



UNITED CEREBRAL PALSY OF IDAHO

WHAT IS ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY?

DEFINITION

Assistive technology (AT) generally includes any item that is designed or modified to improve the capabilities of people with disabilities. AT can be simple, like Velcro and pill reminders, or it can be complex, like powered mobility devices and electronic communication systems.

In legislative documents, an AT device is described as “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.” AT services are defined as “any service that directly assists an individual with a disability to select, acquire, and use assistive technology.”

CATEGORIES

Typically, AT is placed in five categories based on the functional areas of a persons life listed below:

- **Mobility** Assists people with disabilities in moving from place to place
- **Communication** Helps people with disabilities to communicate
- **Learning** Advances the cognitive development of people with disabilities
- **Self-Help** Assists people with disabilities in feeding and caring for themselves
- **Vocational** Aids people with disabilities to perform a job