A DEGREE IS NOT ENOUGH

INTRODUCTION

Power Up! Achievement through Technology

Overview:

Assistive technology is any piece of equipment or system that improves the functional capabilities of persons with disabilities. This workshop will give students information about how to evaluate their need for assistive technology, how to access it, how to pay for it, and how to request a reasonable accommodation from an employer. Parents will learn about accessing and funding assistive technology, and how to support their sons or daughters in developing self-advocacy skills.

The folder includes:

- Invitation letters for students and parents
- Flyer
- Agenda
- PowerPoint presentation: Introduction to Assistive Technology and the Connecticut Tech Act Project

Sample letter for parents

[Today's date]

Dear SCSU Parent,

Assistive technology has been described as any piece of equipment or system that improves functional capabilities of persons with disabilities. Whether it is something as simple as texting to compensate for a communication disorder or as complex as a voice-activated computer, assistive technology can greatly enhance people's independence. The next session of A Degree Is Not Enough, entitled ***"Power Up! Achievement through Technology,"*** will give your son or daughter an overview of assistive technology. The session has been scheduled for [date].

This workshop will provide information for your student about how to evaluate his or her need for assistive technology at home, at school, and at work. Participants will learn how to access technology and sources for funding. They will also learn how to request a reasonable accommodation from an employer.

Parents will learn about accessing and funding assistive technology, and ways to support their sons or daughters in developing self-advocacy skills to use in the workplace. We hope you will join us for this exciting and informative evening!

Once again, the SCSU Disability Resource Center has partnered with the SCSU Career Center, the SCSU Center for Adaptive Technology, the Connecticut Tech Act Project, the city of New Haven, Enterprise, Inc., the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services, the Board of Education and Services for the Blind, and the Connecticut Business Leadership Network to bring you this workshop.

Your student's Bureau of Rehabilitation Services counselor will expect him or her to participate in this workshop. As we work together to help students move toward employment after graduation, we know that the information they receive in this series will be important in reaching their goals.

Please look at the enclosed flyer and consider joining your son or daughter on [date, time, and location]. Dessert and beverages will be provided.

These workshops have been developed to increase your son or daughter's success after graduation.
We look forward to seeing you there.

Sincerely,

Sample letter for students

[Today's date]

Dear ,

Assistive technology has been described as any piece of equipment or system that improves functional capabilities of persons with disabilities. Whether it is something as simple as texting to compensate for a communication disorder or as complex as a voice-activated computer, assistive technology can greatly enhance people's independence. The next session of A Degree Is Not Enough, entitled ***"Power Up! Achievement through Technology,"*** will give you an overview of assistive technology. The session has been scheduled for [date].

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Sincerely,

POWER UP!

Achievement through Technology

For Students with Disabilities and Parents

Come to find out…

- **What *Assistive Technology* is right for you?**
- **About funding options for Assistive Technology (AT)**
- **The employer's perspective on reasonable accommodations**
- **And much more!!!**

Join Us!!!

(Insert Date, Time & Location)

(Dessert & Beverages Provided)

Call (insert phone #) to RSVP by (Insert Date)

Introduction to Assistive Technology and the Connecticut Tech Act Project

Arlene Lugo, Program Director

2011

Connecticut Tech Act Project

Agenda

- Introduction to Assistive Technology
- Overview of Connecticut Tech Act Project programs & services
- Q & A

Assistive Technology

"Assistive Technology (AT) device is any item, piece of equipment or product system, whether acquired commercially, modified or customized, that is used to *increase, maintain, or improve* the functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities."

AT ACT, 1998 as amended, & IDEA

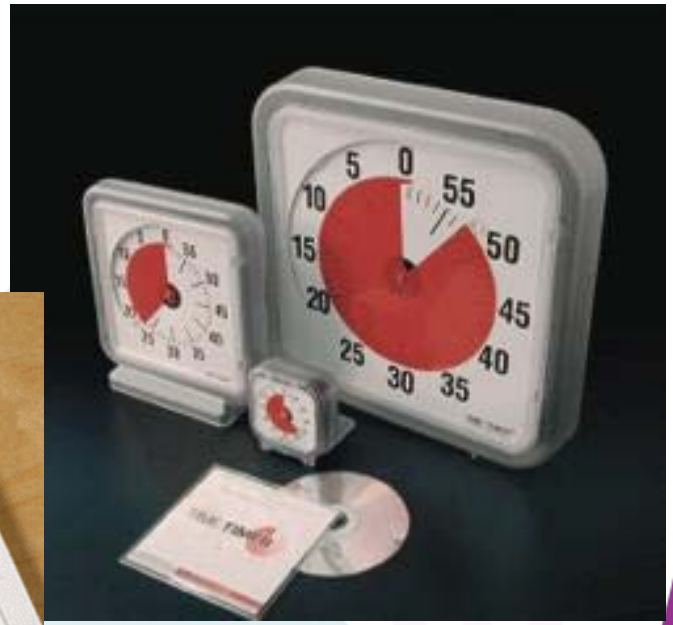
Assistive Technology (AT)

