

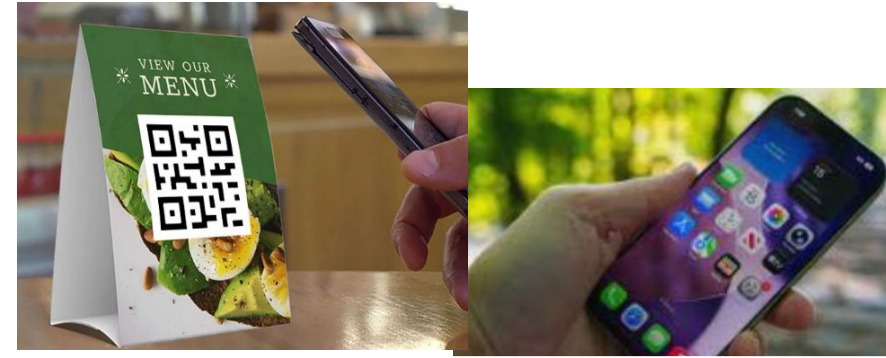
# Assistive Technology?



**Assistive Technology:**  
**An Introductory Training for the DDA Community**  
*Developed by DDA's Technology First Taskforce*

# Technology is All Around Us

- Technology support does not always require new devices
- Many everyday tools can increase independence
- Help people learn to use technology already in their environment, for example:
  - Ordering food using QR code menus
  - Using social media to connect with friends or community groups
  - Using smartphone maps for directions
  - Setting phone reminders or alarms
  - Scanning QR codes for event information
  - Smartphones and built-in accessibility features



Sometimes the role of support staff is simply to **teach, model, and practice using technology that is already part of everyday life.**



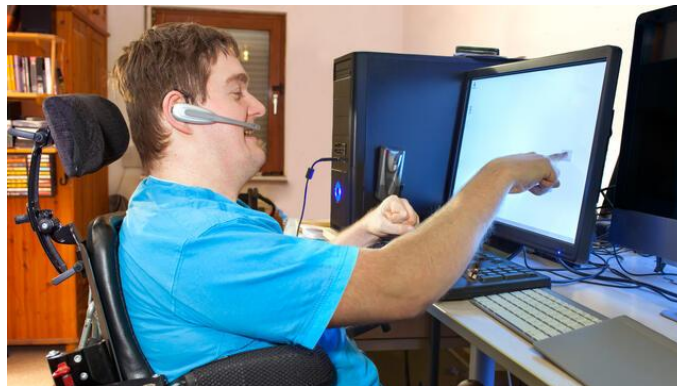
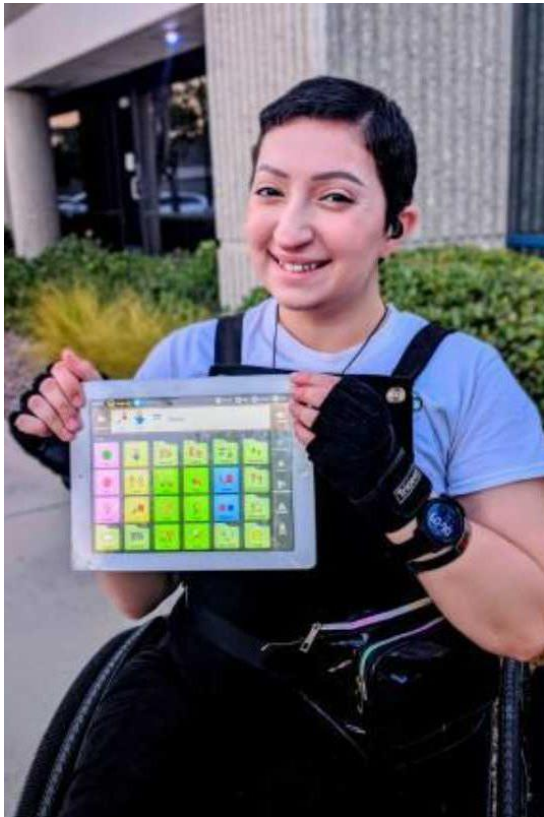
# Technology is All Around Us (Cont'd)

More Examples:

