



Georgia's Assistive  
Technology Act Program

# Tools for Life: Your Assistive Technology Act Program

**Presented by:**

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# Welcome to the Assistive Technology Revolution!



The world around us is evolving at an astounding rate. Assistive Technology (AT) developments have been foundational in this evolution and a catalyst for producing positive life-changing results for individuals with disabilities.

This session will take a closer look at:

- AMAC | Tools for Life – AT Act Program
- Understanding Assistive Technology
- Defining “Low/Light Tech” to “Mid/High Tech Solutions”
- Guiding Principles
- Medical Model of Disability and Social Model of Disability
- Value-Laden Language

***...all in about 40 minutes!***

For Handouts: [Visit the Tools for Life Wiki Page – www.gatfl.gatech.edu/tflwiki](http://www.gatfl.gatech.edu/tflwiki)

# AMAC Accessibility



- AMAC Accessibility is a social change organization on a mission to create affordable services for governmental, private, and nonprofit organizations working with individuals with disabilities.
  - Services include E-text, Braille, live captioning, assistive technology, office management software, and accessibility consulting.



# Accessibility Made Smart



AMAC creates practical solutions that work, with a focus on utility, ease of use, and high quality.

- **Accessibility Consulting** focuses on organizational accessibility needs with evaluation, technical assistance, customer support, and website accessibility solutions.
- **Braille Services** produces customized projects from both print materials and electronic text including partial books and chapters or graphics only using cutting-edge technology.
- **Captioning and Described Audio Services** makes classrooms, meetings, labs and other audio environments fully accessible for deaf or hard-of-hearing and providing audio descriptions of videos and other visual media for those who are blind or have low-vision.
- **Professional E-Text Producers** provide high-quality e-text in many formats such as PDF, DOC, DAISY, and HTML.
- **Certified Assistive Technology team** provides on-site and remote assessments, demonstrations, training and technical assistance for education, work, and daily living environments.

For more information, please visit our website at [www.amacusq.org](http://www.amacusq.org)



# Tools for Life Mission

We're here to help Georgians with disabilities gain access to and acquisition of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services so they can live, learn, work, and play independently in the communities of their choice.



# Tools for Life Website



The screenshot shows the Georgia Tech Tools for Life website. The header features the Georgia Tech logo and the 'TOOLS for LIFE' logo with the tagline 'Georgia's Assistive Technology Act Program'. A navigation bar includes links for HOME, ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY, TFL NETWORK, CALENDAR OF EVENTS, and social media icons. A search bar is also present. The main content area has a left sidebar with links: TRAINING, FUNDING, PUBLICATIONS, TFL WIKI, MEET THE TFL TEAM, MEET THE ADVISORY COUNCIL, DIRECTIONS/MAP, JOIN OUR MAILING LIST, SCHEDULE A TOUR, and AT REFERRALS. The central banner area displays a photo of a woman assisting a man with a headset, with the text 'Discover Your AT Solutions!'. Below the banner is a 'Welcome to Tools for Life' message. The right sidebar contains sections for WEBINARS (Current Webinar Schedule, Webinar Archives), TOOLS FOR LIFE APPFINDER (with an image of a smartphone and app icons), AT ONLINE EXCHANGE (gTRADE logo), and AT FUNDING GUIDE (DOLLARS & SENSE logo).

# Your TFL AppFinder

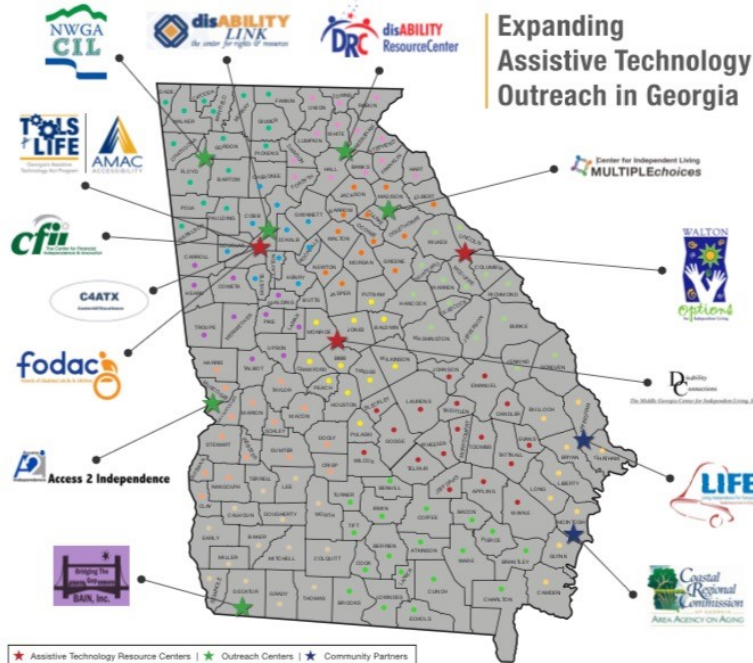


Search by:

