

**Department of Behavioral and Intellectual disAbility Services
Philadelphia Infant Toddler Early Intervention**

Assistive Technology Policy

Assistive technology service will be offered to infants and toddlers who are eligible for Early Intervention and whose team has determined that there is a need to support the child and their family to use an assistive technology device to reach their IFSP outcomes and/or to enable the child to function and participate in the typical routines and activities of the child and family.

The assistive technology service will be provided by a qualified professional who can incorporate the use of an assistive technology device or other adaptive tool to support the child's full participation and to meet the IFPS outcomes.

Assistive technology device and service are defined as follows:

1. Assistive technology device means 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 the functional capabilities of an eligible infant or toddler. The term does not include a medical device that is surgically implanted, including a cochlear implant, or the optimization (e.g., mapping), maintenance, or replacement of that device.
2. Assistive technology service means any service that directly assists an infant or toddler with a disability in the selection, acquisition, or use of an assistive technology device. The term includes:
 - a. The evaluation of the needs of an infant or toddler with a disability, including a functional evaluation of the infant or toddler with a disability in the child's customary environment
 - b. Purchasing, leasing, or otherwise providing for the acquisition of assistive technology devices by infants or toddlers with disabilities
 - c. Selecting, designing, fitting, customizing, adapting, applying, maintaining, repairing, or replacing assistive technology devices
 - d. Coordinating and using other therapies, interventions, or services with assistive technology devices, such as those associated with existing education and rehabilitation plans and programs
 - e. Training or technical assistance for an infant or toddler with a disability or, if appropriate, that child's family
 - f. Training or technical assistance for professionals (including individuals providing education or rehabilitation services) or other individuals who provide services to, or are otherwise substantially involved in the major life functions of the eligible infant or toddler

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Procedure:

1. Philadelphia County subcontracts with Temple University's Institute on Disabilities for assistive technology assessment, support and consultation.
2. Any Early Intervention service provider can request a consultation on behalf of a child and family by filling out the assistive technology consultation request form and submitting it to PIAT at the address listed on the form
3. A copy of the form titled "Request for Consultation on Assistive Technology Solutions" can be obtained from the TLC website.

Note: It is important to make sure that this process is completed so that the County can keep track of the number of PIAT consultations that are utilized.

4. A representative from each Early Intervention provider agency has been trained as the AT specialists and can be consulted for more information about requesting consultation and completing the consultation form.
5. The service coordinator for the child and family and/or the AT consultant will be of assistance in helping the family to obtain any AT device that is needed.
6. The County will pay for any AT consultations through Temple's Institute on Disabilities

Documenting Assistive Technology on the IFSP:

1. The need for AT will be documented on the IFSP as identified on Page 4 (item #6).
2. Assistive technology devices are listed on the IFSP on the Outcomes page when answering the question: **What teaching strategies are needed to reach the outcome/goal?**
3. An assistive technology device can also be listed on the IFSP as a non-EI resource if the family requires assistance in identifying funding for the device (Child and Family Information, page 3).