- Smart home devices (lights, plugs, thermostats)
- Self-checkout kiosks at stores
- Voice assistants (Siri, Google Assistant, Alexa)
- GPS and navigation apps
- Online banking and budgeting apps
- Grocery and food delivery apps
- Ride-share apps
- Calendar and reminder apps
- Video calling and messaging apps

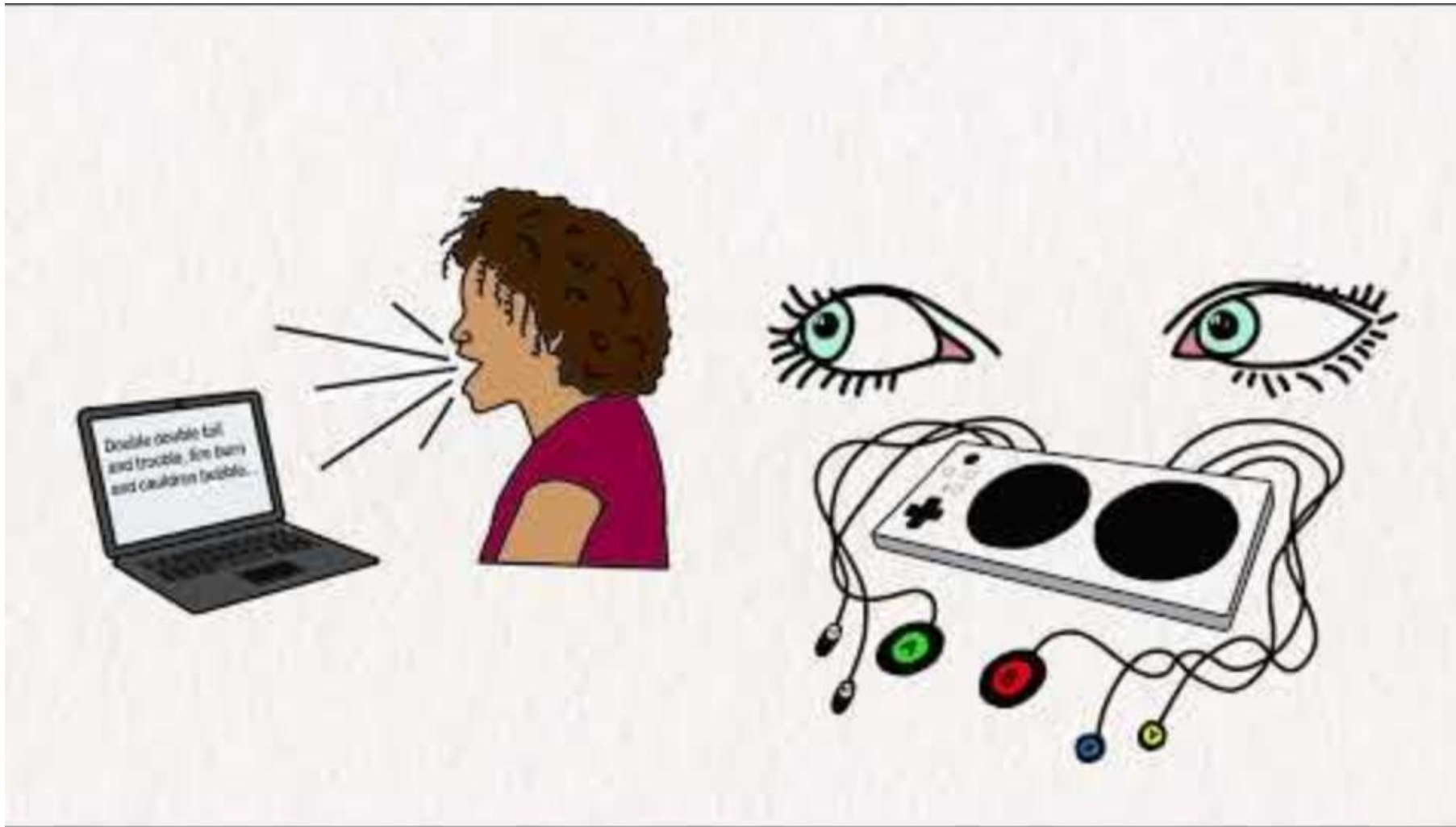


# What is Assistive Technology (AT)?



Assistive Technology is any item, piece of equipment, or product system that helps a person increase, maintain, or improve functional abilities.