Cost, mechanics & complexity increase as you move up the AT Continuum

High Tech
Higher costs
complex
features
computerized

Low Tech
No cost – no mechanics

Low Tech



Large Print

Mid Tech

High Tech

Home Menu
-nurse-rm ph x10
IMPERIUM
IMPERIUM™200H
THE POWER TO COMMAND

Assistive Technology (AT)

"Assistive Technology Services:

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

AT Act, 1998, as amended & IDEA

Assistive Technology (AT)

- **AT Services includes …**
  - **Evaluation of needs**
    - **Including OT, PT, SLP, NEAT, Rehab Engineer, etc.**
  - **Device Trials**
  - **Designing, customizing, fitting, adapting the AT device**

AT Act & IDEA

Assistive Technology (AT)

- **AT Services includes …**
  - **Training or TA for student, family, teacher, other professionals involved;**
  - **Maintenance or Repair**
  - **Re-eval when there are changes**

AT Act & IDEA

Assistive Technology (AT)

Who is responsible for providing AT?

- Schools: Access to the curriculum
- Insurance: Medically necessary
- State agencies: BRS, BESB, DDS, DSS, etc
- Local agencies: IL Centers, disability agencies, Lions Club
- Employers: Reasonable accommodations
- Out of pocket: Loans

Assistive Technology (AT)

- **Assistive Technology does not have to be expensive to make a difference. Most work place accommodations cost less than $500.** ***Job Accommodations Network***

How to implement:

- **Start with the basic, least complex solution (low tech) to remove barriers**
  - **This can be the most practical solution**
  - **Easier to learn and use**
  - **Easier to provide support to the user**

How to implement:

For Example: Medication Prompts

1. Person reminds the individual

2. Written reminder

3. Pill box with timer

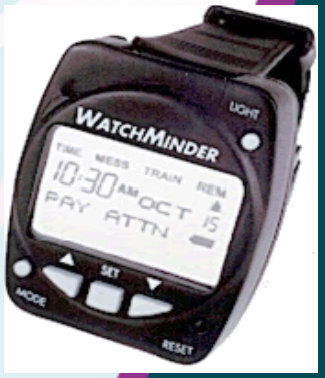
How to implement:

For Example: Medication Prompts

4. Watch with alarm/reminder

5. Electronic Calendar

6. PDA with alarm, images & specialized cognitive software



Connecticut **Tech Act** Project

Mission Statement

Increasing independence and improving the lives of individuals with disabilities through increased access to Assistive Technology for work, school and community living.

CT Tech Act Project

Partners & Programs

- AT Device Demonstration
- AT Device Loan
- AT Device Recycling
  - Web-based Exchange
- AT Loan Program

Disability Resource Center of Fairfield County, Inc.

SERC

Windham Regional Community Council

CT Tech Act Project

AT Device Demonstrations

Have a chance to interact with a Device, learn about the features, Compare with similar devices, & Make an informed decision about whether the device is the right one.

Windham Regional Community Council

CT Tech Act Project

AT Device Loans:

- **SCSU Computer loans w/ AT Software**
  - **To School Systems for up to 4 months.**
  - **To College Students at SCSU, ECSU & WCSU for a semester.**

- **Lending Libraries:**
  - **NEAT, EASTCONN & CREC**

CT Tech Act Project

AT Recycling

- NEAT Equipment Recycling Center
- AT Exchange www.getATstuff.com
  - Online recycling of new or used AT for sale or for free.

getATstuff

Assistive Technology Exchange in New England

CT Tech Act Project

The Assistive Technology Loan Program

- **For individuals with disabilities or family members**
- **To purchase Assistive Technology Devices or Services** (*i.e.: evaluation, training, etc)*
- **Interest Rate of 4%**
- **$500 to $30,000**
- **Up to 10 Years depending on the AT device**

AT Loan Program

CT Tech Act Project

Public Awareness

- **Presentations**
- **Outreach**
- **Expos**

Trainings

- **SERC -- *to educators***
- **EastConn & CREC -- *to professionals***
- **AT Training Modules –**
  www.Connect-ability.com

CT Tech Act Project

Information and Referral

- **Questions/Inquiries via telephone or website**
- **Connections to resources in the community, i.e.: grants, other programs that may be able to help, etc**

CT Tech Act Project

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www.getATstuff.com

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