Using Assistive Technology in Postsecondary Programs for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

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What is the UP Program?

• Started as a pilot program in 2007
• Provides a two year, on-campus living and learning experience for college aged individuals with IDD
• Has served two participants since 2007, expanded to 4 participants in 2010, maximum of 8 participants attending in fall 2011

Five UP Program Components

• Personal Development Skills (e.g. communication skills, personal care skills, self-determination, etc.)
• Community Participation Skills (e.g. public transportation, budgeting, grocery shopping, etc.)
• Vocational Preparation Skills (e.g. learning specific job skills on or off-campus)
• Social Participation and Learning (e.g. participating in university athletic events, university clubs or organizations)
• Course Auditing (e.g. auditing 3 to 4 courses per semester)
Defining Assistive Technology

- "Any item, piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities" (IDEA, 2004)
- Wide range of devices, services, strategies, and practices for assisting individuals with disabilities in everyday life functions (Cook & Hussey, 2002)

Collaboration with AT

- Yearly contract with North Carolina Assistive Technology Program
- Provides AT training to undergraduate students, families, participants, and UP personnel
- Provides individualized AT assessments and recommendations for AT supports with academic skills, employment, and independent living
- Maintains and upgrades AT equipment through state loan program

How We Have Used AT

- On the job with reading support in daycare setting
- iPods/iPads for:
  - picture prompts to navigate campus
  - ATM use and prompting
  - picture prompts for morning and evening routines
  - pictures of gluten free foods
  - Prompts for cooking and cleaning
  - Brushing teeth (iTunes toothbrush timer)
- Text-to-speech and speech-to-text software
- Calendar organizers
- Academic skills (money, reading)
- Cell phones (timers, location, communication)
Helpful iPad Apps for Special Education


Questions?

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