

BILLING TIPS AND TOOLS FOR ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

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Goals

- Increase your knowledge of
 - Assistive Technology Devices
 - The benefits of covering Assistive Technology Devices
 - Federal Laws
 - Documentation requirements
 - How to get started

Why Do We Want to Learn About Billing Tips and Tools for Assistive Technology

- Benefits for Children
- Benefits for Districts



Assistive Technology Benefits for Children



Assistive Technology Devices Covered Include:

- Augmentative communication devices
- Device dedicated to transmitting or producing messages or symbols in a manner that compensates for the impairment and disability of a child/student with severe expressive communication disorders.
 - Examples of augmentative communication devices are: communication picture books, communication charts and boards, and mechanical/electronic devices.

Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC)

- An AAC system is an “integrated group of components, including the symbols, aids, strategies and techniques used by individuals to enhance communication” (American Speech Language and Hearing Association, 1991).
- Used with children affected by significant speech, language and learning disabilities communication with others. AAC can range from print-based communication boards to speech generating devices.

This is DeAvis



Student

- 12 years old
- Diagnosis of
 - Cerebral palsy
 - Expressive speech disorder
 - Articulation disorder
- Lack of breath support
- Uses a wheelchair

Eager to Learn...



Great Enthusiasm, and Intellect..



However, He Has Some Challenges...



Capabilities

- He uses complex sentences and language to describe, discuss, gain information, request, ask questions and answer questions.
- He uses social language and develops friendships with peers.
- IEP team had concerns regarding his communication
 - Problems being understood
 - Problems communicating medical issues and positioning issues



Needed To Be Able To Communicate More Effectively For The Following Purposes

- Clarify his speech
- Ask questions in the classroom and with his medical condition
- Answer question at the doctor and in the community setting
- Tell about his specific medical condition, symptoms and positioning needs



Assistive Technology is a Way of Opening a World of Opportunities

- He now has a voice
- He can put thoughts into words and release it for others to hear



Assistive Technology

- Answer questions about an event, or about initiating weekend plans
- Interact with his peers
- Able to communicate effectively with unfamiliar people in the school and community who have significantly more difficulty understanding DeAvis" speech.
 - e.g. Communicating with the doctor or the school nurse about his hip
- Works on programming his device
- Is able to find, select and activate letters within a few seconds with 99% accuracy
- Big, friendly personality with a contagious grin!!

Assistive Technology Devices

Also include

- Hearing Amplification Devices are used as a method of Wireless Communication for children with hearing loss, or impairments
- Main Parts
 - Microphone – at the speaker's voice
 - Transmitter – transmits the speaker's voice through radio waves
 - Radio Receiver – microphone attached to the hearing aid at the child's ear;
- Filters out extraneous noise so the child can hear

What is a Wireless Communication (FM) System?

- Wireless communication technology is very common today for a multitude of applications and situations all over the world, whenever communication is in the focus of interest. Other examples of the use of wireless communication technology are:
 - Cablefree telephones
 - Walky-talkies
 - Baby monitoring systems

Why Wireless Communication is Important

- Even with the best hearing instruments, most hearing-impaired people notice that they have difficulty hearing in certain situations such as using a telephone, watching television, during a classroom, or in a restaurant.
- Using an wireless communication system (FM system) makes communication in all these difficult situations much easier.

Benefits to Children

- Recent immigrant with no speech or language when he came at age 7
- Profound hearing loss in one ear
- Moderate hearing loss in the better
- With the FM system to the better ear
- Took off talking, learning to read and write



Benefits to School Districts