- ✓ App Name
- ✓ Categories
  - Books/Reading
  - Education
  - Environmental Adaptations
  - Hearing
  - Vision
  - Navigation
  - Cognition, Learning, and Development
  - Personal Care and Safety
  - Productivity
  - Communication
  - Therapeutic Aids

# Tools for Life Network

Assistive Technology Resource Centers, Outreach Centers, Community Partners and Affiliates



## GEORGIA'S AGING & DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTERS

- Atlanta Regional Commission Aging Division**  
Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Conley, Douglas, Fayette, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, Pickens
- Coastal Georgia Area Agency on Aging**  
Bryan, Bulloch, Camden, Chatham, Effingham, Glynn, Liberty, Long, McIntosh
- CSRA Area Agency on Aging**  
Baker, Calhoun, Gilmer, Habersham, Johnson, Wilkes, Lincoln, McDuffie, Richmond, Spalding, Wilcox, Wilkes, Washington, Wilkes
- Heart of Georgia Area Agency on Aging**  
Appling, Decatur, Gordon, Grady, Hall, Haralson, Jones, Madison, McIntosh, Wilkes, Wilkes, Wilkes
- Legacy Link Georgia Mountain Area Agency on Aging**  
Baker, Stephens, Union, Wilkes, Wilkes
- Middle Georgia Area Agency on Aging**  
Baker, Bulloch, Camden, Chatham, Effingham, Glynn, Liberty, Long, McIntosh, Wilkes, Wilkes
- Northeast Georgia Area Agency on Aging**  
Baker, Bulloch, Camden, Chatham, Effingham, Glynn, Liberty, Long, McIntosh, Wilkes, Wilkes
- Northeast Georgia Area Agency on Aging**  
Baker, Bulloch, Camden, Chatham, Effingham, Glynn, Liberty, Long, McIntosh, Wilkes, Wilkes
- River Valley Area Agency on Aging**  
Baker, Bulloch, Camden, Chatham, Effingham, Glynn, Liberty, Long, McIntosh, Wilkes, Wilkes
- Southern Georgia Area Agency on Aging**  
Baker, Bulloch, Camden, Chatham, Effingham, Glynn, Liberty, Long, McIntosh, Wilkes, Wilkes
- SOWEGA Council on Aging Southwest Georgia Area Agency on Aging**  
Baker, Bulloch, Camden, Chatham, Effingham, Glynn, Liberty, Long, McIntosh, Wilkes, Wilkes
- Three Rivers Area Agency on Aging**  
Baker, Bulloch, Camden, Chatham, Effingham, Glynn, Liberty, Long, McIntosh, Wilkes, Wilkes

# What is Assistive Technology?

- Assistive Technology (AT) is any item or piece of equipment that is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities in all aspects of life, including at school, at work, at home, and in the community
  - Assistive Technology ranges from no/low/light tech to high tech devices or equipment



# Assistive Technology Services



Assistive Technology Services are any services that directly assists an individual with a disability in the selection, acquisition, or use of an assistive technology device. These services include:

- Evaluating
- Providing devices
- Selecting, Designing, Customizing
- Maintaining, Repairing
- Coordinating
- Training/Technical Assistance – student, family, and school service providers

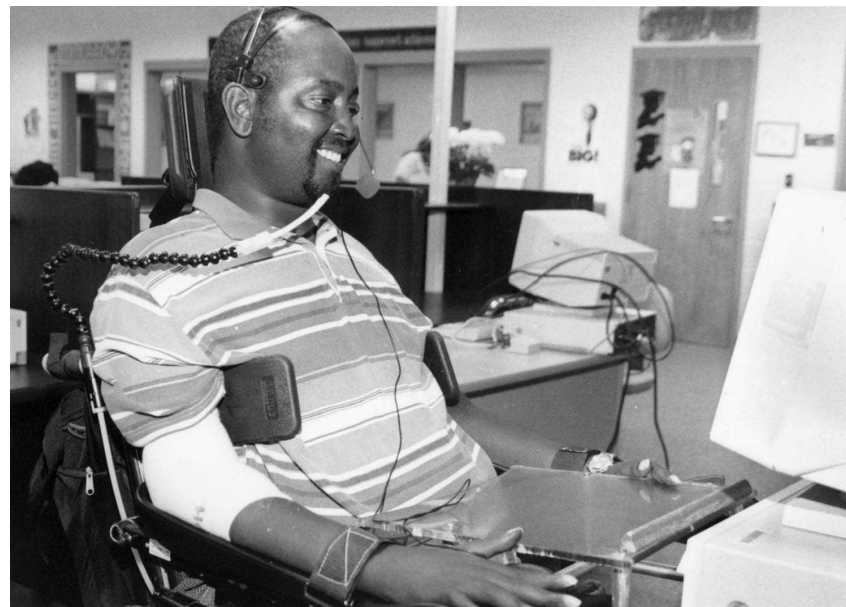
Public Law 105-394 [29 USC 2201]



# Why Assistive Technology?

- For a person without a disability, assistive technology makes life easier.
- For a person with a disability, assistive technology makes life possible.

