Early Intervention Provider FAQ for Assistive Technology

- Who can provide assistive technology services in Colorado?

Any provider who meets the Colorado Personnel Standards either as an early intervention provider or assistive technology professional can provide AT services. For children with more complex or specialized AT needs, a referral can be made to an EI AT consultant or a provider with specialized training in AT.

- What is an AT consultant?

Colorado Part C Early Intervention (EI) services offer a resource that few, if any other state EI programs offer. Through a collaborative effort between The Center for Inclusive Design and Engineering (CIDE) and Early Intervention Colorado, a number of EI professionals throughout Colorado have participated in specialized training in order to become Early Intervention Assistive Technology (AT) Consultants.

- What is CIDE's relationship with EI Colorado?

Early Intervention Colorado of the Colorado Department of Human Services and Assistive Technology Partners of the University of Colorado Denver share a longstanding relationship in an effort to expand awareness and delivery of AT devices and services for young children in Colorado. Shared efforts include funding and support of the statewide AT Loan Library, training and technical assistance for EI professionals, policy management of Colorado AT services, and the establishment and support of an AT advisory council.

- What is the AT Loan Library and can I borrow items from it?

Assistive technology items are available for loan from the statewide Loan Library for children receiving early intervention services in Colorado. Part C Early Intervention AT Consultants as well as designated SWAAAC Team Coordinators (school based AT providers) are able to check out items from the loan library. EI providers can borrow items from the Loan Library with the assistance of the EI AT consultants.

- What training is available for providers who are interested in learning about AT?

The Tech for Tykes program and EI Colorado offer numerous forms of professional development and training opportunities in AT, from dedicated web-based trainings to live trainings to written and electronic resources. The following links will provide you with more information:
  o Tech for Tykes web training in early intervention
  o Tech for Tykes trainings for AT Consultants
  o Tech for Tykes resources in AT
  o SWAAAC (Statewide Assistive Technology Augmentative and Alternative Communication)
  o EI Colorado provides live trainings for providers and service coordinators that include information about AT. For more information, talk with your CCB program manager.

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, www.TechForTykes.org, https://www1.ucdenver.edu/centers/center-for-inclusive-design-and-engineering

- What if the child I'm working with needs an AT assessment?

AT assessment is an ongoing dynamic process. An assessment for AT can be performed by any EI provider depending on their level of expertise and the complexity of the AT needed. It is important to evaluate the needs, skills and abilities, and developmental levels of the child related to daily routines in natural environments before determining if the child has needs that may be served by a device. The AT needed can be as simple as low-tech solutions that may fall within the skills of the provider or it can be more complex, requiring more specialized skills from an AT consultant or outside specialist.

- How is AT documented on the IFSP?

Documentation of AT services and devices on the IFSP is an essential part of the provision of AT services. There are a number of ways to document AT on the IFSP, depending on the type of AT, the services needed or the desired outcomes. The IFSP Quick Guide is a valuable resource that can give you guidance about this topic through the use of a decision tree process.

- How are AT devices and services funded?

On a very basic level, funding of AT services and devices follows the Colorado State funding hierarchy. But funding can vary based on each CCB's available resources and policies, and the type of AT being funded. If the IFSP team recommends AT services or devices, the EI program is legally mandated to provide them without delay. Below are two available resources:

- EI Colorado Funding Document - Early Intervention Colorado offers a detailed brochure to explain the funding process in early intervention. Follow this link to visit their web site and learn more.
- AT Funding $ources - AT Funding $ources is a fully accessible, statewide on-line database providing individuals with disabilities, family members, and caregivers with a single point of entry for determining where to seek funding for assistive technology devices, equipment, or programs.

Early Intervention Colorado
for Infants, Toddlers & Families

COLORADO
Office of Early Childhood
Department of Human Services

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