DakotaLink
Assistive Technology Program for the State of South Dakota

Virtual Transition Summer Institute 2020

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BHSSC

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DakotaLink Grant Program

DakotaLink is a program of the South Dakota Department of Human Services, Division of Rehabilitation Services administered by Black Hills Special Services Cooperative and funded in part through a grant from the United States Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living under Public Law 108-364, referred to as the Assistive Technology Act of 2004 or the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, as amended.

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DakotaLink
Mission and Goals

- Our mission is to assist individuals with functional limitations; due to a disability, illness, injury, or the effects of aging; maximize their potential whether at home or in the community, at school, at work, or at play through the use of Assistive Technology.

- Improving access - defined as information, knowledge, awareness and understanding

- Improving acquisition - defined as obtaining assistive technology devices and services

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Assistive Technology

An assistive technology device is any item, piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially off the shelf, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities.

Assistive technology service any service that directly assists a an individual in the selection, acquisition, or use of an assistive technology device. This term includes evaluation, purchasing, leasing, selecting, designing, customizing, coordinating with other services, training to the individual and training to a others working with that individual.

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Universal Design

The intent of universal design (UD) is to simplify life for everyone by making products, communications, and the built environment more usable by as many people as possible at little or no extra cost.

AT and UD both rely on technology to enhance access to facilities, communication, the environment and learning. The main difference is that AT is designed to help individuals compensate for barriers regardless of whether or not UD is present. Universal Design does not negate the need for Assistive Technology for some individuals.

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Examples of Universal Design

•Accessible buildings and environments
•Lever handles and Light switches with large flat panels
•Controls on equipment that can be distinguished by touch or large print
•Information and curriculum the is available electronically visual and auditory output
•Use of meaningful icons with text labels
•Closed captioning on television and other videos
•Web pages that provide alternative text to describe images
•Speaker independent voice control of equipment
•Computers, tablets and portable devices with built in accessibility features (Touch Windows)(Apps)

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DakotaLink Grant Activities

· Support and encourage financing efforts

· Support and encourage re-utilization efforts

· Provide short term loans of Assistive Technology devices

· Provide demonstrations

· Provide training and technical assistance

· Conduct public awareness activities

· Support coordination activities between entities

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DakotaLink Fee for Service

- Established in 1995
- Provide assessment, sales, installation and training
- Seven technicians are available to provide assistive technology devices and services to individuals with disabilities of all ages
- From start to finish, a one stop, turn key solution
- Offices in Rapid City, Sioux Falls, Brookings and Aberdeen

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Assessment Referral Process with Vocational Rehabilitation

- Established in 1998. One of the first electronic referral programs in the country.
- A Referral is sent from the State consumer management system (VR Faces) to DLSupport@dakotalink.net.
- A Technician is then assigned the assessment and it needs to be completed in 21 days.
- Technician meets with the consumer and gathers recommendations. A report is sent to the Counselor.

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Services Referral Process with Vocational Rehabilitation

- Counselor reviews Assessment and meets with consumer to put together the Individual Plan for Employment (IPE).
- An Authorization is sent to DLSupport@dakotalink.net.
- A Technician is assigned and the equipment is ordered.
- Technician delivers the equipment and provides training.
- After training is complete a report is sent to the Counselor.

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AT for Reading

- Eyeglasses, Highlighting, Colored overlays
- Large Print Books, Hand Held Magnifiers
- High definition desktop and portable electronic magnification systems with and without text to speech.
- Text to speech software: Converts any scanned text to speech on the computer and provides additional supports such as talking dictionary, study skills and test taking. Portable devices and Apps that convert text to speech
- Tape recorded or talking books, Talking Dictionary
- Screen Reading software: Reads any information on the computer, Braille Translation, Refreshable Braille

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Reading

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AT for Writing

- Adaptive grip or writing utensil, special paper, writing guides
- Slanted, larger, or no-slip writing surface
- Computer or portable device with or without adaptive mouse, keyboard or switch
- Word prediction, abbreviation expansion
- Dictionary and thesaurus (print or electronic, may be talking)
- Speech to text software: Controls computer by voice commands and allows for large amounts of dictating text by voice. Speaker dependent systems requires prior training to use the computer or device.
- Speaker independent systems requires no training and is growing in uses from telephone systems to portable devices.

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Writing

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Writing

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AT for Math

- Talking calculator, talking ruler, talking thermometer talking weight measuring devices

- Inexpensive or free software programs or Apps on portable devices for the development of skills or for remediation of skills.

- Software programs that read math formulas and software programs that produce powerful calculations by voice are improving in accuracy and ease of use.