*Tip: USE AT! We have yet to meet a successful person who doesn't use any AT.*





*Frustration*

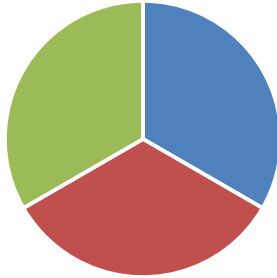
*Anxiety*

*Stress*

*Tension*

# Human Activity Assistive Technology (HAAT) Model

- **Context:** the setting or social, cultural, and physical contexts that surround the environment in which the activity must be completed



■ Human ■ Activity ■ Assistive Technology

- ***Human:*** represents the skills and abilities of the person with a disability
- ***Activity:*** a set of tasks to be performed by the person with a disability
- ***Assistive Technology:*** devices or strategies used to bridge the gap between the person's abilities and the demands of the environment

Developed by Cook & Hussey

# The SETT Framework

S = Student

E = Environment

T = Tasks

T = Tools

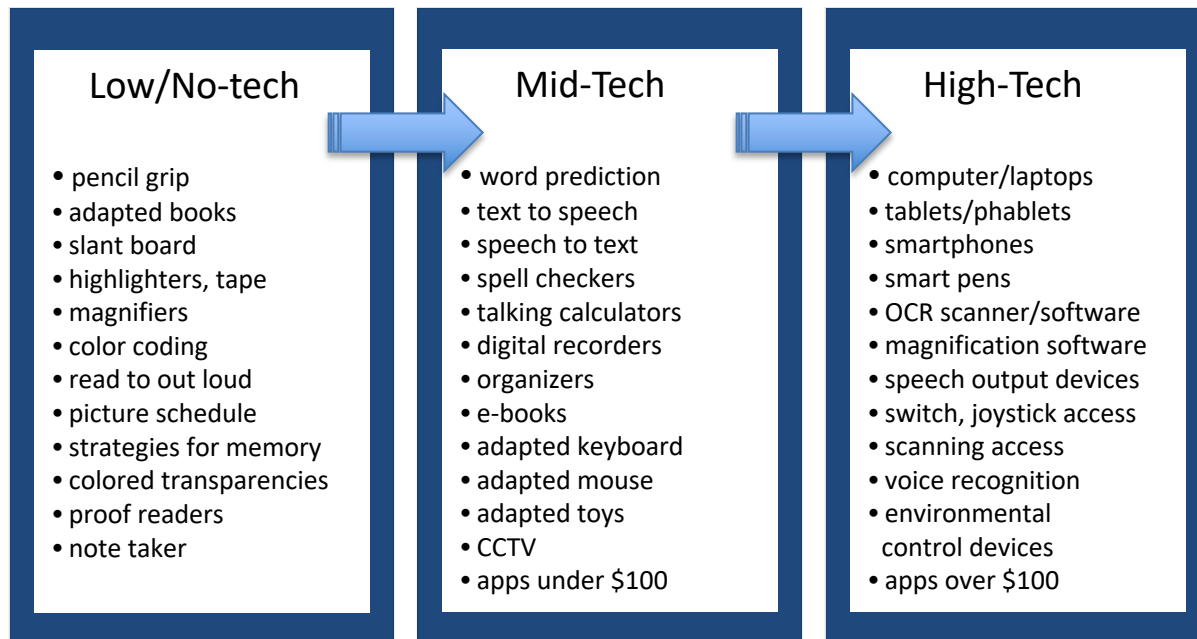


Adapted from Joy Zabala

# Assistive Technology Continuum

## Observations and “Hanging out with Intent”

Assistive Technology is a ***continuum of tools, strategies, and services*** that match a person's needs, abilities, and tasks.



# Guiding Principle and Public Law



...disability is a natural part of the human experience and in no way diminishes the right of individuals to:

- (A) live independently;
- (B) enjoy self-determination and make choices;
- (C) benefit from an education;
- (D) pursue meaningful careers; and
- (E) enjoy full inclusion and integration in the economic, political, social, cultural, and education's mainstream of society in the United States.

