



**EXPO**

**Journey to Inclusion**

**THE AAC LEAST RESTRICTIVE ENVIRONMENT  
ACCESS GROUP**

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**March 26th**

**2009**

**ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY FOR INSTRUCTION**

**Presented by**

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**Anne Arundel County Public Schools Resource for Assistive Technology**

# EXPO PARTNERS & DEMONSTRATORS



- Maryland Coalition for Inclusive Education, Inc.
- AAC Least Restrictive Environment Access Group
- AACPS STAFF
- AT:LAST, INC
- LINC-Learning Independence Through Computers
- United Cerebral Palsy "No Boundaries Assistive Technology Center



# Outcomes

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- Learn how a student is assessed for assistive technology
- Learn the types of technology used for instruction
- Have a “hands on” experience with technology [TECHNOLOGY TOUR](#)
- Meet the providers of assistive technology who will share their expertise.



# Areas of assessment for AT in Instruction

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- Language and communication
- Writing and written expression
- Reading
- Access



# Assessment of language skills for AT

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- Established Cause Effect concept
- Intent to communicate
- Object picture symbol association (visual matching)
- Pointing to picture communication symbols represents a means to communicate language

# Assessment of language skills for AT



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- Makes requests and recurrence
- Answers questions and asks questions
- Makes comments and
- Identifies vocabulary nouns, actions, adjectives
- Sorts picture into categories



# Augmentative Communication

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Is a combination of strategies and aids that assist students who are non verbal or have unintelligible speech

# Communication Skills



Low Technology

- Exchanges picture for object
- Points to one to four pictures to communicate
- Selects pictures to form sentences

High Technology

- One message voice output device
- Sequencers and multiple button devices
- Static display with voice output



# Communication Skills



Low Technology

High Technology

- Selects pictures to relate a core vocabulary with multiple categories
- Uses pictures to relate a core vocabulary with multiple categories

- Static Display devices with 8 to 36 messages with multiple levels
- Dynamic display devices



# Remember.....

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Technology is not what teaches a child  
to communicate

People do

- Blackstone 1989



# Assessing Writing for AT

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- Students with fine motor disabilities preventing them from performing handwriting with appropriate speed and legibility
- Students without motor disabilities who demonstrate severe deficits in writing mechanics, contextual language and construction of written language



# Assessing Writing and Written Expression for AT

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## Skills

- Typing skills
- Finger Isolation
- Visual perceptual focus, navigation and range of motion
- Spelling, Mechanics, Vocabulary

## Technology

- Portable word processor/computer
- Keyboard with key guard
- Adaptive monitor, keyboards and mice
- Software



# Assessment of Writing for AT

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## Skills

- Fine motor strength and grip
- Letter sizing
- Body positioning
- Paper positioning

## Tools

- Pencil or pen with a special grip
- Adapted Paper
- Furniture adjustments/cushions
- Slant boards

# Reading Skills and Technology

Low Technology

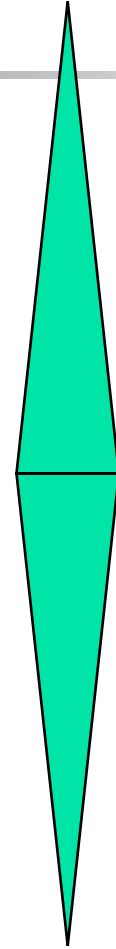
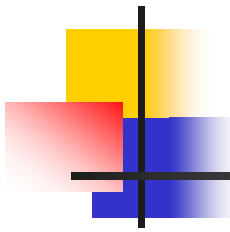
- Decode

- Whole Word

- Use of Picture communication symbols

- Use of text to speech software

High Technology



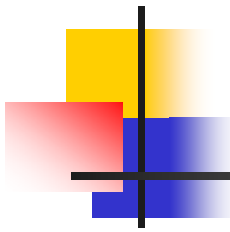



# Access Through Technology

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- Multiple switches to allow students with physical disabilities the opportunity to access computers
- Multiple mice for computer access
- Software with a variety of features to allow access to instruction

# Technology Travel Tour

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- Refreshments- Experience communicating with your Communication Board
  - Technology Travel Pass - Travel to each Technology Station..Explore...Ask "Tour Guide" to validate your Travel Pass with a check 
  - Return to the Auditorium at 8:15 to enter your Technology Travel Pass for prizes
  - Feedback forms will be provided



# Technology Stations

## Auditorium

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- Access with LINC
- Augmentative Communication with UCP
- Writing Tools with AACPS OT's
- Mobility and Stability- AACPS PT's

- "The Works" with AT:LAST

### **Room 103**

- Smart Board and Free Websites

### **Room 102**

- Written Expression hardware and software



# Prize Drawings

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*Thank you for coming*