



What's up . . . what we'll cover

Define Assistive Technology

Why Assistive Technology Is Important

Benefits of Assistive Technology

Barriers to Using Assistive Technology

Choosing Technology

The Illinois Assistive Technology Program

Resources



What is Assistive Technology?

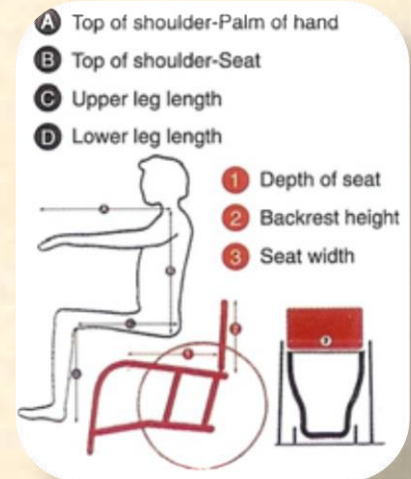
Any item, piece of equipment or product system, whether acquired commercially off the shelf, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities.





Assistive Technology Service

Any service that directly assists an individual with a disability in the selection, acquisition, or use of an assistive technology device.





In other words AT is...

- Any tool or device a person with a disability uses to do a task that he/she could not otherwise do without that tool
- Any tool the person with a disability uses to do a task more easily, faster, or in a better way
- A commercial product or something someone makes
- A no/low tech or high tech device



It's All Assistive. . .