Public Law 108-364

# Defining the Medical Model of Disability

- Impairments or differences should be “fixed” or changed by medical and other treatments, even when the impairment or difference does not cause pain or illness
  - People with disabilities are to be adapted to fit into the world as it is
- The emphasis is on dependence
- Focus is on the impairment rather than the needs of the person
  - Oftentimes, institutions are the norm where basic needs can be met

# Defining the Social Model of Disability

- Disability is caused by the way society is organized, rather than by a person's impairment or difference
- Views that the position of disabled people and the discrimination against them are socially created and has little to do with impairments
- Explores way of removing barriers that restrict life choices for disabled people
  - When barriers are removed, disabled people can be independent and equal in society, with choice and control over their own lives



# Social Model of Disability

- The traditional medical model does not explain personal experience of disability or help to develop more inclusive ways of living
- Encourages people with disabilities to redefine what “disability” means to them
- Perpetuates confidence and self-esteem
- Helping to reconstruct society

# The Power of Language

- Language is continually evolving and that includes language related to people with disabilities
- Staying current is important, not to show that you are “politically correct” but to communicate effectively and with respect

# Value-Laden Words

- An author will frequently use emotional language that is value-laden to sway opinions
- These words reflect the bias of the author and can express positive or negative opinions or biases toward the subject

# Value-Laden Language

- What you say and write may enhance the dignity of people with disabilities or inadvertently reflect stereotypes and negative attitudes
- Some words and phrases don't recognize the broad range of capabilities of people with disabilities
  - People with disabilities don't need or want to be pitied, nor should they be deemed "courageous" or "special" as they accomplish daily activities or work

# Value-Laden Language Creates Categories



We vs. They

Good vs. Bad

Strong vs. Weak

High Expectation vs. Low Expectation

Sick vs. Well

Superior vs. Inferior

# Value-Laden Terminology

Abnormal  
Afflicted  
Burdened  
Defect  
Deformity  
Mute  
Palsied  
Stricken with  
Sufferer  
Victim  
Invalid

# Person First Language

- Designed to stress personhood
  - “person with \_\_\_\_\_” or “person who \_\_\_\_\_”
- More common approach
  - Frequently preferred by most schools, parents, and relatively neutral organizations and groups



# Identity First Language



- Disability is part of a person's identity
- Modeled after how we talk about other traits of people
  - Frequently preferred by people actively involved in disability culture, pride, and advocacy

# What Do I Say?

## Do

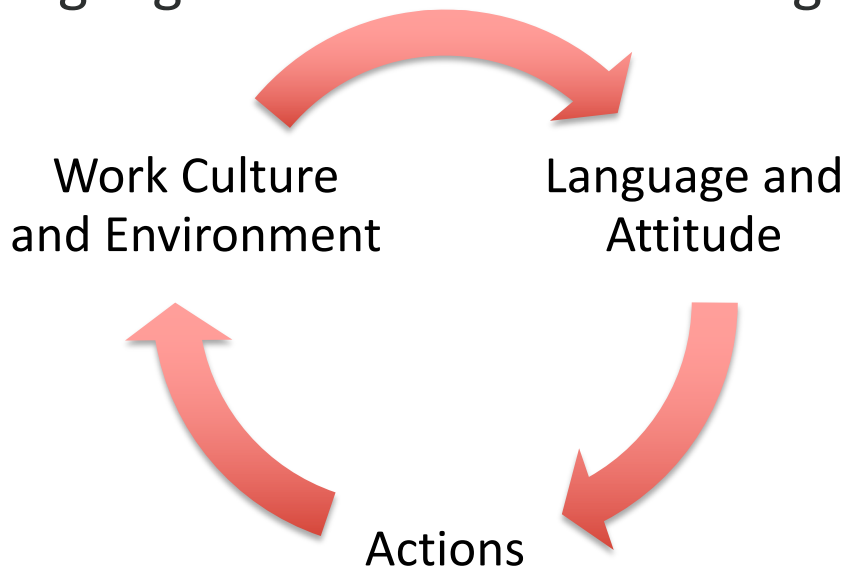
- If a person says they prefer a certain type of language, use that when talking to or about them
  - Regardless of your own preference
- Speak directly to the person to who you are referring
  - Never their parent, friend, caretaker, interpreter, or other person they are with

## Don't

- Using derogatory slurs and terms, even as a “joke”
- Using language which is negative or stresses pity or tragedy
- Using language which is patronizing or condescending

# Making the Connection

A change in language and attitude can change everything!



# Questions?



# The Tools for Life Team



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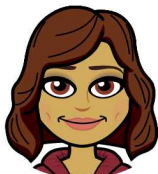
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# TOOLS *for* LIFE

Georgia's Assistive Technology Act Program





# Disclaimer



Disclaimer: Produced by Tools for Life (TFL), which is a result of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, as amended in 2004. TFL is a program of the Georgia Institute of Technology, College of Design, AMAC Accessibility Solutions and Research Center and was made possible by Grant Number H224C030009 from the Administration for Community Living. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of HHS.