

Appendix A: Category Listing of Eligible Assistive Technology

AT defined:

- Items, pieces of equipment or product systems acquired commercially off the shelf; modified or customized. Used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of people with disabilities.
- Range from Low tech to High Tech and directly relevant to child's developmental needs, developmentally and age appropriate
- Natural environment- Families and therapists are encouraged to utilize items within their natural environment or that are readily available to meet the developmental needs of the child.

Category 1 – Items that may be recommended by ongoing providers with consultation and consensus of IFSP team. Assistive Technology Developmental Evaluation of Necessity must be completed by an AT evaluator. Items that are size-dependent must have height/weight documented.

- Durable Medical Equipment
 - Crawlers, Walkers, Bath Chairs
 - Positioning - Bolster Chairs, Corner Chairs, Feeder Seats – See Appendix B
 - Adjustable Benches – See Appendix B
 - Adapted Tables/Slant Boards – See Appendix B
- Orthotics - Items recommended by an Orthotist or PT that supports or corrects the function of a limb or the torso
 - Upper Extremity Orthotics, Lower Extremity Orthotics, Torso Orthotics
 - Exomuscular Systems, Dynamic Dorsi-Flexion Assists
 - Compression Garments
 - Head/Neck Collars
 - Abdominal Binders
 - Orthopedic Shoes, Shoe Inserts
 - Benesch Boots
- Weighted Items – See Appendix C
 - Blankets, Vests, Belts
 - Weight Accessories
- Oral-Motor
 - Bite/chew items
 - Horns, Whistles
 - Oral vibrators/massagers
 - Speech Praxis Kits
- Miscellaneous
 - Adapted Utensils
 - Massagers, Z-vibes
 - Battery Adapters/interrupters
 - Visual Timers
 - Therapy Balls, – See Appendix C
 - Trampolines – See Appendix C
 - Adapted Pedals for Tricycle

Category 2 – Items that require trial and more specific evaluation of need. Additional justification must be provided on the Assistive Technology Developmental Evaluation of Necessity and completed by an AT evaluator. Items that are size-dependent must have height/weight documented.

- Durable Medical Equipment
 - Standers, Gait Trainers – See Appendix B
 - Positioning Chairs – See Appendix B
 - Toileting Systems – See Appendix D
- Communication – See Appendix E
 - Communication Boards, Picture Communication, Non-electronic Devices
 - Software or applications for Augmentative or Alternative Communication supports
 - Compartment Communicators
 - Speech Generating Devices using recorded or digitized Speech - Single Message Devices, Multistep Message Devices, Multiple Message Communicators, Multi-level Communicators
 - Speech generating Devices requiring message formulation by spelling or other methods of message formulation and physical or multiple methods of device access
 - Speech Generating Software Programs
 - Device Accessories
- Developmental Play
 - Switches (limit 2), Switch toys (limit 2), Switch Mounts
 - Software or Applications – See Appendix E
 - Multiple Control Units, Switch Latches, Switch Timers
 - Light Boxes
- Swings/Scooter Boards – See Appendix C
- Orthotics – Hip Abduction Orthosis
- Hearing Aids and Accessories – Requires the evaluation and recommendation of an Audiologist
 - BAHA Bone Conduction Aids
 - Binaural, monaural aids
 - Ear Molds, Batteries, Care Kits, Dispensing Fees

Appendix B: Early Intervention AT Guidelines for Seating/Positioning Devices

Only a licensed provider who has training in evaluation and fitting shall fit seating and positioning equipment for the child. Parents, caregivers and direct service providers shall be instructed in the therapeutic purpose and correct use of the equipment. Written instructions shall be provided and any training and support delivered documented in the provider's notes.

Acceptable types: Seating and positioning devices, bolsters, benches, and adapted tables, slant boards, and standers. Devices must address *current* needs of the child 0-3 and *not anticipated* needs of a school-aged child. These requests must also consider the growth needs of a 0-3 year old.

Not acceptable*: Chairs that are utilized by typically developing children (see Tripp Trapp chair exception below); multi-positioning bolster systems that can accomplish desired outcome with smaller or individual pieces.

