Assistive Technology (AT) for Infants and Toddlers Overview
Course/Learning Objectives

In this course, the participants will be able to:
1. Define AT devices and services and identify the ten categories of AT
2. Explain the partnership between SoonerStart and Oklahoma ABLE Tech
3. Identify funding resources
4. Document AT in the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)
5. Explain AT for transition
Topic 1: Assistive Technology (AT) Devices and Services
Defining AT Devices

• AT can be defined as a device or service that allows a child to do something that they would not otherwise be able to do.

• An AT device is any item, piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially off the shelf, modified, or customized that is used to increase the functional capabilities of an infant or toddler with a disability.
Defining AT Services

AT services directly assist infants or toddlers with a disability in the selection, acquisition, or use of an AT device.

The most common AT services are:

• Evaluations to determine AT needs
• Borrowing, purchasing, or leasing of AT devices
• Training or technical assistance for professionals
• Training or technical support to the infant toddler, and caregiver
AT Device Levels of Technology

There are three levels of AT:

- **Low-Tech AT** - Most used because it has minimal to no complex components including electronics. Typically, low-tech AT found within the environment for little to no cost.

- **Mid-Tech AT** - Requires some training due to possible electronic components and is affordable.

- **High-Tech AT** – Customized to the individual, usually costly due to electronic components, and requires practice and training.
AT Category Overview

Oklahoma ABLE has an extensive inventory of low-tech to high-tech AT in all categories - although many devices could belong to more than one group.

ABLE Tech provides information on the AT categories in the “AT Discovery” section of its website. Content includes specific AT inventory items, funding options, case studies, and documentation for each category. Find the information at: https://www.okabletech.org/at-discovery/.
# AT Categories

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assistive Technology Category</th>
<th>Examples of AT</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Computer Access</td>
<td>Adaptive keyboard/mouse</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Daily Living</td>
<td>Adaptive feeding tools and bath aids</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Environmental Adaptations</td>
<td>Switches, Bluetooth devices, book talkers</td>
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<td>4. Hearing</td>
<td>Assistive listening devices</td>
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<td>5. Learning/Cognition/Development</td>
<td>Aids for early reading, writing, and math</td>
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<td>6. Mobility/Seating/Positioning</td>
<td>Aids for trunk and seating support including items to aid mobility</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Recreation/Sports/Leisure</td>
<td>Interactive toys, adapted balls, and sensory aids</td>
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<td>8. Speech/Communication</td>
<td>Communication boards, speech-generating devices</td>
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<tr>
<td>9. Vehicle Modification/Transportation</td>
<td>Modified vehicles including specialized car seats</td>
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<tr>
<td>10. Vision</td>
<td>Magnifiers, devices with audio features, braille</td>
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Check for Understanding of AT Devices and Services

Answer the following questions to demonstrate understanding of AT devices and services

Q1. Which of the following best defines AT?

A. Speech generating devices for communication
B. Any device or service that allows an infant/toddler to complete a task they might not otherwise be able to perform
C. Commercially available items used to help with a variety of activities
D. Application of knowledge or equipment for practical purposes
Check for Understanding of AT Devices and Services, Continued 1

Q2. Which of the following is an example of an AT device?

A. iPad with an alphabet app
B. Evaluation for AT needs of an infant/toddler
C. A consultation with an AT professional for fine motor needs of an infant/toddler
D. The Oklahoma AT Technical Assistance document
Check for Understanding of AT Devices and Services, Continued 2

Q3. Which of the following is NOT an AT service?

A. Training or technical assistance for an infant or toddler with a disability
B. Purchasing / leasing AT
C. Training or technical assistance for a professional
D. An adapted or modified bath chair

Q4. (T/F) AT devices can be identified as belonging to more than one AT category.
Q5. (T/F) A pediatric walker, vibrating swing, Make ‘n Take Boppy, and beanbag could all be designated in the seating/positioning and mobility category of AT.

Q6. (T/F) A magnifier would be best categorized as environmental adaptations.

Q7. Which of the following is NOT a category of AT?

A. Learning/Cognition/Development
B. Community
C. Daily Living
D. Speech/Communication
**Topic 2:** Partnership Between SoonerStart and Oklahoma ABLE Tech
Partnership Overview

SoonerStart and ABLE Tech partner to provide AT to children ages birth to three. ABLE Tech provides SoonerStart teams with 28 AT assessment kits statewide. These kits are used with families to increase awareness of AT, access to devices, and acquisition of devices that benefit children in the SoonerStart Program.