Clocks & wrist watches

Wheelchairs

Forks, knives & spoons

Braille printers

Shoes with Velcro rather than laces

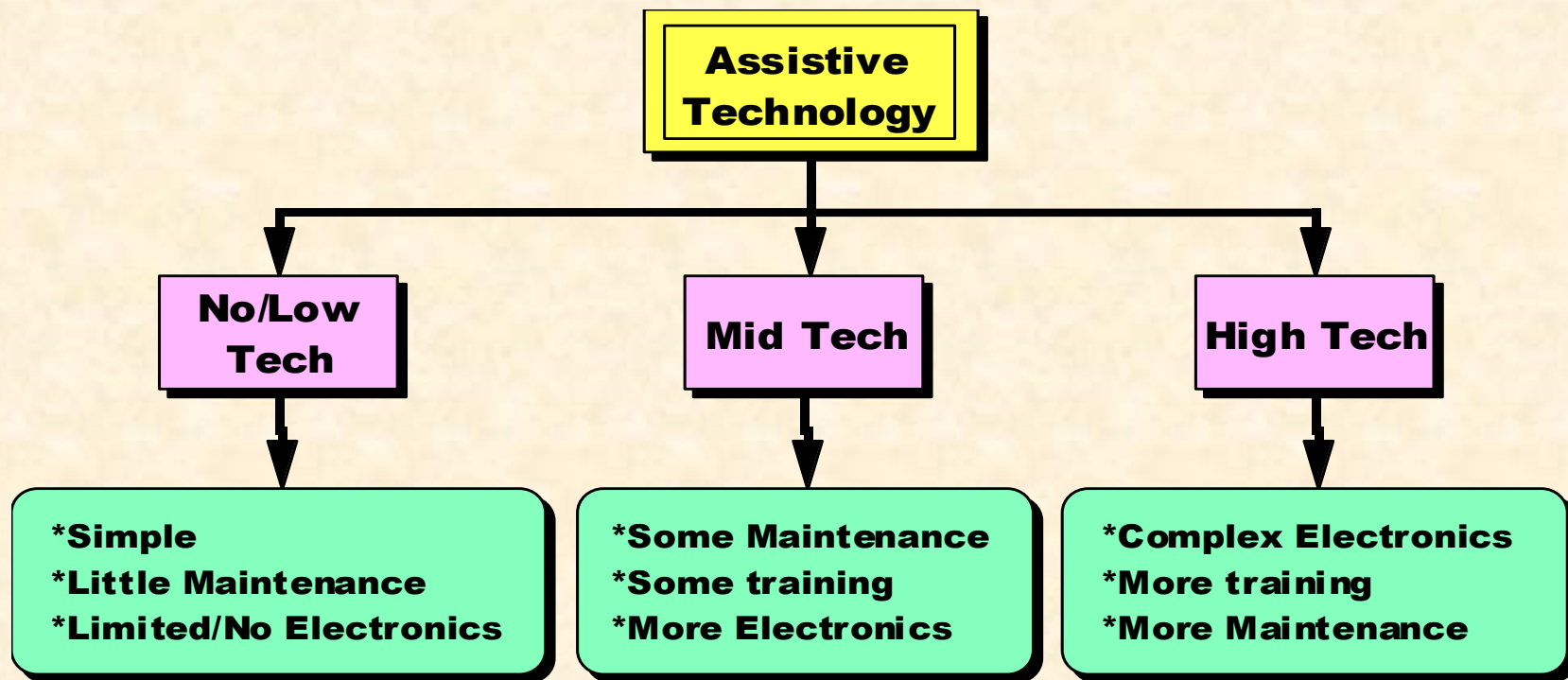
Hearing aids

Tablets

Communication devices



Continuum from No/Low Tech to High Tech



Why is AT Important?

It has the potential to impact a person with a disability by contributing to his or her:

- Learning
- Play
- Employment
- Independence
- Self esteem
- Quality of life



What can AT Do?

- Help a student learn
- Make things easier to turn on
- Hold things steady or in place
- Help a person get dressed or eat





Other Things AT Can Do

- Allow or improve communication
- Help a person see or hear better
- Make playing or recreation possible
- Reduce dependence on support services





Benefits of Assistive Technology

- School age children remain in regular classroom
- Adults & children stay in own home
- Maintain employment





More Benefits

- Reduce dependence on family members & paid assistants
- Participate in the community
- Participate in activities
- Promotes independence



Basic Principles of Choosing Technology

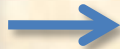
- A team approach is best
- The user is the most crucial member of the team
- Family & friends are the next most important team members
- Focus on function
- Strive for simplicity
- Generalize



System of Selection

Start with lowest tech solution available

Work upward only when the lower tech device doesn't work



Considerations for Choosing Technology

Personal

Ease of use/Training

Access

Maintenance/Repair

Financial





Who is IATP?

The Illinois Assistive Technology Program (IATP) is a not-for-profit agency that promotes the availability of assistive technology (AT) devices and services for people with disabilities. IATP serves all people with disabilities in the state of Illinois, their families, service providers, state agencies, private industry, educators, and other interested individuals, regardless of age or income.



What does IATP do?

Demonstration Center

Device Loans

AT Assessments

School Based AT/AAC Assessments

AT Reuse & Reutilization

Financial Loans

IEP Support

Training

Public Policy

WIPA





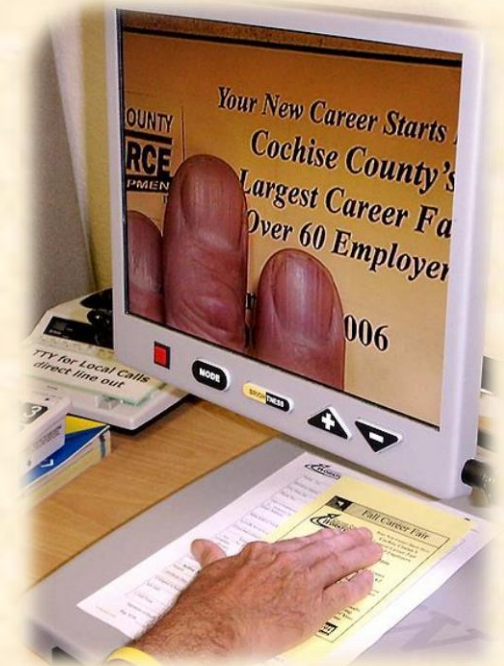
Where Do I Find AT

Contact the Illinois Assistive Technology Program
for information on Assistive Technology

and where to find it

800-852-5110 v/tty

www.iltech.org





Resources

Job Accommodation Network

askjan.org 800-526-7234 v; 877-781-9403 tty

Able Data

www.abledata.com 800-227-0216 v; 301-608-8912 tty

RESNA

www.resnaprojects.org

Assistive Technology Industry Association

www.atia.org

IL Network of Centers for Independent Living

www.incil.org 800-587-1227 v/tty



Other Resources

MaxiAids

maxiaids.com 800-522-6294

L S & S

lssproducts.com 800-468-4789

independent living aids

independentliving.com 800-537-2118

enablemart

enablemart.com 888-640-1999

Flaghouse

flaghouse.com 800-793-7900

iatp

Independence is happiness

-- Susan B. Anthony