Assistive Technology is any tool or device that helps someone do something they might have difficulty doing on their own.



## Welcome to Assistive Technology: Plain & Simple

[Click to Play 2 Minute Video](#)

# Examples of Assistive Technology



Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Devices



Talking Alarm Clock + Reminders



Assistive Listening Devices



Adapted Phones

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Church	School	Dance	McDonalds		Store	Something Special
			Therapy			



Electronic Magnifiers



Simplified Remotes + Switches



Adapted Keyboards + Mice

Visual Schedules + Timers





# What is Remote Supports (RS)?

Remote Supports is a support service provided by staff from a remote location using technology.

## Examples:

- Staff monitoring sensors overnight
- Two-way video check-ins
- On-demand support via tablet or smart device
- Remote coaching

Remote Supports is about **how staff provide support**, not the device itself.



# Maryland is a Technology First State



On August 15, 2022, Maryland became a Technology First State through a governor's proclamation. This means **Maryland is committed to empowering all Marylanders with disabilities to have access to technology that will help them live, work and play in their communities.**



**Technology First is defined as:** A “framework for systems change where technology is considered first in the discussion of support options available to individuals and families through person-centered approaches to promote meaningful participation, social inclusion, self-determination and quality of life.” (Tanis, 2019).

# Finding AT is Easier than You Might Think!

Every State has a Technology Act Program to help you find Assitive Technology.

[The Maryland Assitive Technology Program](#) (MDTAP) allows people to see and borrow AT in the lending libraries.

You can try different kinds of Assitive Technology to find what works best.

You can borrow Assitive Technology to try at home, school, or the workplace.

Anyone can visit and tour one of MDTAP's Assitive Technology Libraries to see what's out there and talk with an Assitive Technology Specialist about what you need.



Video of MDTAP AT Library Tour:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bxoT5SDAw1g>

# Things to Know

Assistive Technology should always be **Person-Centered**.

You don't have to know a lot about Assistive Technology or be too tech savvy to get started.

Finding the right Assistive Technology takes a certified AT professional to be part of the Person-Centered Process – there is no one size fits all for everyone, but there are people who can help you find what is the best solution for you.

There are funding options available to help you get Assistive Technology services (assessments, training) and devices.



# Where Do We Start?

What do you or the person want(s) to be able to do more independently?

**Start with the goal – not the gadget!**



# Overview of SETT Framework

Developed by Joy Zabala for **Assistive Technology decision-making**.

**S** – Student/Person: Strengths, needs, preferences

**E** – Environment: Physical, social, instructional context

**T** – Tasks: What the person needs to do

**T** – Tools/Technology: Devices, software, supports

**Goal:** Match technology to the person, not the other way around.

Consider abilities, goals, and context for effective technology use.

# Use the Assistive Technology Navigator

- ✓ Go to the [AT Navigator](#) to help you find out more about how to explore and obtain AT in the area(s) identified.
- ✓ The AT Navigator is designed to help you navigate the variety of AT services available right here in Maryland.
- ✓ The AT Navigator guides you through categories, supports, and funding options.

Type [atnavigator.com](https://atnavigator.com) in your address bar to get started!



## ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY NAVIGATOR

Our Assistive Technology page is a resource presented by MIH in conjunction with the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration. On Aug. 15, 2022, Maryland became a Technology First State through a proclamation signed by the Governor. This means the state is committed to empowering all Marylanders with disabilities to have access to technology that will help them live, work and play in their communities.



Communication



Computer Access



Daily Living



Phone



Hearing



Low Vision / Blind



Memory / Cognition



Recreation



Employment



Environmental Control



**Introducing the Assistive Technology Navigator**

[Click to play 1 minute video](#)

A person's hands are shown holding a tablet computer. The tablet screen displays a quote in white text against a background of a lake and mountains. The quote reads: "FOR MOST OF US, TECHNOLOGY MAKES THINGS EASIER. FOR A PERSON WITH A DISABILITY, IT MAKES THINGS POSSIBLE". Below the quote, it says "- JUDY HEUMANN AMERICAN DISABILITY RIGHTS ACTIVIST". The background of the image is a scenic view of a lake and mountains under a cloudy sky. The right side of the image is partially cut off by a white, jagged edge.

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