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.
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.”
Today...

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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 young children

INFANTS + TODDLERS
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.

PRE-SCHOOLERS
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.
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.

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
Object Communication Cards

Not using symbols yet?

Tactile objects

progress from 3D to 2D to picture symbols
Demonstration: Velcro communication board

- high contrast
- flexible
- easy
- quick
Bath Communication Board

kickboard
gallon zip bag
symbols
Carry Strap for iPad with AAC app

- 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.
Easy Cardholder

wood or pool noodle
slit with knife or saw
design also for communication cards
Velcro Story Blocks

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
Non-slip for new walkers

- Slippers, soft shoes
- Hot glue for skid-proof, grip bottoms
Demonstration: Pool noodles for seating

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

From Tots n Tech Videos
Make your 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
Visual Schedule

- foam door hanger
- picture/symbols
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!

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