Assessment: Guiding the Assistive Technology Process

Review Course for Assistive Technology Practitioners and Suppliers

Learning Objectives

• knowledge of the HAAT model and how it guides the AT service delivery process

• Understand that each component of the HAAT Model needs to be evaluated before arriving at an AT solution.

• Understand that in “system theory” when 1 part changes, other parts change in response.

A guiding principle!

• Assistive Technology starts with and centers on the client.
  – Ask the client about his or her goal?
  – What does he or she want to be able to do?
  – What activity or role has meaning in life right now?

• Models are often used to guide the decision-making process.
  – In AT... It’s the HAAT Model
The HAAT Model


The Human

- The Intrinsic Enablers:
  - Sensory Input
  - Central Processing
  - Effectors or the motor output

- The human has Abilities (basic traits) and Skills (level of proficiency)

- The human has Functional Capacities
  - Physical: Ambulation, Hand functioning, Endurance, Coordination, Stability of medical condition, etc.
  - Cognitive: Learning ability, Perception, Memory, Language, Literacy, Judgment, Persistence, etc.
  - Social: Personal attractiveness, Supports, Habits, Attitudes,

Activity

- The activities of humans:
  - Self Maintenance:
    - eating, money management, grooming, etc.
  - Productivity:
    - work, school, and volunteering
  - Recreation and Leisure
Context

• **Physical** Settings
  - Light, temperature, moisture
  - Geographical terrain

• **Social** Settings
  - School or Work
  - Home or neighborhood
  - Parks or community

• **Culture:** Norms and expectations

**Assistive Technologies**

• Have these components:
  - Human Technology Interface
  - Processor
  - Environmental Interface
  - Activity output

**Hierarchy of Access**

• Use the *least* technology needed:
  1. First, modify the task.
  2. Use performance enhancers or commonly available assistive devices.
  3. Modify the environment.
  4. Combine assistive devices with off-the-shelf products or assistive technologies.
  5. Combine off-the-shelf AT products or technologies -- not typically used together.
  6. Fabricate a new or custom solution.
Assessment

- Consider all parts of the system and their interaction
- Collect the performance information needed to determine a starting point.
  - Assess functional capabilities: physical, cognitive & social
- Optimize potential for success

Other Resources


