



TECH FOR TYKES

A Center for Inclusive Design and Engineering (CIDE)
Early Childhood Program

Early Intervention Provider FAQ for Assistive Technology

Who can provide assistive technology services in Colorado?

Any provider who meets the [Colorado Personnel Standards \(PDF\)](#) either as an Early Intervention (EI) Provider or Assistive Technology (AT) Professional can provide AT services. For children with more complex or specialized AT needs, a referral can be made to an EI AT consultant or a provider with specialized training in AT.

What is an AT consultant?

Colorado Part C EI services offer a resource that few, if any other, state EI programs offer. Through a collaborative effort between [The Center for Inclusive Design and Engineering \(CIDE\)](#) and [EI Colorado](#), a number of EI professionals throughout Colorado have participated in specialized training in order to become [EI AT consultants](#).

What is CIDE's relationship with EI Colorado?

EI Colorado of the Colorado Department of Human Services and CIDE of the University of Colorado Denver share a longstanding relationship to expand awareness and delivery of AT devices and services for young children in Colorado. Shared efforts include funding and support of the statewide AT Loan Library, training and technical assistance for EI professionals, policy management of Colorado AT services, and the establishment and support of an AT advisory council.

What is the AT Loan Library, and can I borrow items from it?

AT items are available for loan from the statewide [AT Loan Library](#) for children receiving EI services in Colorado. Part C EI AT consultants can check out items from the loan library. EI providers can borrow items from the Loan Library with the assistance of the EI AT consultants.

What training is available for providers who are interested in learning about AT?

The [Tech for Tykes program](#) and EI Colorado offer numerous forms of professional development and training opportunities in AT, from dedicated web-based trainings to live trainings to written and electronic resources. For more information, visit the [Tech for Tykes General Trainings webpage](#) and the [Tech for Tykes Resources webpage](#). EI Colorado provides live trainings for providers and service coordinators that include information about AT. For more information, talk with your Local EI Program Manager.



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What if the child I'm working with needs an AT assessment?

AT assessment is an ongoing dynamic process. An assessment for AT can be performed by any EI provider depending on their level of expertise and the complexity of the AT needed. It is important to evaluate the needs, skills and abilities, and developmental levels of the child related to daily routines in natural environments before determining if the child has needs that may be served by a device. The AT needed can be as simple as low-tech solutions that may fall within the skills of the provider, or it can be more complex, requiring more specialized skills from an AT consultant or outside specialist.

How is AT documented on the IFSP?

Documentation of AT services and devices on the IFSP is an essential part of the provision of AT services. There are several ways to document AT on the IFSP, depending on the type of AT, the services needed or the desired outcomes. The [IFSP Quick Guide](#) is a valuable resource that can give you guidance about this topic through the use of a decision tree process.

How are AT devices and services funded?

On a very basic level, funding of AT services and devices follows the Colorado State funding hierarchy. But funding can vary based on each CCB's available resources and policies, and the type of AT being funded. If the IFSP team recommends AT services or devices, the EI program is legally mandated to provide them without delay. Below are available resources:

[The Basics of AAC Funding for EI in Colorado](#) - This video covers the basics of obtaining funding for AAC devices in Early Intervention in Colorado. Please note that this video covers general introductory information, and it is not meant to be an exhaustive training. Please check with your Local EI Program Manager for specific details in your region.

[EI Colorado Funding Document \(PDF\)](#) - EI Colorado offers a detailed brochure to explain the funding process EI.

[AT Funding Sources](#) - A fully accessible, statewide online database providing individuals with disabilities, family members, and caregivers with a single point of entry for determining where to seek funding for AT devices, equipment, or programs.