

Assistive Technology (AT) Services & Resources in Maine

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Kathy's Bio

- **Licensed Occupational Therapist**
- **Certified AT professional (resna.org)**
- **AT & Funding Specialist @ Maine CITE**
- **30+ years of practice in community based services**
- **Serves on:**
 - **Maine OT License Board**
 - **Brain Injury Information Network**
 - **Elder Issues Partnership**

Today's Objectives

- **Review the Federal AT Act**
- **Define and Review AT**
- **Learn about Maine AT Resources and Funding options for purchasing AT**



Maine CITE is

- Maine's Statewide AT Act Program since 1989
- Created/ funded thru the Federal AT Act of 1988 as amended in 2004
- Maine DOE is the lead agency
- Promotes information and education on AT
- Promotes access & acquisition of AT across Maine
- Collaborates with numerous Maine **AT Consortia** of organizations
- Visit www.mainecite.org



Goals of the AT Program

Maine CITE works to improve **access** to and the **acquisition of AT** for people of **all ages and disabilities**, in 4 life domains...

Education

Employment

Community Living

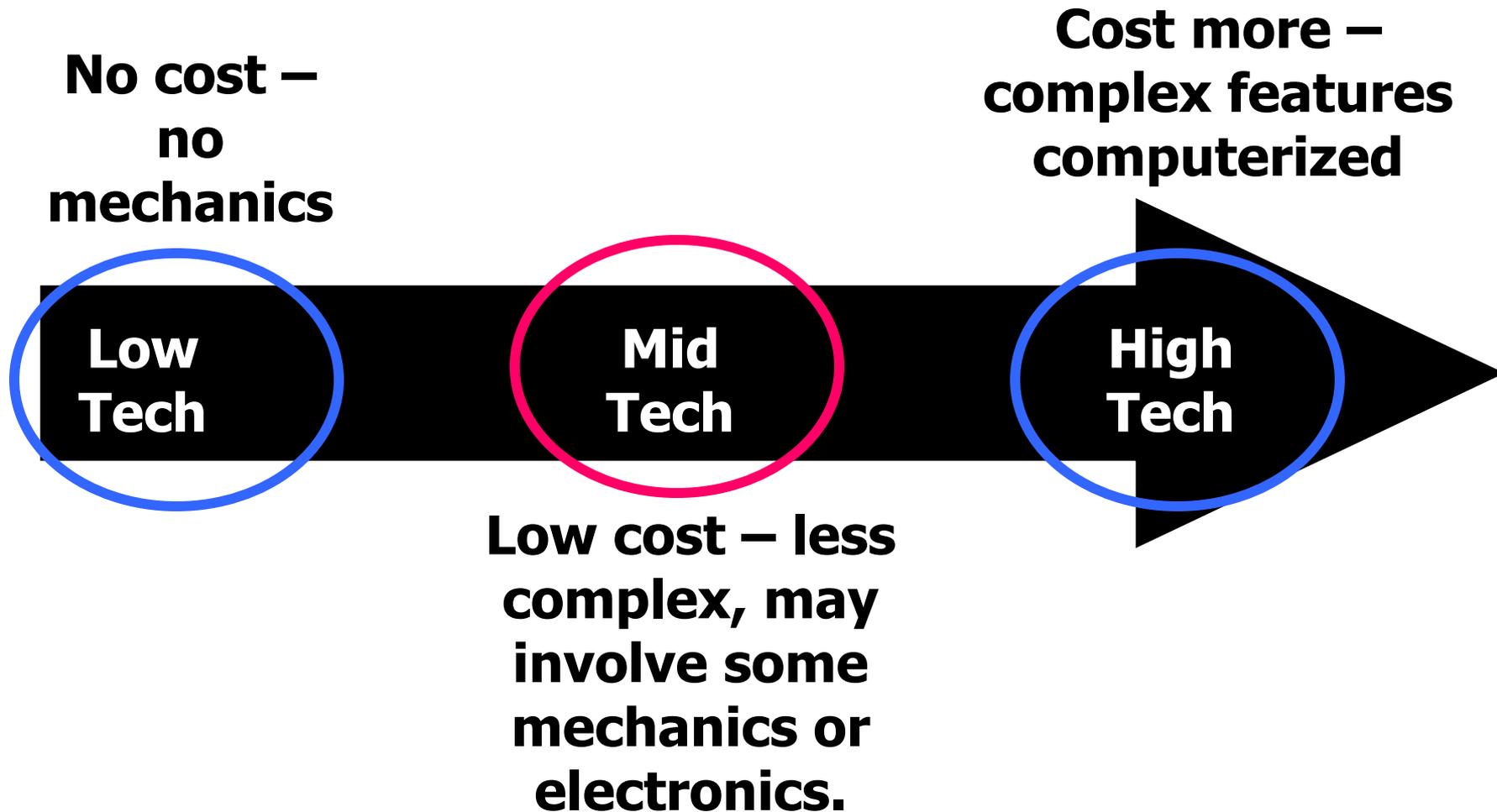
Information Technology & Telecommunications

What is AT?

