Assistive Technology

Assistive technology (AT) is any kind of tool or piece of equipment that helps a person live more independently. AT also provide a way for people to participate more fully in life activities. AT can be high tech-- a computer operated by eye movement -- or low tech -- a specially designed door handle. It can be big -- an automated van lift for a wheelchair -- or small -- a Velcro-attached grip for a fork or a pen.

Examples of assistive technology are:

- ***Home equipment,*** **like a seat for using the bath or adapted eating utensils.**
- ***Educational and work aids*****, like book holders and adapted pencil grips.**
- ***Travel equipment*****, like a wheelchair or an adapted car seat.**
- ***Communication systems*** **for people who need help with seeing, hearing, and/or speaking.**
- ***Computer technology,*** **like programs that convert text or enlarge words on a screen.**
- ***Sports and recreation equipment*****, like bowling balls with handgrips and one-handed fishing reels.**

AT can help someone:

- **Travel**
- **Participate in recreational and social activities**
- **Study**
- **Work**
- **Communicate with others**

Assistive technology services

Your child could benefit from the use of assistive technology. Ask your child's primary care provider or school about getting a professional evaluation for assistive technology services.

Some types of AT may be covered by your child's health plan under the durable medical equipment (DME) benefit. Check with the benefits handbook or call a Member Services Representative at your child's plan to find out what types of AT are covered. If your child's AT is related to his or her education, the school may cover the cost.

Wyoming Assistive Technology Resources (WATR) **is Wyoming's Assistive Technology Act program and a resource for all assistive technology (AT) needs in Wyoming. Contact WATR for device demonstrations, assistive technology and augmentative alternative communication assessments, device loans, trainings, and information. WATR also has information specifically for parents about assistive technology.**

Wyoming Assistive Technology Resources (WATR)
Dept 4298, 1000 E University Ave.
Health Sciences Bldg. Room 151
Intersection of 9th and Clark Street, across from Turtle Rock Coffee & Cafe
Laramie, WY 82071
Phone: (307) 766-6187
Toll Free: 1-888-989-9463
E-mail: watr@uwyo.edu
Website: uwyo.edu/wind/watr