



# TECH FOR TYKES

A Center for Inclusive Design and Engineering (CIDE)  
Early Childhood Program

Center for Inclusive Design and Engineering, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, 1224 5th St. PO Box 173364 Campus Box 180-Hub, Denver, CO 80204, 303-315-1280, FAX- 303-837-5247, <http://www.techfortykes.org/>,  
<http://www1.ucdenver.edu/centers/cide>

## **Early Intervention AT Consultant FAQ**

### **What knowledge and expertise does an AT consultant need?**

The intent of these positions is not to have providers in place that are experts in assistive technology. It is more to have professionals who have a good basic understanding of AT in EI; enough that they can either do an initial consult with a child who may need AT, or know where to find resources to meet those needs if they don't have the expertise, themselves. Much of the knowledge needed is in the trainings offered by CIDE. The Consultant position guidelines will give you an idea of expectations.

### **What training is required if I want to be an EI/AT consultant in Colorado?**

You are required to take the training on Assistive Technology Services in Early Intervention in Colorado, and the four web modules on Assistive Technology in Early Intervention in order to gain this level of knowledge. You will also need to view the tutorial on use of the loan library. Contact us at [EIATCIDE@ucdenver.edu](mailto:EIATCIDE@ucdenver.edu) for more information. It is also important that you fill out the [AT Consultant Profile](#) found on the AT consultant page of the website and submit it to your CCB program manager.

### **I've completed and passed all the courses. How do I find my scores? What are my next steps?**

The online training is pass/fail so there are no scores. Once completed, email [EIATCIDE@ucdenver.edu](mailto:EIATCIDE@ucdenver.edu) to let us know you have completed the training and which CCB(s) you work with. Also, let us know if you would like a certificate of completion. Chelane Garcia-Herrada will then get you set up with loan library access.

### **How much time does it take to do the job?**

The time required can vary significantly depending upon the number of children you serve through requests from service coordinators or other providers, and the needs of those children or providers. After receiving a request on a child, anywhere from a single visit to numerous visits may be needed. Time demand also depends on the requests you get for access to the loan library. That said, for each child, the time required includes billable time with a child that needs AT services, along with potential time spent researching or obtaining AT, or accessing the loan library either for yourself or other providers. The latter is not billable, although we do encourage the consultants to use face to face time for things like researching, modifying or troubleshooting devices so that time can be billed. We also encourage them to discuss a higher reimbursement rate with the CCB since AT services are considered specialized.



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## **I am an OT. Will I be expected to know how to do an augmentative communication evaluation?**

No, each provider or consultant can have knowledge on a range from none to expert in any given area of AT. No providers can be an expert in all areas. Any EI provider who meets the state personnel standards can qualify to be an AT consultant. However, not all EI providers have expertise in AT. For example, speech language pathologists do not necessarily have experience in augmentative and alternative communication. Conversely, providers with expertise in AT are perfectly capable of providing AT services without having to be AT consultants.

## **Can this be a two-person job?**

Your role as an AT consultant is probably not something that can be effectively shared, especially when you are involved in a professional relationship with a child and their family. This would be similar to your ability to share your role as an OT, PT, SLP or other provider. Although there are functions of being an AT consultant that could be shared (using the loan bank for example), this wouldn't be encouraged. Also, by splitting up responsibilities, it seems to diminish the effectiveness of the position with regard to increasing knowledge and awareness of AT and creating "ownership" of AT services for the CCB.

## **How do I access the Loan Library?**

Here is a direct link: <https://swaaac.goalexandria.com/>. You can also get there on the [Tech For Tykes](#) website. Once you open the loan library, if you click on "Explore" you will see categories of devices you can explore. To borrow items, you must be a designated AT Consultant which requires online training. For steps on how to do this, see above.

## **Can anyone borrow from the loan library?**

Only EI AT Consultants can borrow directly from the loan library. Most CCB's have AT Consultants who will be happy to help you. If you would like access to something in the loan library, you can contact an EI AT Consultant with your CCB. Your program manager can help you with that. You can also go through the trainings to become an AT Consultant in order to access the loan library and help others to do so.

## **I completed the trainings and I am now an AT consultant in EI in Colorado. How do I start getting referrals for my services?**

First, be sure you talk with the program manager at your CCB about your mutual understanding of your role and desires as an AT consultant. The AT Consultant Profile will help with this process. A key to building capacity for AT in EI is expanding understanding and awareness of AT, particularly with service coordinators. There is still much education that needs to happen. A customizable letter template is



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available for consultants to share with their service coordinators that describes their role as an AT consultant. Some consultants carve out time to conduct inservices or meetings with their EI programs, or to talk with their service coordinators about AT. “Comparing notes” with other providers or other AT consultants can oftentimes reveal the need for AT as well. There are also numerous resources on the [Tech For Tykes](#) website that can provide others with knowledge of AT in EI. Here are a few links:

- AT for Young Children: <https://bit.ly/ATEICO>
- AT Case Stories: <https://bit.ly/TFTcasestories>
- Video on the [Tech For Tykes](#) home page: Assistive Technology in Early Intervention: A Parent’s Perspective

## **Do I need to do an AT consult with the family before I can request items from the loan library?**

It's always up to the AT consultant and/or the IFSP team to determine if a consult is needed. It depends on their level of expertise. If the borrower has greater expertise than the consultant with a specific AT device, a consult isn't really indicated. No paperwork is required for the borrower. You would just need to follow the procedure for checking the item out of the loan library.

## **I heard there are different reimbursement rates for the AT Consultants versus regular therapy visits. Is that something straight across the board with all CCBs or something we work out with the CCB individually?**

It is correct that there can be different reimbursement rates for providing AT services because they are negotiated on an individual basis with each CCB. A higher rate can be justified since AT services are considered to be specialized. AT services can also require a large amount of non-reimbursable time. We would encourage you to talk with the program manager at your CCB to discuss whether or not a higher rate is an option. The state can assist you with strategies for this. You can contact Beth Cole - CDHS, [beth.cole@state.co.us](mailto:beth.cole@state.co.us).

## **Once I have completed the online training modules how do I get set up to borrow AT?**

Once completed, email us at [EIATCIDE@ucdenver.edu](mailto:EIATCIDE@ucdenver.edu) to let us know you have completed the training and which CCB(s) you work with. You will be contacted with instructions on how to access the loan library and courier service.

## **How do I Access the Courier?**

1. A courier stop may already be set up in your area. You can check with other AT Consultants with your CCB or with a SWAAC team member in your area. You can [contact the EI administrator](#) if you need help with this.



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2. If you don't have an existing courier stop, in order to send items through the Colorado Library Consortium (CLiC) Courier you will need to find a library in your area that would be willing to accept the device or box (you would need to let them know the type of devices/boxes we would be sending to you – Packed boxes with AT for your clients/students). **Go to the CLiC website to find a location:** <http://courier.clicweb.org/>. Enter the name of a library or city near you into the Search Courier Codes. This will pull up locations which the courier runs to. From there, you would need to personally contact that office/branch and talk with them about sending and receiving items at their location (i.e. ask their permission to use their courier infrastructure for free). Please contact the EI administrator with any questions you or the library may have.
3. From there you would need to set up a plan for you to pick up the boxes from that delivery location. It's very important for us to keep good relationships with these locations since we are not technically sending books and they are under no obligation to provide this service for the loan library. Usually, if you give a good explanation, they are more than willing to help if they have the room and appropriate staff.
4. If you have any difficulty, contact the EI administrator [Chelane Garcia-Herrada](#).