

Assistive Technology Evaluations

Tom, a preschooler, has an AT evaluation team that includes his parents, a teacher, a speech-language pathologist, a communication device, and physical and occupational therapists.

What is assistive technology?

Assistive technology—called AT—is any device or service that helps a person be more independent at home, at work or at school.

Children and adults with any type of disability can use AT to make the most of their abilities, have fun and do things more quickly and easily.

How do I get an AT evaluation?

If you think your child might benefit from assistive technology, you can ask the school to evaluate his or her AT needs. This can be part of your child's special education or Section 504 evaluation.

If no one at the school has the background to evaluate your child's AT needs, the school must bring in a qualified evaluator.

What will we learn from an AT evaluation?

A good assistive technology evaluation should provide the following:

- complete answers to your questions regarding your child's AT needs

- specific recommendations about possible solutions to your child's AT needs
- a list of choices of AT devices, along with product names, addresses and prices
- a chance for you and your child to try more than one possible product

Once you have decided on an AT device, arrange the time to try out the equipment before you decide to buy it. Sometimes AT equipment can be borrowed or rented before you buy it. It may also help to talk with a family who has used the equipment.

What if I disagree with the school's evaluation of my child's AT needs?

If disagreements cannot be resolved in a cooperative and informal way, you can request an independent evaluation at school expense, mediation or a due process hearing. You may also file a complaint with the Vermont Department of Education.

*Discover how
your child can
benefit from
assistive tech-
nology by
requesting an
evaluation.*



To order copies of this fact sheet, or to learn more about VFN's materials and services, contact the Vermont Family Network
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You can also contact us via e-mail at info@vfn.org.
And don't forget to visit our website at www.vfn.org.

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Resources

Vermont Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired
adaptive equipment for the visually impaired
37 Elmwood Avenue • Burlington, VT 05401 • (800) 639-5861
www.vabvi.org

Austine Evaluation Center
assistive learning devices for the deaf and hard of hearing
130 Austine Dr., Ste. 210 • Brattleboro, VT 05301 • (802) 254-3922
www.state.vt.us/schools/aus

North East Wheelchair & Seating Center
wheelchair seating clinics
Barton Medical Clinic • Barton, VT 05822 • (802) 334-3260

Children with Special Health Needs
wheelchair seating clinics in Rutland and Burlington
(800) 640-4232

Rutland Computer Access Center
computer access
Dan Gilman • Rutland, VT 05701
(800) 750-6352 • djgilman@sover.net

Education Resource Center
previews of computer software
Gail Poitras • Stone Hall • Vermont College • Montpelier, VT 05602
(802) 828-8845 • gail@norwich.edu

E. M. Luse Center
augmentative communication devices evaluation
Mary Alice Favro • Allen House • 461 Main Street • Burlington, VT 05401
(802) 656-3861

Center for Augmentative & Alternative Communication
augmentative communication devices evaluation

Beth Taylor • Department of Rehabilitative Medicine • Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center • Lebanon, NH 03756 • (603) 650-5978
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Titles in VFN's Assistive Technology (AT) Series

Facts About AT • AT Evaluations • AT & the IEP • AT & the IFSP • AT & Section 504 • Funding AT • Funding AT Through Medicaid • Funding AT Through Private Insurance