- ***AT Devices*** are any item, piece of equipment, or product--whether acquired commercially or customized--that is used to increase, maintain or improve the functional capabilities of a person with a disability
- ***AT Services*** help a person learn about *AT options* and decide if using *AT* will *benefit* them

Using AT can maintain, increase, maximize safety, function, performance, independence, learning.....

AT can be Low Tech to High Tech



Examples of AT

- Aids for daily living: bath chairs, positioning
- Assistive listening—hearing aids, fm systems
- Assistive toys & switches to facilitate play & build cause/effect experience and choice making skills
- Alternative & Augmentative Communication devices/apps
- Mobility devices: braces, standers, strollers
- Positioning devices to enhance muscle tone, posture, balance, movement and interactions
- Visual aids
- Computers w/software—tablets w/ apps for learning

More AT.....

- Alerting devices
- Braille & Low Vision devices
- Prosthetics & orthotics
- Standing & walking aids
- Manual and power wheelchairs
- Sports/recreation equipment
- Adapted cars and vans with lifts
- Home access/mods: ramps, lifts, stair glides, elevators

Apps as Assistive Technology

<http://www.mainecite.org/index.php/apps-as-assistive-technology>



AT Services in Maine

- **AT Assessment**
- **AT Device Demonstrations**
- **AT Device Loans**
- **AT Device Exchange & Reuse**
- **AT Training & Technical Assistance**
- **Public Awareness...I&A**
- **AT Financing**
 - **mPower Loans** www.mpowerloans.com
 - www.ACTEM.org...AT buying consortium



Maine's AT Demonstration & Loan Programs

- TEC www.tecmaine.org
- ALLTECH www.alltech-tsi.org
- UMF <http://kcmc.umf.maine.edu>
- PTS www.pinetreesociety.org
- AT Exchanges www.getatstuff.com
- AT Reuse www.tecmaine.org
- AT Vendors

Re-using & Recycling AT

*An issue due to funding limits
& the abandonment of equipment*

Visit www.getATstuff.com
to Buy, Sell, Donate used AT/equipment

Maine's first AT refurbishing-recycling program:

TEC-Assist

146 Center St, Bangor Maine

207-992-9270

AT School Swap (ATSS)

- An “on line” AT Device exchange for borrowing AT
- Used within local schools systems & between school districts in VT, CT and MA
- ATSS keeps an *AT Device Inventory*
- ATSS can maximize the use of AT that already had been purchased with public funds

Could we use this in Maine???

Paying for AT

- Early Intervention & Special Education
 - *Must Consider AT*....and Document the need for AT in the IFSP and IEP

- Private Health Insurance
- Maine Care (Medicaid)
 - must document *medical necessity*





- Low Interest Loans/Financing
 - Maine's **mPower** Loan Program (AT, home mods, vans) www.mpowerloans.org
 - The Digital Credit Union www.dcu.org

- Muscular Dystrophy Association
- Grants & Foundations

AT Resources....

- www.dreamms.org AT for children w/special needs
- www.fctd.org family center for technology and disability
- www.techfortykes.org AT in early intervention
- www.wheelchairnet.org mobility devices/equipment
- www.nectac.org national early childhood TA center
- www.naset.org national assoc of special ed teachers
- www.abledata.org 30,000+ device/product listing
- www.assistivetech.net

Accessible Instructional Materials, part of IDEA since 2004

<http://maine-aim.org>

- ***Maine AIM Community of Practice***
- Specialized formats of curricular content for use by students with print disabilities:

Digital text

Large print

Audio

Braille

Maine

i
m



Accessible Instructional Materials

Four Key Aspects of AIM...

- ***Identification*** of student need
- ***Selection*** of specialized format
- ***Acquisition*** of the material
- ***Use***....It is under “Use” that AT may be needed for accessing specialized formats of materials



Thank you!

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