“Assistive technology (AT) supports can help children with disabilities to not only participate in play but to do so independently. As no two children are alike, the supports they need will be different and will change as they develop. Technology makes it easier for children to move, communicate and interact with materials—to play!

Participating in daily routines, such as eating, bathing and playing allows young children opportunities to learn about their environment. When a young child has a disability that affects the ability to see, listen, vocalize, grasp, or otherwise fully participate in daily routines and activities, early experiences are significantly compromised, which can impact overall growth and development. Modifying young children’s environments by using assistive technology (AT) allows them more ways to gain access typical developmental activities and increases opportunities for learning.

Initially, Assistive Technology: Roles in Early Childhood Learning will provide participants with a general overview of assistive technology and the legal definitions of AT devices and services. Throughout the rest of the class, evidence based practices about the use of AT for young children will be presented and applied through the use of a confidential case-study approach. Although this course targets early childhood educators in public programs, all those working in the early childhood field will benefit from the class.

Location: Online distance learning courses via the UW learning management platform Canvas. The course is asynchronous. Assignments can be done at any time during each week, but will require on average 2-3 hours of participation per week.

Instructor: Gayl Bowser, Wyoming Institute for Disabilities (WIND) and Barbara Locke, Wyoming Assistive Technology Resources (WATR)

Course dates: August 29 to December 16, 2016

Registration: www.uwyo.edu/wind/watr/training

Cost: $275 per attendee. Course materials will be provided electronically at no additional cost to participants.

Capacity: 25 participants

Continuing education: Course participants are eligible for 48 CEUs or 3 PTSB credits.

Questions: Please E-mail watr@uwyo.edu or call (307) 766-5003