

Assistive Technology Selection Process Worksheet

Remember that technology itself is not the goal; the individual's participation in their chosen activity is the goal. Following a guide of what to consider when thinking about assistive technology will help you stay focused on objectives. Remember to try assistive technology in your environment before you buy whenever possible.

Define the task to be accomplished

- What task are you having difficulty accomplishing? _____
- Why are you having difficulty accomplishing that task? _____
- Where do you perform those tasks? _____
- How often do you perform the task? _____

Consider environmental supports & constraints

- If you have to set up your device, are you able to do that independently? **Yes No**
- Who will help you in different environments with the device? _____
- Will the device fit into your physical environment? **Yes No**
- Can adjustments be made
 - To your environments
 - To the device
- Are you able to get training to safely use the assistive technology? **Yes No**

Focus on user preferences

- What did you like/dislike about devices you tried? What would have made it better? _____

- Will using technology make you feel different or uncomfortable? Why and what would change that feeling? _____

- Consider range of options
 - No-tech (for example: utensil holders, lap desks, homemade options)
 - Light-tech (for example: keyboards, adapted phones, 5 level communicators)
 - High-tech (for example: software systems, multi-level communicators)



Technology for Independence

Phone: (800) 214-8731

TTY: (866) 866-0162

FAX: (206) 543-4779

Web: watap.org

Email: watap@uw.edu

Consider changes over time

- To your disability:
 - It is stable
 - It will progress over time
 - Recovering from an injury
- To the technology
 - Are anticipated updates to the technology? **Yes No**
 - How far out? Is it worth waiting? _____

Seek help in making decisions

- Who's part of your team?
 - Family
 - Teachers
 - Product vendors
 - AT professionals

Try devices for yourself

- Where can you get a demonstration or borrow a device before buying?
 - State AT Act Program (WATAP)
 - rehab provider
 - product vendor
 - school
 - Other: _____

Consider cost of the device and services

- Do you have a way to pay for this type of technology? **Yes No**
- Have you developed a funding strategy? **Yes No**
- What options are there for obtaining the technology you need?
 - Make it yourself
 - Insurance
 - Out of pocket
 - reuse organizations (Evergreen Reuse Coalition)
 - alternative financing loans (Washington Access Fund)
- Have you planned for
 - Updates
 - Repairs
 - Replacement
 - Training



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