Assistive Technology for Kansans: Helping people find technology solutions to enhance learning, participation and safety

Sara Sack, Program Director
11/06/10
Roadmap

- Overview of statewide Technology Act program
- Assistive technology categories
- Assistive technology solutions for safety, learning and participation
Assistive Technology for Kansans

- Lead agency is the KU Lifespan Institute at Parsons
  - Each state and territory has a Technology Act Program
  - All statewide AT programs provide four core services (device borrowing, device demonstration, device refurbish and reuse, financing activities) in addition to product information, public awareness, and training
- Statewide AT Expo, training workshops
- ATK Device Loan System
- Kansas has five AT Access Sites and one affiliate office
AT Access Sites & Affiliate

Western AT Access Site, NW Educational Service Center, Oakley
- SW Kansas sector, Center for Independent Living of SW Kansas, 800–295–4122

North Central AT Access Site, OCCK, Salina

South Central AT Access Site, SKIL, Wichita

Northeast AT Access Site, Independence Inc., Lawrence

SE AT Access Site, SKIL, Parsons

Management, Kansas University Center on Disabilities – Parsons

800–KAN DO IT
800–526–3648
ATK’s Partnerships include:

- ATK Advisory Council composed of a simple majority of consumers, family members along with State Agency representatives
  - Seeking individuals who use AT and/or family members from NE, SC and NC Kansas regions
- Kansas Health Policy Authority
- Kansas Infant Toddler Services
- Kansas Rehabilitation Services
- Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities
- Kansas AgrAbility (K-State)
Wide range of AT Solutions to Meet Individual Needs . . .

- **Vision**
  - Screen reader software
  - True color, full spectrum lighting
  - Portable and handheld magnification devices
  - Talking and LCD display watches, health devices, thermometers

- **Hearing**
  - Assistive listening and FM devices
  - Portable, digital devices with text support (CAP phones, cell phones, Ubi Duo)
  - Alarm clocks with light signals
More AT Solutions . . .

- **Speech communication**
  - Non-electronic line drawing, photo and object systems
  - Electronic systems with preprogrammed messages, limited ability to send novel messages
  - Electronic systems with robust language systems and capacity to generate novel messages

- **Learning, cognition and developmental**
  - Reading and writing software
  - Organizational software
  - Personal digital assistants (PDAs)
  - Wayfinding (GPS)
More AT Solutions . . .

- Mobility, seating, and positioning
  - Full range of loan and reuse devices

- Daily living
  - Memory aids and medication reminders
  - Devices for personal care and grooming
  - Money recognition devices, budgeting aids

- Environmental adaptations
  - TA regarding environmental rearrangement
  - Environmental control units
And still more AT Solutions . . .

- Computers and related
  - Ergonomic peripherals
  - Text to speech software

- Recreation, sports and leisure
  - Adapted switches and toys
  - Swim vests and therapeutic swim rafts
  - Adapted tricycles
Personal Safety Alarm – Children

- Solutions for outings with children who wander or dash off
  - Child Locator & Child Locator Alert
    - [www.mypreciouskid.com/child-locator.html](http://www.mypreciouskid.com/child-locator.html)
  - Non-audible solutions: Lost & Found Child Tatoos, Kid Dog Tags, Velcro ID Bracelets
    - [www.mypreciouskid.com/child-locator.html](http://www.mypreciouskid.com/child-locator.html)
Small GPS units

- **Spark Nano**
  - $299.95 (does not include service plan)
  - Extremely rugged, extremely sensitive GPS tracker

- **Amber Alert GPS**
  - [https://www.amberalertgps.com/](https://www.amberalertgps.com/)
  - $379.00 (works with cellphone with mapping or GPS capabilities)
  - Safe zone, SOS button, speed alert, temperature alert, bread crumbing, destination alert, voice monitoring

Personal Safety & Wayfinding Solutions
Personal Safety Alarms

- Electronic warning devices for the home
  - Talking Motion Detective – monitors up to 6 areas and provides warning to caregiver as well as a message to the individual
    - $152.95
  - Floor mat with wireless remote alarm – sets off remote alert so caregiver is aware the individual got out of bed
    - $274.95
In–home Safety Solutions

- Devices that prohibit access to cupboard contents or rooms/spaces that are off limits
  - Confounding door lock – no key required, rotate and pull door–jamb blocker on in–swinging door
    - $27.95
  - Invisible cabinet lock – lock mounts inside the door, magnetic “key” placed on outside of door to release the lock
    - $17.95
General Safety Solutions

- **Automatic faucet control**
  - Allows you to set the water temperature and the user touches the wand to activate the water. The water turns off when pressure on the wand is released.
  - $14.95 (major hardware and lumber supply stores)

- **Automatic water shut-off**
  - Prevents overflow of water if faucet not turned off
  - $9.95 (major hardware and lumber supply stores)
Communication Solutions

- **Telephone Access**
  - Photo Touch N Dial – preprogram up to 24 individuals or contacts (friends, emergency, medical), plugs into existing telephone
    - $79.95
  - Possible funding option, Kansas TAP
    - http://www.kansastap.org/
  - Memo Minder – holds 20 – 30 seconds of a preprogrammed message for emergency
    - Approximately $5 – $10.00
Emergent Communication

- Tangible Symbols – part, miniatures, abstract symbols used for basic communication messages
  - [http://www.ohsu.edu/oidd/d2l/ts/tsmat.html](http://www.ohsu.edu/oidd/d2l/ts/tsmat.html)
  - $44.00 (manual); $31.00 (video)

- PECS – picture exchange communication system designed to move the child on to other communication supports
  - $142.00 for the starter kit
Logan ProxTalker – moveable picture communication system with speech output
  - http://www.proxtalker.com/
  - $2,395

Sequencing Devices – provides communication messages for activities with nonfamiliar partners
  - http://www.ablenetinc.com/
  - Step by Step Communicator
  - $160.00
Communication Solutions

- ChatPC and Palmtop3 – preprogrammed symbols with quality voice output that can be chained for conversations. Allows user to type messages.

- Text to Speech devices – allow user to type messages that are spoken. Word prediction is a common feature.
  - K2000
  - Allora
  - Dynawrite
  - Light Writer
Communication Solutions

- Tango
  - Device with preprogrammed symbols sorted by times of day, common settings. Voices and vocabulary are tailored by gender, age and mobility. Allows user to generate novel messages, imports pictures for new vocabulary.

- Proloquo2Go
  - Software downloaded to an iTouch or iPhone that provides 7,000 preprogrammed messages that can be combined for voice output. Allows novel messages to be typed. Photos can be uploaded.
Contact us . . .

- AT Access Sites – 800–526–3648
- ATK Device Loan System – 785–827–9383
  - Online inventory coming soon!
- ATK KU staff – 620–421–8367
  - If you have suggestions about inventory
  - If you would like to be more involved with the program
  - If you have equipment or money to donate
Questions, Comments . . .

- Sara Sack, ATK & KEE Director
  - ssack@ku.edu
  - 620–421–8367