Caps/Limits and other requirements: The child's height and weight must be documented for all devices except bolsters. Evaluations for both categories of equipment must address purpose and type of any additional supports or accessories required. Multi-positioning standing devices must include justification for benefit of multiple positions specific to each child.

Category 1:

- Positioning/seating devices less than \$1000.00 - examples include corner chair, tumble form feeder chair, positioning seat/system with trunk supports (includes Kaye Posture system and benches). Also includes Tripp Trapp Chair.
- Adapted tables/slant boards
- Adjustable benches

Category 2:

- Positioning/seating devices over \$1000.00 - documentation of a trial with over-the-counter seating systems must be completed before a request for custom seat inserts will be accepted.
- All standers

*** See Appendices A and F for additional information.**

Appendix C: Early Intervention AT Guidelines for Sensory Equipment

Sensory equipment must always be fitted for the child by a licensed provider who has specialized training in sensory integration. Parents, caregivers and direct service providers shall be instructed in the therapeutic purpose and correct use of the equipment. Written instructions shall be provided and any training and support delivered shall be documented in the provider's notes.

Therapy Balls

Definition: Therapy balls and dynamic surfaces are therapeutic equipment that is utilized to provide sensory input, correct posture, promote strengthening and weight shift. These balls do not include balls used for throwing, kicking, and catching.

Acceptable types: Therapy balls that are acceptable for use in early intervention include 24- or 36-inch balls, BOSU and peanut balls.

Not acceptable*: 8- or 12-inch balls, as these are items typically used by all children. Balance disc sit cushions.

Caps/Limits or other requirements: Child's height/length must be documented. Category 1 item.

Swings

Definition: A therapeutic swing is a piece of equipment utilized to provide vestibular, proprioceptive, visual, auditory, and tactile sensory input by providing suspended angular and linear movement in all planes and directions. This movement requires a neuromuscular response to the sensory input, thus creating sensorimotor stimulation and integration of the sensory system. This sensory input improves all areas of development including attention/focus, behavior/coping skills, speech & language skills, balance, movement, & motor planning skills.

Acceptable types: Swings that are designed for use inside the home, such as the door jam type swing with the net and platform swing or the Wing Bo type swing designed for prone swinging.

Not acceptable*: Swings and associated equipment that require outdoor frames, large indoor suspension frames, permanent installation, or modification to a home. Commercially available infant/toddler swing seats, gliders, strap swings, trapeze bars, and slide type swings.

Caps/Limits or other requirements: Swings limited to two. Category 2 item.

Trampoline

Definition: A therapeutic trampoline is a piece of therapy equipment utilized to provide vestibular, proprioceptive, visual, auditory and tactile sensory input in a controlled and safe manner with the close supervision of a skilled OT or parent trained on the apparatus. This sensory input improves all areas of development including attention/focus, behavior/coping skills, speech & language skills, balance, movement, & motor planning skills.

Acceptable types: Trampolines should have appropriate safety rails or handles and be able to support the child's weight. Trampolines should be the appropriate size for a 2-2.5 year old child and designed for use by one child only.

Not acceptable*: Larger outdoor or indoor trampolines, trampolines that do not have the appropriate safety rails or handles, or trampolines that a designed for two children.

Caps/Limits or other requirements: Trampolines will be capped at \$400. Child's weight must be documented. Category 1 item.

Weighted Blanket

Definition: A weighted blanket is a therapeutic blanket with weight. The blanket provides a deep pressure touch stimulation (DPTS), which is supplied by the weight in the blanket. This DPTS is believed to release a chemical in the brain, which naturally calms the nervous system, allowing one to relax and fall asleep. Typically 10% of the body weight, plus 1 pound, is the appropriate weight to use. However, this may vary per individual and a full evaluation must be completed on each individual to determine appropriate weight.

Acceptable types: Weighted Blankets with permanent or removable weights that are designed for individual use.

Not acceptable*: Large weighted blankets designed for multiple person use.

Caps/Limits or other requirements: Weighted blankets are capped at \$200. Child's weight must be documented. Category 1 item.