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Math
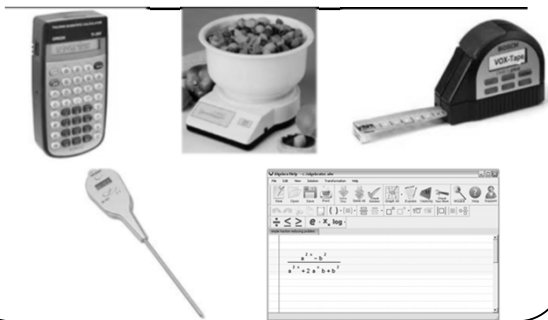
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AT for Speech

- Speech amplifier, speech clarifier
- Communication board/book
- Text display or print output electronic notetaker
- Dedicated augmentative communication devices
- Inexpensive Apps on portable devices for the production of speech. Prior to the advancement in portable electronic devices individuals were paying $4,000 to $8,000 dollars for communication devices. Now with portable devices that cost $400 to $500 dollars you can add a equally sophisticated communication program that produces in many cases the same outcome as those more expensive devices.

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Speech

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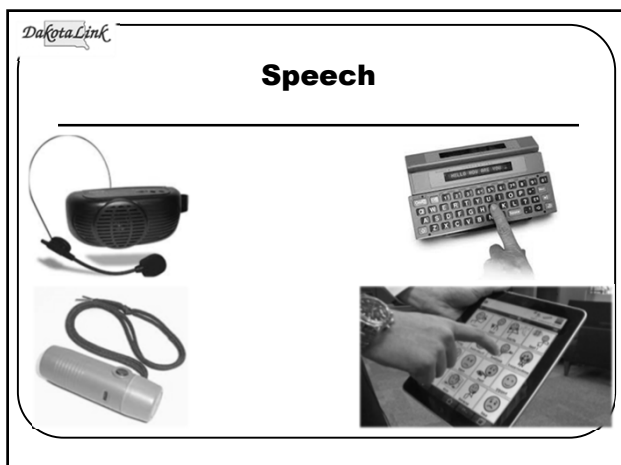
AT for Hearing

- Hearing aids, cochlear implants, assistive listening systems

- Captioning of video and TV, computer assisted real-time captioning (CART), Computer assisted notetaking (CAN)

- Specialized Telephones, (Amplification, VCO, Captel etc.) Video Conferencing and Video Relay

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Hearing

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AT for Memory and Organization

- Picture or picture schedule, visual organizers, electronic managers or organizers
- Critical thinking software
- Software to support organization, software templates
- Inexpensive or free software programs and Apps on portable devices for the daily reminders of appointments, schedules and assignments. These this type of technology is also available for computers.
- Inexpensive Apps on portable devices to can assist those with significant memory issues through routine or complex tasks

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Memory and Organization

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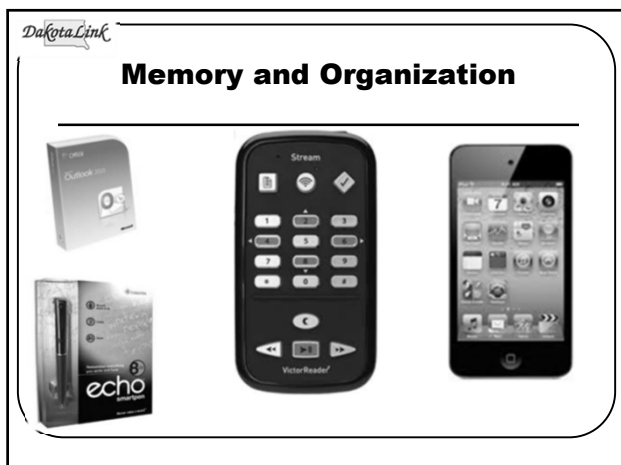
AT for Orientation, Mobility or Ambulation

- Universally designed buildings and accessible workspaces

- Auditory location signaler systems

- Grab bars, lever handles

- Distance Learning and Meeting

- Canes, walkers, wheelchairs, Mind controlled prosthetics

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Orientation, Mobility or Ambulation

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AT for Enviromental Control

- Simple tasks – turning lights or appliances on or off, controlling thermostat
- Complex tasks:
  - Electric door openers
  - Television, PC, or other device remote control
  - Remote monitoring of lights, temperature, and other appliances when you're not home
  - Telephone control

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AT for Enviromental Control

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Rapid City Office

Technicians: Brett Burden & Patrick Czerny
1161 Deadwood Ave Suite 5
Rapid City, SD 57702-0382
1-605-394-6742
1-800-645-0673
atinfo@dakotalink.net
Like us on FaceBook
 https://www.facebook.com/DakotaLinkAT/

Storefront operation. Walk in are welcome.

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Sioux Falls Office

Technicians: Vacant
Josh Popelka
Page Hudson - Grant Program Manager
2900 West 11th Street Suite 101
Sioux Falls, SD 57104-2594
1-605-334-9099
1-800-645-0673

Located at Rehabilitation Center for the Blind

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Brookings Office

Technician: James Honomichl
1310 Main Ave South Suite 114
Brookings, SD 57006-3894
1-605-690-5348
1-800-645-0673

Located next to Rehabilitation Services

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Aberdeen Office

Technician: Mark Cook
2201 6th Ave South East Suite 17B
Aberdeen, SD 57401
1-605-380-9790
1-800-645-0673

Located in Super City Mall

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Questions

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DakotaLink
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Thank You!

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