

AT8 The 8 Amazing A's of Assistive Technology

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The guiding 8 steps of Assistive Technology that take you from AT aware to AT advocate.

AT1 Awareness



You may already be aware of a need you have like reading, writing, organisation... then Assistive Technology (AT) may have a place in your life.

Openness is the key to begin your AT journey - embrace the possibilities that can come from acknowledging a need or challenge that you can address.

"Assistive technology is not just a tool, it's a mindset. It's about looking beyond limitations and finding creative solutions to help individuals with disabilities achieve their goals." Luis Perez

AT2 Adventurous



Be brave and dive into this Assistive Technology adventure. Get curious about technology and trust that you can find answers.

The state of not knowing anything about AT will change to a state of knowing as AT is everywhere so an open attitude will help you find AT treasures.

"The most significant barrier to assistive technology adoption is not technological, but attitudinal." - Robert L. Burgdorf Jr.

AT3 Accumulate



Gather ideas, training, suggestions and recommendations about technologies for all types of devices from Smartphones, Tablets to Laptops. These sources can include YouTube tutorial videos, blogs, app stores, social media, AT websites (e.g. AT HIVE in AHEAD) and talking to people like AT specialists- information is out there.

"The rapidly evolving field of mobile technologies and apps, many of which are being used by people as assistive devices, is also blurring the distinction between AT and technologies for general use" NCSE 2016

AT4 Analysis



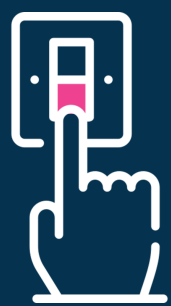
Begin to try out these AT findings that you have uncovered - like apps, software, inbuilt accessibility settings in devices, browser tools or websites - but be critical of these tools to find the best one for you. As you use them ask yourself questions like:

- Is it easy to use?
- Does it do what I need?

Analysis will help find the right AT options.

"Assistive technology is not a one-size fits all solution, and finding the right solution for each individual can be a challenge." - NIDILRR

AT5 Application



Finding an AT match is amazing and this is a huge achievement. Now making AT part of your daily life is the next challenge.

Find ways to use the AT in your education life, work life and personal life so it can become a habit - this takes time so be patient.

"Abandonment of assistive technology can happen when the technology is not effectively integrated into the person's daily life." - Michael B. Williams

AT6 Agency



Learner agency is a combination of having a say in their experience (voice), an active part in the decision-making about their learning experience (choice) and they are personally invested in the process (responsibility) - AT can be part of voice, choice and ownership as it unlocks options as to how the student can access the curriculum.

"Assistive technology is a key to unlocking potential and possibilities." Dr. Paul Wizikowsky

AT7 Achieve



So you have come a long way - you identified AT as a possibility, searched for AT solutions, tested AT options and found an AT match then made it part of your life - now your ability to achieve more is a reality. Acknowledge the transformation you have experienced due to your AT achievement.

"Assistive technology transforms disability into ability." Dr. Chris Zeigler Dendy

AT8 Advocate



Your AT journey may be shared with others to inspire them to explore AT possibilities. Being an AT advocate can be as simple as talking to a friend, family member, class mate or work colleague. An advocate may also share their AT experiences in events or social media too. Find your way to be an AT advocate and help others to get AT aware and AT empowered.

"Assistive technology is a powerful tool for social justice and inclusion." Clay Shirky