

## What is the ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ?

Assistive Technology is specialized equipment which can be used to increase a child's independence. Children may be able to benefit from using one or all of the following types of technology.

**ADAPTED TOYS** • Toys which are specially designed or modified so that a child with a disability can use them.

**AUGMENTATIVE COMMUNICATION AIDS** • Manual and electronic devices which can increase a nonspeaking child's ability to learn language, participate in school activities and communicate effectively.

**PERSONAL COMPUTERS, SOFTWARE AND PERIPHERALS**  
Computers which can be used for written communication, recreation, vocational training and many other activities. Single switches, alternate keyboards, alternative output devices such as speech are a few of the modifications a child may use.

**ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROLS** • Devices which turn on lights, TV's and video games, adjust a thermostat, change the position of a bed or flash a light when the fire alarm goes off.

**VOCATIONAL ADAPTATIONS** • Modifications to a work site which may include work station modifications, adaptation to equipment or the use of telecommunications to turn a home into a work site.

**VISION EQUIPMENT** • Equipment for children who have difficulty using print which includes print enlargers, voice output devices, portable brailers and other print alternatives.

**HEARING EQUIPMENT** • Equipment for children who have hearing or listening impairment which includes personal amplifiers, amplified telephones, flashing light and other alert systems.

Oregon Technology Access Program  
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## What is the OREGON TECHNOLOGY ACCESS PROGRAM?

The Oregon Technology Access Program provides information, training and referral regarding the uses of technology for children with disabilities from birth to 21 years of age. The program is funded by the Oregon Department of Education.

### Goals of the program include:

- Provide direct training in the uses of technology for children with disabilities.
- Provide technical assistance to parents, teachers and related services staff.
- Maintain a system to loan adaptive equipment, special software and assistive devices.
- Collect and disseminate information about state, regional and national technology resources available to children with disabilities in Oregon.
- Link existing agencies, facilities, private companies and other resources to children, parents and school personnel who need help with assistive devices and educational technology.

## What Services can the OREGON TECHNOLOGY ACCESS PROGRAM Provide?

### TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The Oregon Technology Access Program looks at the training needs of those who work with children with disabilities in Oregon. Once a need is identified, workshops are presented in an appropriate locale. After participating in an OTAP workshop, participants may receive on-site technical assistance to help them solidify and apply their new technology skills.

### EQUIPMENT AND SOFTWARE LOANS

The Oregon Technology Access Program has a library of equipment and software which can be loaned to schools and families. The purpose of the library is to allow a short term trial period by a specific child for evaluation. The current loan catalog can be obtained from the OTAP office.

### REFERRAL

A wide range of services are available to children with disabilities and their families in Oregon. OTAP helps to link those services to the people who need them. The program provides a database of information which anyone can use. To obtain information on specific resource questions regarding children with disabilities, call **541-440-4791**.

### INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

OTAP has developed written manuals and brochures regarding the use of technology with children with disabilities. A list is available from the OTAP office. Write or call:

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Direct technical assistance may also be obtained by calling the OTAP office. The assistive technology specialist may be able to answer specific questions regarding equipment access, equipment use or funding sources.