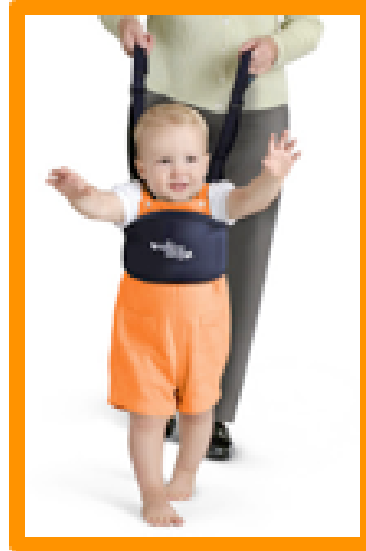
AT is *any thing* that
helps a
child with a disability
do something
that s/he can't do

without it!



AT is also Services...

“... that assist a child with a disability in the *selection*, *acquisition*, or *use* of an AT device.”



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YOUNG CHILDREN - birth to age 5



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YOUNG CHILDREN - birth to age 5

EVERYONE - in a child's life is responsible for assistive technology



Need an
AT
Specialist
????

Today...

We will learn about and experience hands-on activities to discover your potential for using Assistive Technology Devices with young children.

YOUNG CHILDREN - birth to age 5

EVERYONE - in a child's life is responsible for assistive technology

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY DEVICE - a tool that solves a problem or makes a task easier to complete



OSEP defines purpose of AT for INFANTS + TODDLERS young children

AT is used to promote developmental (not educational or medical) needs of the infants and toddlers served by the program. AT should be included on the IFSP.



PRESCHOOLERS



AT is used to support the education and learning of young children with disabilities. The IEP team must consider whether the child requires AT to meet IEP goals.

First point: WHY AT?

Use of AT for even a short time has been shown to yield positive outcomes even for the youngest child/children.



AT is a bridge that helps children to PARTICIPATE in everyday activities; and therefore grow and develop

52 - 88%

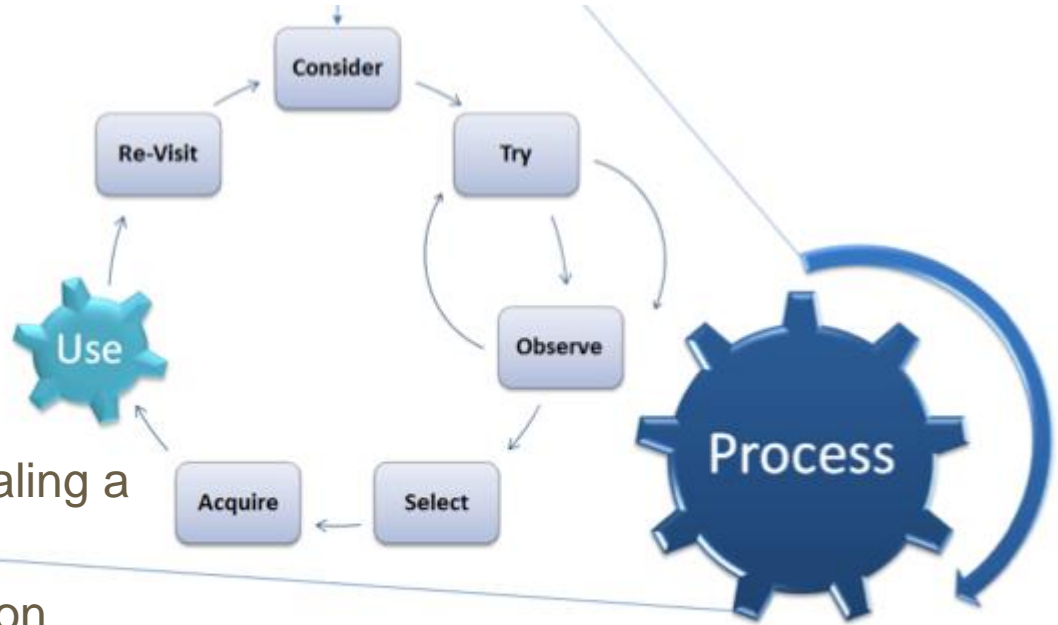
Early intervention service providers have a tendency to choose skill-building interventions to teach children to perform skills without the assistance of either low- or high-tech AT devices.