The AT assessment kit list is located at: https://www.okabletech.org/community/soonerstart-collaboration/soonerstart-at-assessment-kit
Partnership Overview Continued

The AT is in the following categories:

- Daily Living
- Environmental Adaptations
- Hearing
- Learning, Cognition, and Development
- Recreational, Sports, and Leisure
- Seating, Positioning, and Mobility
- Speech Communication
- Vision
# Responsibilities

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Responsibilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH)</strong></td>
<td>- Provides AT demonstrations to children and report to ABT&lt;br&gt;- Takes pictures, writes and submits success stories to ABT&lt;br&gt;- Checks inventory annually and report broken/lost/stolen AT to ABT&lt;br&gt;- Provides current staff contact information quarterly to ABT&lt;br&gt;- Meets quarterly to discuss partnership</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE)</strong></td>
<td>- Provides AT to teams as requested&lt;br&gt;- Meets quarterly to discuss partnership</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Oklahoma ABLE Tech (ABT)</strong></td>
<td>- Tracks and monitors base kit of barcoded AT and purchases recognition AT and innovative AT (quarterly/annually)&lt;br&gt;- Provides inventory checklists annually to OSDH&lt;br&gt;- Supplies OSDH with demonstration report and success story forms&lt;br&gt;- Weekly/Monthly communications&lt;br&gt;- Provides consultation, information and assistance, and training services&lt;br&gt;- Creates quarterly/annual reports and publications using demonstration data and success stories&lt;br&gt;- Provides short-term loans for OSDH and families to trial AT&lt;br&gt;- Meets quarterly to discuss partnership&lt;br&gt;- Purchases broken/lost/stolen AT for base kit inventory</td>
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AT Demonstration

• A device demonstration is the first time a specific piece of AT (or a group of like devices from the same AT category) is shown to a child and their family.
• The demonstration should compare and contrast features and benefits of the device(s).
• The purpose is to enable a family to make an informed choice about using AT in the child’s environment(s).
Demonstration Data Collection

Includes:

- Date of demonstration of AT
- County
- Provider discipline
- AT category
- Parent/guardian satisfaction
- Is due by the fifth of each month
Three Reporting Form Options for Demonstration Submission

  Mail to ABLE Tech, 1514 W Hall of Fame, Stillwater, OK 74078
  Fax to 405-744-2487

OSDE AT Online Reporting Tool:
  Please inquire for details

ONLINE - SoonerStart AT Assessment Kit Demo Form at: https://okabletech.formstack.com/forms/soonerstart_assessments_and_at
Success Story

A success story provides information about the child’s successful use of AT. A success story includes a short story of 500 words or less, a picture depicting a child's use of AT, and a photo release.

OSDH staff will request participation from families to submit AT success stories to ABT annually. Success stories are voluntary on the part of the family.

Success Story Form located at: https://okabletech.formstack.com/forms/soonerstart_success_story_photo_release_consent_form
SoonerStart Success Story Example

Ella, a two-year-old outgoing precious girl, received a small Nimbo walker through the collaboration between Creek County SoonerStart and ABLE Tech’s Pediatric Walker Project.

In her first few years of life, Ella underwent three open-heart surgeries, as well as multiple heart procedures. Ella has limitations in strength, endurance, and ability to walk independently. Ella enjoys being outside. Ella demonstrated a desire to be functionally mobile when outdoors. The Nimbo pediatric walker was the perfect assistive technology (AT) device to facilitate Ella’s desire to be more independent in her mobility.
Quarterly/Annual Recognition AT Criteria

ABLE Tech provides quarterly opportunities for additional AT worth $500 to the SoonerStart team meeting the following requirements:

- Shows increased efforts in the submission of AT demonstrations in consecutive quarters
- Has two or more disciplines submit demonstrations each quarter
- Submits a success story with photo release form and a picture depicting a child utilizing the AT
- Satisfaction rate at a minimum of 80%
- Decision outcome rate at a minimum of 85%
Quarterly/Annual Recognition AT Criteria, Continued

- ABLE Tech provides one annual opportunity for additional AT worth $800 to the SoonerStart team that consistently shows quality performance throughout all four quarters (point system used).
Check for Understanding of the Partnership Between SoonerStart and Oklahoma ABLE Tech

Answer the following questions to demonstrate understanding of the partnership between SoonerStart and ABLE Tech.

Q8. Who is responsible for the AT kits?
   A. ABLE Tech
   B. OSDE
   C. OSDH

Q9. (T/F) An annual inventory check is due to ABLE Tech on the condition of all barcoded AT in the kits.
Check for Understanding of the Partnership Between SoonerStart and Oklahoma ABLE Tech, Continued

Q10. (T/F) The purpose of the device demonstration is to enable a family to make an informed choice about using AT in the child’s environment(s).

