



ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY IN EARLY INTERVENTION

Did you know that...



Assistive technology (AT) for infants and toddlers is defined as any item that helps increase the independence and functioning of a child. AT can help with positioning and mobility, communication, play and interaction, learning, and self help. It includes a wide range of items from simple adaptations such as utensils with built-up handles to more sophisticated devices such as wheelchairs, standers, communication devices, and many more. Assistive technology can even include toys purchased at local stores that are adapted to help children with disabilities play more independently and participate in daily routines.

Assistive technology may also be any service that assists children and their families select, acquire, and implement appropriate adapted equipment. These services include assessment for and selection of AT, and training once the technology is acquired.

Research is showing that use of AT with young children can contribute to improving self esteem, reducing child and adult frustration, and enabling independence and participation in daily life. In addition, AT can change the expectations of others for a child's abilities, and enable active rather than passive play, which is crucial to child development.





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The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act identifies assistive technology as one of the 14 early intervention services that children age birth through two are entitled to receive. That means all children who qualify for early intervention services are eligible for AT services, along with OT, PT, SLP, etc. AT can enhance the major areas of development that include cognitive, social-emotional, communication and sensorimotor domains.

Did you know that...

- Assistive technology in early intervention is significantly underutilized.
- AT is documented on fewer than 4% of IFSP's in Colorado and 3.1% of IFSP's nationally.
- A national survey of almost 1,000 EI providers revealed that almost half felt that none or few of the children they served were receiving the AT services and devices they required.
- Many young children who need AT do not receive it until they are at least two years of age.

Common myths that prevent infants and toddlers from receiving appropriate AT services include:



- **Myth:** The use of an AT device can act as a deterrent to a child's ability to develop typical skills.
Fact: Research actually shows the opposite to be true.
- **Myth:** Infants and toddlers are either too young to benefit from AT or need certain "readiness skills" before they can use it.
Fact: Even very young children can benefit from AT that is properly matched to their needs and abilities with no prerequisite skills.
- **Myth:** AT is high-tech and complex or is too expensive.
- **Fact:** AT for infants and toddlers is often simple or low-tech. Numerous [funding sources](#) are available for all AT devices and services.



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Where do I get AT services in Colorado?

- Assistive Technology Partners
303-315-1280
1-800-255-3477
www.assistivetechologypartners.edu
- Children's Hospital Colorado Audiology & Speech Pathology
Department
720-777-6250
www.childrenscolorado.org
- Children's Hospital Colorado Occupational Therapy Department
Assistive Technology Clinic
720-777-6633
www.childrenscolorado.org
- Early Intervention Colorado Community Centered Board System
1-888-777-4041
www.earlyinterventionincolorado.org
- SWAAAC – Assistive Technology Teams for local public school districts
303-315-1276
www.swaaac.com



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Resources

The Alliance for Technology Access
“ResourceHUB/Publications”
Information on how to adapt toys
and play for children with
disabilities

www.ataccess.org/ -

Assistive Technology Partners’
Tech for Tykes Program
Comprehensive resources on
assistive technology services,
research and resources for young
children

601 E. 18th Ave., Suite 130
Denver, CO 80203
303/315-1280 Main
800/255-3477 within Colorado
303/837-1208 Fax
GeneralInfo@AT-Partners.org

www.techfortykes.org

www.assistivetechologypartners.org

Assistive Technology Partners
SouthEast Technical Assistance
Center (SETAC)
4825 Lorna Place
Colorado Springs, CO 80215
719/380.6229 MAIN
719/380.6230 Fax

SETACinfo@at-partners.org

www.assistivetechologypartners.org

Assistive Technology Partners
Western Slope Technical
Assistance Center (WestAC)
2897 North Ave., Module 3A
Grand Junction, CO 81501970/248-
0877 Fax

970/248-0876 Main

WESTACInfo@AT-Partners.org

www.assistivetechologypartners.org

The Center for Best Practices in
Early Childhood Education – Early
Childhood

Technology Integrated Instructional
System

Online learning system for AT in
early childhood

www.wiu.edu/ectiis/

Closing the Gap

Multiple resources about AT for all
ages

507-248-3294

www.closingthegap.com

Let’s Play Project

Project out of the University of
Buffalo with multiple resources
about adapting play for children
with disabilities

www.letsplay.buffalo.edu



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Simplified Technology

Information about AT from hands on information to web and vendor resources

www.lburkhart.com

Tots 'n Tech Program

Program out of Arizona State University and Thomas Jefferson University with multiple resources on AT in early intervention

<http://tnt.asu.edu/>



For more information contact:

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