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 than 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 to communicate 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 speakers 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 ear
- With the FM system to the better ear
- Took off talking, learning to read and write
Benefits to School Districts