

# STAR CENTER

## Assistive Technology

Our mission is to help any person with any disability realize their potential.



Founded  
in 1988



120 highly qualified  
staff members



4,000 clients  
each year

STATEWIDE



## PHYSICAL MODIFICATIONS

- o **Grabber** – Have you ever seen people picking up trash on the side of the road with a grabber? This little tool can provide life-changing reach abilities in the home or workplace.
- o **Head mouse** – When an individual experiences paralysis and loses their ability to use a traditional mouse, a head mouse unlocks their ability to continue using a computer.
- o **Ergonomics** – Often, the repetitive nature of many jobs makes it more difficult for those with physical disabilities. Simple solutions, such as arm rests or a condensed keyboard, can provide ease of access and improved productivity.

## What is Assistive Technology (AT)?

Assistive Technology comes in many shapes and sizes, but in every scenario, its primary purpose is to improve the quality of the life for the person using it.

It could be:

- o **Magnifier** – Enables someone with macular degeneration to read again.
- o **iPhone** – Allows a person with paralysis to text and email.
- o **Walker** – Prevents falls and gives the person and their family peace of mind.

## VISION LOSS

- o **Magnifier** – Imagine having a love of reading, only to begin losing your vision. Through use of a magnifier, quality of life can be increased and independence maintained.
- o **Computer access** – In today's work environment, the use of a computer is often required. Through the use of Assistive Technology, employment opportunities exist, regardless of a person's ability to see.
- o **Daily Living** – Something as simple as a bump dot can give a person with vision loss the confidence to cook and wash clothes.



## WORKPLACE ACCOMMODATIONS

- o **Getting a job** – Many people will not apply for jobs, because they believe they cannot accomplish the things in the job description. This is often not true with the right tools.
- o **Keeping a job** – For one person, migraines after lunch just became the norm. By replacing the computer monitor with a larger screen and color contrast, the headaches went away.
- o **Workplace assessment** – Many employers are simply not aware of what could be done, but they certainly would not want to lose a great employee. This could be prevented with a simple worksite assessment.

## COMMUNICATION SUPPORTS

- o **Device** – Before young children learn to talk, frustration is very high. This same frustration is present for anyone who cannot communicate their wants/needs, no matter their age. An augmentative or alternative communication device can help meet that need.
- o **Speech-to-text** – For those who are unable to type, this option is great for use at home, school, or the workplace.
- o **Low tech communication boards** – Depending on the situation, low tech picture or word boards can provide additional communication options for a much lower cost.

## LEARNING ADAPTATIONS

- o **Dyslexia** – Though there is no cure, Assistive Technology allows strategies to learn how to succeed. Text-to-speech for auditory output on an iPad can allow a student to thrive.
- o **ADD** – With the help of a smart pen, a recent student not only went to college, but is now a licensed Physical Therapy Assistant.
- o **Intellectual Disabilities** – Many solutions are available to help students realize their potential.

For over 33 years, The STAR Center has been dedicated to making Tennessee a place where people with disabilities can make their dreams a reality. The mission of The STAR Center is to help any person with any disability to realize their potential. They provide services for education, employment, and quality of life for all ages and needs.



For more information,  
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