Scooter Board

Definition: A therapeutic scooter is a square board with wheels. A child can sit or lie on their stomach on the scooter board and scoot. Scooter boards provide proprioceptive, vestibular, and tactile sensory input as well as improve strength, coordination, and endurance.

Acceptable types: Per definition.

Not acceptable*: See caps.

Caps/Limits or other requirements: Scooter board will be capped at \$200. Exception to caps may be allowed with appropriate justification. Category 2 item.

Caution and skilled clinical expertise must be applied when ordering sensory equipment; specifically vestibular stimulation devices. Evidence shows that the effects of vestibular overstimulation on the autonomic nervous system can cause adverse effects on the child. Therapists **MUST** be observant of child experiencing input from swings, scooter boards, and trampolines and must be aware of the potential adverse effects and contraindications that may be applicable. These items are **NOT** intended for a “one size” fits all and require the recommendation and or evaluation of a skilled, licensed therapist.

***See Appendices A and F for additional information.**

Appendix D: Early Intervention AT Guidelines for Adaptive and Assisted Toileting Systems

Definition: Adapted and assisted toileting systems help provide independence while being designed to be practical, versatile and comfortable, as well as, easy to clean. These adjustable toilets and commodes can be used as a freestanding commode chair, over the toilet, on the toilet, or as a shower chair. They are designed for children that require assistance to sit upright in a chair. Additionally, the child should exhibit the cognitive ability and skills required for potty training.

Acceptable types: Must address current needs of the child 0-3 and not anticipated needs of a school-aged child. Requests must consider the growth needs of a 0-3 year old.

Not acceptable: Chairs that are utilized by typically developing children.

Caps/Limits and other requirements: Documentation that demonstrates the child exhibits the cognitive ability and skills required for potty training. For size-dependent devices, child's height and weight must be documented. Evaluation must address purpose and type of any additional supports or accessories required. Category 2 item.

***See Appendices A and F for additional information.**

Appendix E: Early Intervention Guidelines for Software and Augmentative/Alternative Communication (AAC) Devices

Software

Definition: Software requests may be considered when addressing the child's needs in fine motor control, visual skills and attention, and development of cognitive/language abilities as they relate to building skills for accessing and functional use of communication supports and improving independence in play.

Acceptable types: Requests must address current needs of the child 0-3 and not anticipated needs of a school-aged child.

- *Cause and Effect* (Example: SwitchIt Maker, Target and Touch Patterns, tablet apps such as Bubbles, Duck Duck Moose titles, etc.)
- *Software for development of switch skills and scanning abilities* (Example: Switch Skills for 2 Set 1 or 2, Judy Lynn Software, SoftTouch Software, etc. Tablet apps are not abundant for switch usage at this time.)
- *Augmentative and Alternative Communication supports* (Example: BoardMaker, Matrix Maker, Pogo Boards, tablet apps such as Proloquo2go, TouchChat, TapSpeak, My First AAC, etc.)

Not acceptable*: See caps.

Caps/Limits and other requirements: Category 2 item. Limited to 2 programs (Exception – If child has shown significant gains and documented justification, the CFC AT Coordinator will work with DHS AT Coordinator on case-by-case basis).

Documentation supporting access:

- Peripheral accessories needed (switches, interfaces, AAC device, etc);
- Availability of computer for software use; and,
- Computer system type available (Windows/Mac).

Documented support for software or apps:

- Brief description of the software/app program requested;
- Information on how/why the child will use and benefit from this software
 - Purpose of the software or app
 - What developmental goals are being addressed with this software;
- Information on any modifications of the software/app to render it functional for the child; and,
- What parental, caregiver, and direct service provider training will be needed to use the software/app appropriately with the child.

AAC Devices

Acceptable types: Requests must address current needs of the child 0-3 and not anticipated needs of a school-aged child. Some communication devices may be short or long-term, thus an evaluation must be conducted.

Not acceptable*: See caps.

Caps/Limits or other requirements: Category 2 item. Documentation demonstrating:

- Child exhibits the cognitive ability and skills necessary for AAC access.
- Trials implemented of up to 6 weeks. Loaner devices/trial equipment is available at the Illinois Assistive Technology project.
- Child participated in a speech and language evaluation prior to the AAC evaluation.