Q11. A device demonstration compares the _______and _______of a particular AT device or category of devices.
   A. data and participants
   B. features and benefits

Q12. (T/F) A family is required to submit a success story.
Q13. How many AT Reporting Forms are there?

A. 1
B. 2
C. 3
D. 4
Topic 3: AT Funding
AT Funding

• The funding source that may be used to purchase AT for a child depends on the type of AT service(s) or device(s) needed.
• The IFSP team will identify all possible resources to fund the recommended AT.
• Oklahoma ABLE Tech has compiled a list of public and private funding sources with criteria regarding age, disability, and income. View the Oklahoma Funding Guide at: https://www.okabletech.org/resources/at-funding-guide/.
Long-Term Loans of AT and Durable Medical Equipment (DME)

• ABLE Tech and OSDE collaborate to provide free, long-term loans of specific pediatric AT and DME.
• Examples of items include:
  • Wheelchairs
  • Walkers
  • Standers
  • Ankle Foot Orthoses (AFOs)

❖ PLEASE NOTE: All items available have been donated. When items are retrieved, they are refurbished/repaired, and are reassigned to match individualized children’s needs.
SoonerStart Funding Alternative

• If the SoonerStart team is unable to locate funding through other resources, SoonerStart is the payor of last resort.

• The SoonerStart team must submit the following form: Assistive Technology: Request for Use of SoonerStart Fund. This can be found in the Appendices of the SoonerStart Operational Manual.

• Equipment funded through SoonerStart remains the property of SoonerStart unless arrangements are made for the purchase/sale of the AT to transfer the device ownership.
Check for Understanding of AT Funding

Answer the following questions to demonstrate understanding of AT funding.

Q14. (T/F) If an AT device is recommended at the end of an AT assessment by the IFSP team, the SoonerStart Program must pay for the device if no other funding resources are available.

Q15. Which of the following is NOT a criteria used to help locate a funding source:
   A. Age
   B. Gender
   C. Disability
   D. Income
Check for Understanding of AT Funding, Continued

Q16. (T/F) Oklahoma ABLE Tech has compiled a list of public and private funding sources with criteria regarding age, disability, and income.

Q17. (T/F) Equipment funded through SoonerStart must remain the property of SoonerStart.

Q18. (T/F) ABLE Tech offers free, long-term loans of donated AT and DME to children.
Topic 4: Documentation of AT in the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)
Documentation of AT in the IFSP

- Written documentation of AT devices and services is critical in the IFSP as sometimes it is the only information following the child from one place to another.
- Early intervention services (including AT) should be documented on the IFSP service delivery pages.
- If the parent/guardian has a concern regarding AT specifically, it can be listed in the “Family Assessment” section.
Documentation of AT in the IFSP, Continued

Examples of documentation:

• We are concerned that Millie needs larger print and pictures in books so she can read along.

• Clint benefited from a six-week loan of a switch and adapted toy from Oklahoma ABLE Tech.

➢ Note: If a child is using AT, present or past, written documentation is critical.
We are concerned that Millie needs larger print and pictures in books so she can read along.
Present Level of Development
Documentation of AT in the IFSP

The “Present Level of Development” section records information provided by the family and/or observed by SoonerStart team members regarding the child’s adaptive, personal/social, communication, motor/physical, and cognitive behaviors.

If a child is currently using AT, this should be documented in the appropriate section.

Example of documentation:
• Stacy uses a bath chair for bathing.
• Drake uses a rolled-up towel behind the neck to provide head support.
Stacey uses a bath chair for bathing.
Child Outcome Documentation of AT in the IFSP

The "Outcome" section of the IFSP documents the desired outcomes the family has identified in order of priority. AT may be included in the "Outcome" goal. This information provides unfamiliar professionals information regarding AT the child is using to meet IFSP goals.

Documentation Example:
• Outcome: Bailey will play outside with her brother using the Permobil Mini Explorer.
Child Outcome Documentation Example

Child Personal Information

- Student Name: Lori Testy
- Date of Birth: 01/01/2021
- Age: 0 Years 5 Months (5 Months)
- Gender: F

Outcomes

- Date: 05/20/2021
- Concern: Walking
- Type: Child
- Person Responsible: Provider Parent
- Outcome Statement: Lori will walk with mom during a grocery store visit independently for at least 10 steps.
- Measures: Provider Progress Notes, Parent Report, Service Coordinator Contact with Family

SAVE
Summary of Progress Documentation of AT in the IFSP

At the IFSP review, any progress made using AT needs to be written in the “Summary of Progress” section.