Dugan, Campbell, Wilcox - TECSE 26:1 25–32 (2006)

Second point

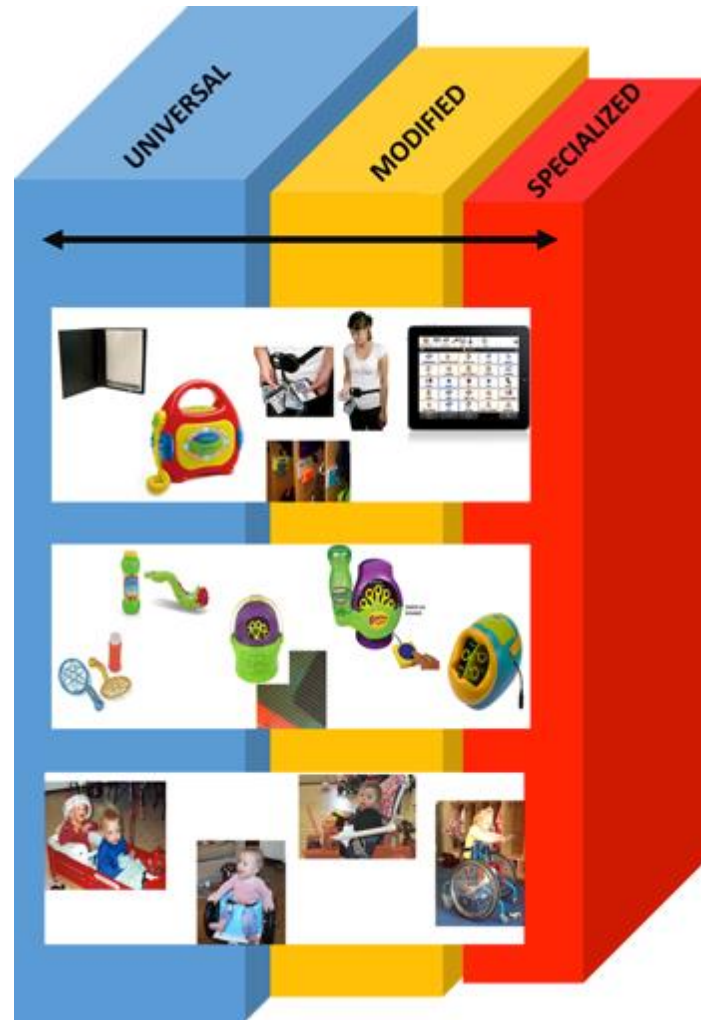
Acquiring an assistive technology solution is a process not an event.

It starts with considering and trialing a variety of solutions until the “fit” between the user and the solution seems to be successful.



Third point

Not all Assistive Technology Solutions are “high tech” or specially designed!



Universal to Modified



Items with universal features



Use items in new, multiple ways



DIY supports for individual needs;
adaptations to items



WHY DIY????

- not new to AT practice
- less expensive + less isolating
- fast and easy
- custom design changes as child's needs change in natural environments
- families, teachers and friends know the child best: consider preferences, abilities, challenges, and changes
- DIY is empowering! Solve problems, build confidence share know how

The Art of Adapting

How older people "hack" household devices to make them easier to use

1 Soap in a stocking

A simple solution to handling soap in the shower, according to Dr. Hougari. You can use the soap through the stocking, and if you "miss" it, the bar is still within reach, not on the shower floor.



2 Sponge/foam tubes

Can make dish/knobs, utensils and toothbrushes easier to grip.



3 Clip-on napkin holder

Small alligator clips connected can be used to attach napkins to clothing, a more elegant solution than tucking the napkin into a shirt and less humiliating than using a bib.



4 Silicone rubber bumps with adhesive backs

Put on kitchen appliances, cellphones and keyboards to help people see and feel what buttons they need to press.



5 Sugru

This malleable, rubbery substance can make materials easier to turn, grab and carry, like the tops of jars and pill bottles.



6 Straw holder

Simply use a clothespin to keep the straw from moving around in the glass.



Object Communication Cards

Not using symbols yet?

