Tools for Life: Your Assistive Technology Act Program

Presented by:
Asha Kumar, AT Lab Specialist | Tools for Life
Tori Holder, Outreach Specialist | Tools for Life
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

...all in about 30 minutes!

For Handouts: Visit the Tools for Life Wiki Page
AMAC Accessibility is a social change organization on a mission to create affordable services for governmental, private, and non-profit organizations working with individuals with disabilities. Services include E-text, braille, captioning, assistive technology, office management software, and consulting.
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 Services** makes classrooms, meetings, labs and other audio environments fully accessible for deaf or hard-of-hearing.
- **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.amacusg.org](http://www.amacusg.org)
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.
Get to Know Your AT Act Program

Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs
Tools for Life Website
Learn More about AT through Hands-On Demonstrations

Welcome to Tools for Life

Tools for Life is a Georgia’s Assistive Technology Act Program, dedicated to increasing access to and acquisition of assistive technology (AT) devices and services for strengths of all ages and disabilities so they can live, learn, work and play independently and with greater freedom in their communities.

Tools for Life and the TFL Network work collaboratively together to accomplish our mission through:

- AT Services
- Try AT
- Get AT
- AT Guides
- Research
Your TFL AppFinder

Search by:
✓ App Name
✓ Categories
  • Book
  • Education
  • Environmental Adaptations
  • Hearing
  • Cognition, Learning, Developmental
  • Navigation
  • Personal Care and Safety
  • Productivity
  • Communication
  • Therapeutic Aids
  • Vision
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 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.*
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 educations mainstream of society in the United States.

Public Law 108-364
The “FAST” Track

Frustration
Anxiety
Stress
Tension
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.

Low/No-tech
- pencil grip
- adapted books
- slant board
- highlighters, tape
- magnifiers
- color coding
- read to out loud
- picture schedule
- strategies for memory
- colored transparencies
- proof readers
- note taker

Mid-Tech
- word prediction
- text to speech
- speech to text
- spell checkers
- talking calculators
- digital recorders
- organizers
- e-books
- adapted keyboard
- adapted mouse
- adapted toys
- CCTV
- apps under $100

High-Tech
- computer/laptops
- tablets/phablets
- smartphones
- smart pens
- OCR scanner/software
- magnification software
- speech output devices
- switch, joystick access
- scanning access
- voice recognition
- environmental control devices
- apps over $100
Microsoft OneNote

- Crosses all platforms
- Type, write, or draw with the free form feel of pen and paper
  - Use stylus or finger
- Search and clip from the web to picture ideas
- Brings students together in a collaborative space or can give individual support in private notebooks
United States Geography

Wednesday, July 29, 2015  6:41 PM

The study of Earth’s landforms is called physical geography. The seasons, the atmosphere and all the natural processes of Earth affect where people are able to live. Landforms can be mountains and valleys. They can also be glaciers, lakes or rivers. Landforms are sometimes called physical features. Geography is one of a combination of factors that people use to decide where they want to live.
Pacifica

- Pacifica App is available on iOS, Android & Web
- Learn new techniques for reducing stress and anxiety
- Customize to individual preferences
Vidget chair

• Being able to fidget improves focus, inspires creativity, and promotes calmness.

• Creates a healthier learning environment by providing a safe and quiet way to release some of the endless energy students have.

• Inspires individuals to move naturally and celebrates imaginative play while learning!
Fidget Cube

• Kickstarter campaign
• Available February 2017
• Created by Antsy Lab
• $22
Bookshare

• Online Accessible Library
• Free membership to qualified students and schools
  • Textbooks if school is member
• 389,675 titles
• Serves individuals with:
  • Vision disabilities
  • Physical disabilities
  • Learning disabilities
AMAC’s AT Software

Claro Read
- For PC or Mac
- Reads aloud any print that is highlighted
- Floating toolbar

Read & Write Gold
- Text-to-Speech software that helps improve reading skills
- PC and Mac Compatible
- PDFs, DOCs, DAISY, and Webpages
- Synchronous highlighting

Dolphin EasyReader
- Read multiple formats including MathML, Daisy, HTML, and EPUB
- Highlights text and Speech

Literacy Productivity Pack (including PDF Equalizer)
- Read documents in standard file formats such as Microsoft Word, Rich Text, text file format, HTML, and PDF
- Converted to audio files for use on a CD or MP3 player
- Scan and read documents
iPhone Hearing Accessibility

- Mono Audio
- Custom vibrations
  - Assign unique vibration patterns
  - Change default in Sounds settings
  - Create your own custom vibrations
    - Save and name it!
- LED flash for alerts
- Answer calls in Speaker Mode or Headset
  - Accessibility →
  - Incoming Calls
- Visual voicemails
- TTY mode
- FaceTime (Wi-Fi)
- Closed captioning
  - Supports playback of open captions, closed captions, and subtitling
- Supports playback of open captions, closed captions, and subtitling
TechSAge research is funded by the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR grant number 90RE5016-01-00). NIDILRR is a Center within the Administration for Community Living (ACL), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).
Mission of TechSAge

• to **support** people with chronic conditions and long-term impairments who are at risk of disability or increased disability due to comorbid age-related losses;

• by **empowering** these individuals to sustain independence; maintain health; engage safely in activities at home and in the community; and fully participate in society;

• through increasing knowledge about, availability of, and **access** to effective, universally-designed technologies.
Georgia Assistive Technology in Education (GATE) Annual Seminar

- Friday, December 8, 2017
- Georgia Tech Student Center
- This event is open to all Georgia educators, parents, students with disabilities, family members and anyone else interested in learning more about assistive technology in education!
The Tools for Life Team

Carolyn Phillips  
Director, Tools for Life  
carolyn.phillips@gatfl.gatech.edu

Sarah Endicott  
Research Scientist  
sarah.endicott@design.gatech.edu

Tori Holder  
Outreach Specialist  
tori.holder@gatfl.gatech.edu

Danny Housley  
AT Funding & Resource Specialist  
danny.housley@gatfl.gatech.edu

Justin Ingham  
Support Specialist  
jingham3@gatech.edu

Asha Kumar  
AT Lab Specialist  
asha.kumar@gatfl.gatech.edu

Ben Jacobs  
Accommodations Specialist  
ben.jacobs@gatfl.gatech.edu

Krista Mullen  
Speech Language Pathologist  
krista.mullen@gatfl.gatech.edu

Samantha Peters  
Program Specialist  
speters37@gatfl.gatech.edu

Liz Persaud  
Training Coordinator  
liz.persaud@gatfl.gatech.edu

Martha Rust  
AT Specialist  
martha.rust@gatfl.gatech.edu

Rachel Wilson  
AT Specialist  
rachel.wilson@gatfl.gatech.edu
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.