Documentation Example:
• Carter has learned to use a Jelly Bean Switch to turn on a Spinning Light Show toy. He is currently learning to use the 7-Level Communication Builder to communicate: more, go, yay, and no.
Carter has learned to use a Jelly Bean Switch to turn on a Spinning Light Show toy. He is currently learning to use the 7-Level Communication Builder to communicate: more, go, yay, and no.
Services and Environments Documentation of AT in the IFSP

• Written documentation of recommended services is in the “Services and Environments” section.
• Recording AT services in this section holds team members accountable.
• IFSP documentation communicates AT services provided to the child, who is providing the service, and when the service occurred.
Services and Environments Documentation Example
Check for Understanding Documentation of AT in the IFSP

Answer the following questions to demonstrate understanding of documentation in the IFSP

Q19. (T/F) Documentation of AT is insignificant to be written in the IFSP.

Q20. If the ______/_______ has a concern regarding AT specifically, it will be listed in the family assessment section.
   A. teacher/para
   B. principal/counselor
   C. family/guardian
Check for Understanding Documentation of AT in the IFSP, Continued

Q21. Early intervention services provided (including AT) should be documented on the IFSP ________ pages.
   A. Outcomes
   B. Present Level of Development
   C. Service Delivery
   D. Summary of Progress

Q22. (T/F) The “Present Level of Development” section records information obtained from the family about recreation and leisure.
Q23. (T/F) The “Outcome” section of the IFSP documents the desired outcomes that the IFSP team has identified in order of priority.

Q24. At the IFSP review, any progress made using AT needs to be written in the _________ section.
   A. Summary of Progress
   B. Outcomes
   C. Present Level of Development
Q25. Recording AT services in the _____________ section holds team members accountable.

A. Outcomes
B. Services and Environments
Topic 5: AT For Transition
AT For Transition

A child transitioning into the school system with an IFSP would have previously had considerations of AT needs as required for him/her to benefit in their environment to achieve IFSP outcomes.

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) explains that 90 days before the child turns three, the team members working with the child and his/her family are required to meet with the Local Education Agency (LEA) to discuss the upcoming transition.
AT For Transition Conference

• 34 CFR 303.209
  a. Conference to discuss services. The State lead agency must ensure that—
    1) If a toddler with a disability may be eligible for preschool services under Part B of the Act, the lead agency, with the approval of the family of the toddler, convenes a conference, among the lead agency, the family, and the LEA not fewer than 90 days— and, at the discretion of all parties, not more than 9 months—before the toddler’s third birthday to discuss any services the toddler may receive under Part B of the Act.
During the transition conference, the family and IFSP team shares information with the LEA about services that the child has received while in SoonerStart including AT services and devices. The LEA may discuss what devices and services could benefit the child as he/she transitions to a new environment where activities and routines are different. Additional consideration of AT will be discussed at the IEP meeting after eligibility for Part B services has been determined.

At that time, AT needing to transition with the child requires the Purchase/Sale or Statement Declining the Sale of AT Devices form be signed.
Transition “Steps and Services” is the section of the IFSP that includes information for a child who is transitioning from SoonerStart services. If AT was used with the child or is currently being used, it may be documented under “Steps and Activities” to prepare the family and child for the new setting.

Documentation Examples:
• Ben has successfully been using a PECS (Picture Exchange Communication System) book to communicate with his family and caregivers.
• The LEA has been notified that Paula uses Social Stories® when transitioning from one activity to another.
Documentation of Transition Steps and Services Example

Referral to LEA (Part B Services)

- Screen/Start records transmitted to LEA with parental consent
  mm/dd/yyyy
- Coordinated and Facilitated Transition Planning Conference (TPC) with LEA
  mm/dd/yyyy  10/05/2021

Steps and activities to prepare the family and child for the new setting
Check for Understanding of AT for Transition

Answer the following questions to demonstrate understanding of AT for Transition.

Q26. ____ days before the child turns three, the team members working with the child and his/her family are required to meet with the LEA to discuss the upcoming transition.

A. 20
B. 90
C. 7
Q27. (T/F) OSDH provides an agreement form for school districts, public agencies, or parents to transfer AT either through sale or transfer.

Q28. If AT was used with the child or is currently being used, it should be documented under _______________ section to prepare the family and child for the new setting.
   A. “Services and Environments”
   B. “Child Outcome”
   C. “Steps and Services”
Course Wrap-Up
Course Summary

This course provided:

1. The definition and categories of AT devices and services specifically related to infants and toddlers.
2. An overview of SoonerStart and ABLE Tech’s partnership and data collection.
3. Appropriate Oklahoma funding options with an explanation of criteria for funding.
4. Review of AT documentation in multiple sections of the IFSP.
5. Details regarding the transition of a child from SoonerStart into a new environment.
Oklahoma ABLE Tech

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