Tactile objects

progress from 3D to 2D to
picture symbols



Communication: Velcro communication board

high contrast

flexible

easy

quick



Communication

Bath Communication Board

kickboard

gallon zip bag

symbols



Carry Strap for iPad with AAC app

Communication

Plastic lacing

2 links

Velcro showloop

iPad with case

AAC app



iPad keyguards

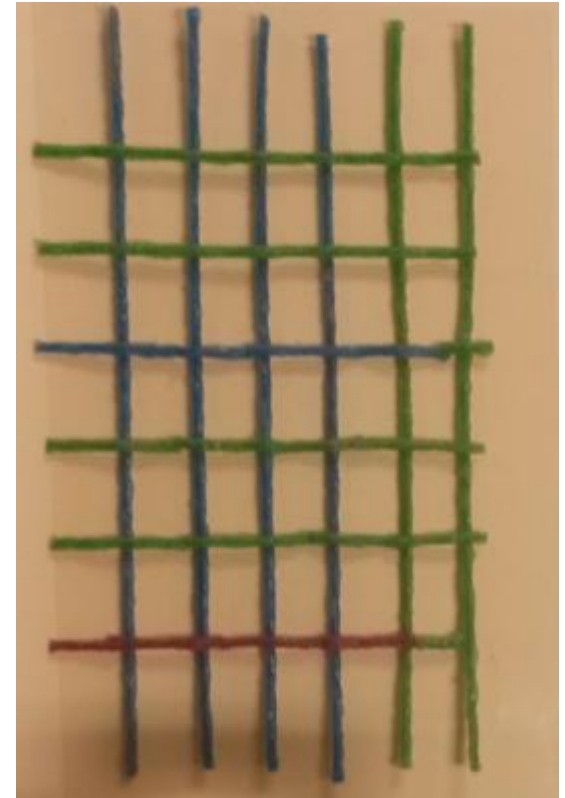
wiki stix

transparent projector
paper

Take a picture of the
screen layout. Lay stix in
row/column design.



Communication

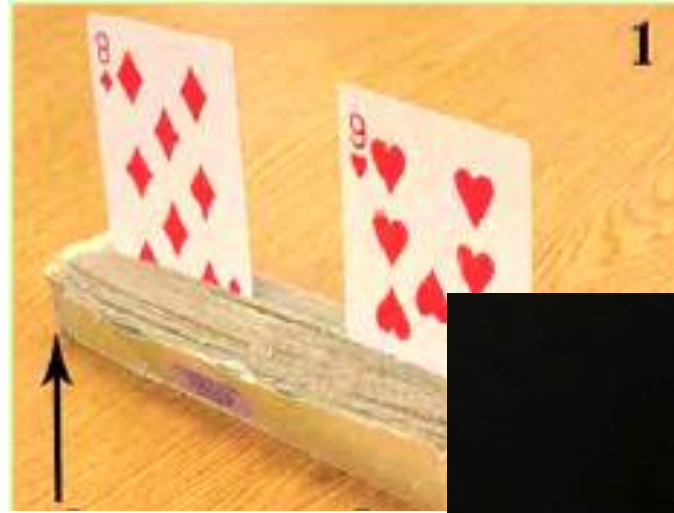


Easy Cardholder

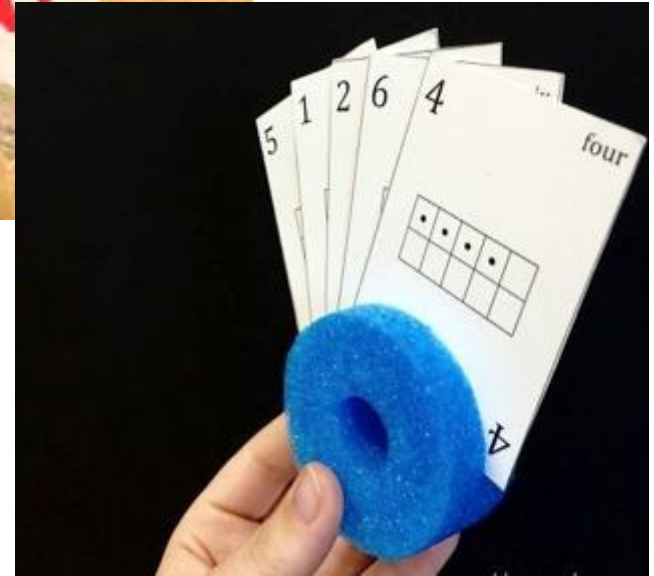
wood or pool noodle

slit with knife or saw

design also for
communication cards



Using Materials



Velcro Story Blocks

Using Materials

1. Paint your blocks (solid or with pictures on two sides). Allow blocks to dry.
2. Use sticky back velcro. Measure the amount of velcro you will need to wrap around each block once. Cut two pieces of velcro (hook + loop).
3. Wrap both pieces of velcro around each block.
4. Find a container (box, drawer) in which to store your blocks, line with show loop. Design a scene.
5. PLAY!!!! :)



