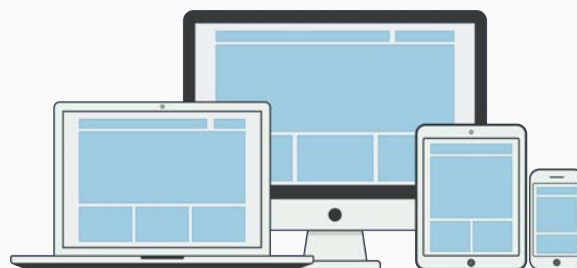home.MyODP.org

TECHNOLOGY TODAY

ODP Technology Taskforce Newsletter

Welcome to 2023

Start the new year with ODP's third edition of *Technology Today*! The goal of this newsletter is to share information that lead to further support for individuals and families with varying disabilities. The ODP Technology Taskforce spends a great deal of time selecting the most relevant information for this newsletter regarding new technology, why it's needed, and how it impacts others. The hope is that you will learn something new and pass it along to others.

This issue:

Assistive Technology, Enabling Technology, and Remote Support: Learning the Differences

Assistive Technology (AT), Enabling Technology (ET), and **Remote Support (RS)** options are becoming more available and widespread every day. These amazing technology solutions are available to support people with varying abilities and help them live independent, productive, and dignified lives. However, not everyone knows what's out there or understand the difference between these categories of services and supports. The late Dustin Wright, founder of Disability Cocoon, explains their similarities and differences in this blog from 2019. To learn even more check out the links below:

Assistive Technology   **Enabling Technology**   **Remote Support** (PDF)

Assistive Technology Examples

Mobile Application Resources

Hand Talk: This app translates text and audio to American and Brazilian Sign Language and is great for use in a classroom and at home for those who want to understand sign language. Elected the world's best social app by the UN it is free and is available on iOS and Google Play. **Click here** for more info.

Lazarillo: This app allows people with disabilities to safely explore their environments. As you walk, it announces places of interest, from streets and intersections, to restaurants, shops, and transit areas around you. This app can also give directions and allows you to save your favorite places. Free to use and available on iOS and Google Play. **Click here** for more info.

Autism iHelp: This app is a vocabulary teaching aid developed by parents of a child with autism and a speech language pathologist. The app is designed to help improve verbal expression and learn new words and includes colorful photos, audio options and two learning enhancement activities. This app is free and is available for iOS and Android. **Click here** for more info.

Success Stories

Meet Josh, a Power Coach for Self-Advocates United as 1 (SAU1)! He uses assistive technology in his life to communicate with others in ways that work best for him and those who support him. Through pictures on a phone, he is able to choose what he wants and when he wants it! To hear Josh's full story visit, **click here.**

Meet William, another Power Coach! Before learning ASL and having access to assistive technology, he thought he couldn't let others know what was on his mind. He is now able to communicate with others by texting on his phone or using an iPad to generate his speech. Assistive Tech has allowed him to leave certain programs to self-direct and even speak at conferences in front of others! To hear William's full story, **click here.**

Future and Past Events

Assistive Technology Industry Association Conference

When: January 31 - February 4
Where: Orlando, FL (virtual options available)
Register Here

ODP Technology Virtual Roadshow:
Imagine, Discover, Explore, Try, and Get –
A Pathway to Assistive Technology

When: February 16, 2023, 1:00pm - 2:00pm
Register Here

Visit the Supportive Technology Page on home.myodp.org to see recordings of the previous Virtual Roadshows
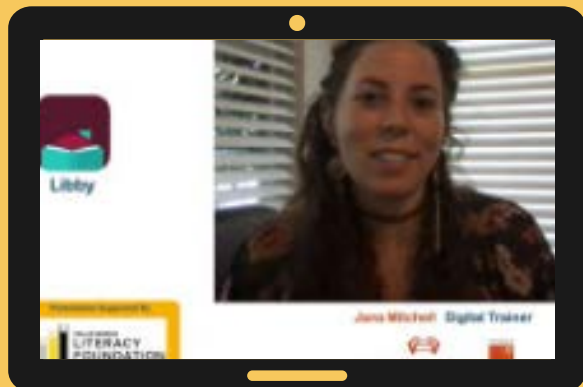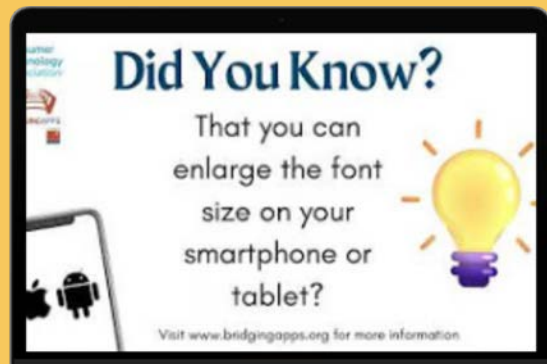
- Incorporating Enabling Technology as a Natural Support
- Technology to Support and Enhance Communication
- Person Centered Planning with Technology

How-To Videos

Are you having trouble seeing the words on your phone or tablet? This how-to video from BridgingApps can you show you how to enlarge the font in less than five minutes! Click the links to watch instructions for either **Apple** or **Android** devices.

Are you looking for new ways to get eBooks and audiobooks? Then you're in luck! This video from BridgingApps tells you how to access books for **free** right at your fingertips with only a Library card and the *Libby* app (available to download for free). **Click here** to watch.

TECH CORNER: VIDEO DOORBELLS

For people with disabilities, video doorbells can mean **greater independence**. Individuals can get notifications directly to cell phones or tablets, communicate with visitors at their door through an app, or alert them if they are unable to hear the doorbell chime. Video doorbells also allow for greater safety, allowing individuals and support staff to see who is at their door before answering, as well as making sure that someone has made it home safely.

Video doorbells can also be customized in a variety of ways, record videos so you can check on visitors or packages and integrate with smart display like an Echo Show for easy viewing.

Self-installation is relatively easy, and there are a range of options that vary in price and features!

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Q: What is Assistive Technology (AT)?

A: Assistive technology (AT) is any item, piece of equipment, software program, or product system that is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of persons with disabilities. AT enables people to live, work and learn more independently.

Q: How do I know whether Assistive Technology (AT) is right for me?

A: Using assistive technology can be very helpful. AT can be beneficial when there is an identified need. Here are some primary questions that will determine if AT is right for you:
- Is there a task or activity in which you would like to accomplish that is difficult?
- In what environment will you accomplish this task?
- What are some of the barriers you have in accomplishing this task?
- Would assistive technology enable you to meet your goal?
- What has been tried in the past to address the needs of the person?
- Is there something you want to do independently but are unable to do? (i.e., turn off the light, read a letter, or send an email)
- What is your expected outcome using AT?

Affordable Connectivity Program is is a benefit program through the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) that helps households afford broadband internet for work, school, healthcare and more. If your household's income is **below 200%** of the Federal Poverty Line you are likely to qualify. Click here for more information!

Want to get involved?

For more information about the Taskforce, to get involved, or submit a question please contact Ho-Jung Mardorff: hmardorff@deloitte.com