Hair

Curler Grips

Using Materials



Foot Support

Chair

Box 2-3" height

Put holes in the top front
big enough to fit the
front legs of the chair
in them



Movement

Bathtime support

- laundry basket
- pool noodles as needed
- toy clips, links



new walkers

- Slippers, soft shoes
- Hot glue for skid-proof, grip bottoms

Movement



Movement

Demonstration: Pool noodles for seating

- inexpensive
- easy to find
- cut with a butter knife
- trial and retrieval



DIY squeeze ball

Fill a balloon with flour, rice, beads or gak!

Fidget away!



Making a Switch Adapted Toy

- You tube DIY videos
- Step by step



Infant Sensory Mobile

Sensory

From Tots n Tech Videos



own sensory bag

- gallon zip bag
- hair gel
- duct tape
- small plastic items (beads, animals, buttons, etc)
- glitter
- food coloring



Chewy necklace

-vinyl tubing

-neck or wrist

-wooden or silicone bead(s)

-break-away lanyard



Sensory



Visual Schedule

Visual supports

-foam door hanger

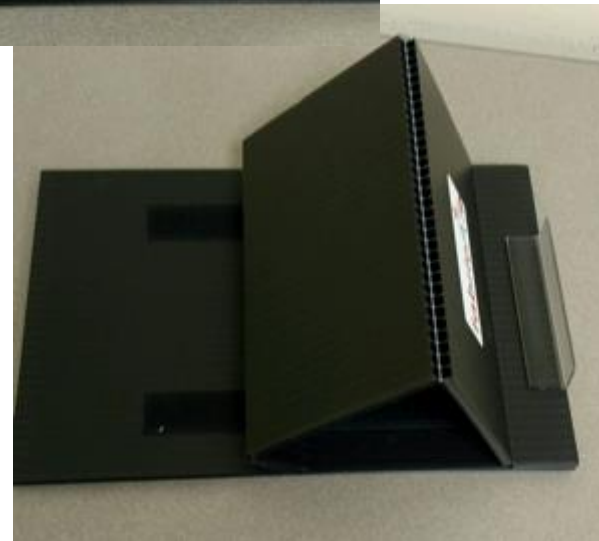
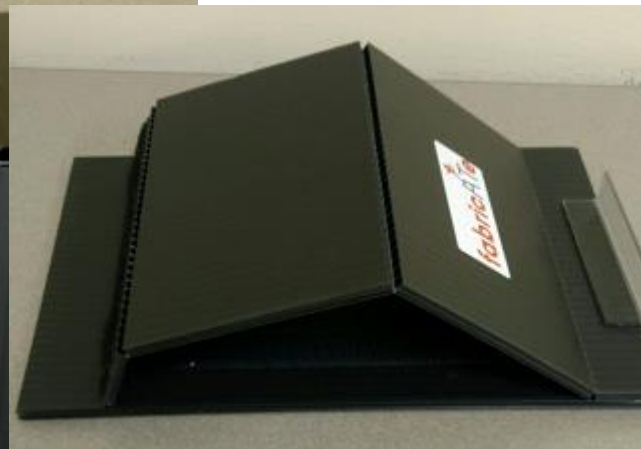
-picture/symbols



ILL

AN

Let's
make!



What's YOUR Role?

- Parent
- Teacher
- Provider
- Administrator
- Trainer

AT is everyone's responsibility..



...and YOU are a part of the
process



**“The best way to predict the
future is to create it”**

- Peter F. Drucker

Go help a child
grow and develop:
Go make some
Assistive
Technology
happen!

Thanks!

Contact us:

Lillian McCuen lmccuen@udel.edu

Johan de Besche jdebesche@fhi360.org

Bridget Gilormini Bridget.Gilormini@pacer.org

Susan Mistrett mistrett@buffalo.edu