Note: Tablet devices are not yet available for EI approval. DHS will provide notification and additional information when tablets are available for consideration. Tablet devices for communication work best if only the communication app is available to the child. If other apps are obtained, then recommendations are that their use and availability be well controlled. When the child is using another app, ***their communication app is not available.***

*** See Appendices A and F for additional information.**

Appendix F: Devices No Longer Funded Through Early Intervention AT

Recommended Items No Longer Covered:	Rationale:
Any item requiring installation, screws/home modification	Home conversion/adaption required, No longer funded
Developmental Tree	Not therapeutic item
Steamroller	Lacks clinical research
Barrel Roll	Use smaller pieces to achieve same outcome
Chair, Bumbo Seat	Anatomically Incorrect/Improper positioning
Chair, Cube Chairs	Commercially available- non-therapeutic-suitable for all young children
Chair, Nada Chair, Kiddy-Up	Commercially available-non-therapeutic-suitable for all young children ages 0-3
Chair, Play	Commercially available-non-therapeutic-suitable for all young children ages 0-3
Chair, Seat to Go	Commercially available-non-therapeutic-suitable for all children ages 0-3
Chair, Straddle Sitter	Use smaller pieces to achieve outcome-bolster, corner chair
Toy bars for seating devices	Not an acceptable accessory
Trays for gait trainers	Not an acceptable accessory, not funded by HFS
Tray Overlay	Not an acceptable accessory
Table, Standard Play (only legs adjust)	Commercially available— non-therapeutic-suitable for all children ages 0-3
Positioner, Sidelyer	Use smaller pieces to achieve same outcome
Positioner, Tadpole	Use smaller pieces to achieve same outcome
Boardmaker Software, add-on libraries	EI funds basic Boardmaker software program, no longer funds additional library addendums
Sign Language Book	Therapist should implement family training/home activity program
Adaptive Bowls/Plates	Suitable for all children ages 0-3
Cups, flexi/cut out	Suitable for all children ages 0-3
Cups, infatrainer	Suitable for all children ages 0-3
Cups, sippy	Suitable for all children ages 0-3

Cups, straw	Suitable for all children ages 0-3
Cups, trainer	Suitable for all children ages 0-3
Oral Motor Parent Kit	Order components separately, therapist provide a home program and instruction
Oral Probes	Therapy tool
Pop Tubes	Suitable for all children ages 0-3
Peapod Jr.-sensory	No clinical research to support item
Sensory Brush	No clinical research to support Item
Theratubing	Commercially available
Vibe Mitt	Commercially available
Vibrating Bolster	Commercially available
Vibrating Body Massager	Commercially available
Vibrating Pillow	Commercially available
Vibrating Snake	Commercially available
Vibrator Tubular	Commercially available
Vibrator toys, buzzer, etc	Commercially available
Weights, Ankle/Leg	Commercially available
Weights, Arm	Commercially available
Weights, Sleeve	Commercially available
Weighed Hats	Not appropriate for child age 0-3
Weighted Collars	Not appropriate for child age 0-3
Knobbed Puzzle	Toy- commercially Available
Spinning Board	Not adapted-commercially available
Swings, Glider, Sling, Toddler, Strap, Trapeze Bar, Slide	Commercially available, suitable of 0-3 children
Swings, Height Adjustment, Beam Installation	Home conversion/adaption required, No longer funded

Therapeutic Manipulated Center	Toy – commercially available
Toy, activity center, cause/effect	Toy – commercially available
Toy, chine garden reward toy	Toy - commercially available
Toy, combo board	Toy - commercially available
Toy, curious George in Box and similar	Toy - commercially available
Adaptive scissors	Therapy tool
Balance Board	Therapy tool
Balance-disc sit cushion, mov-n-sit cushion	Therapy tool
Dycem mat	Suitable for all children ages 0-3
Foam Weights	Therapy tool
Hand Held Rotation Board	Therapy tool, similar as balance board
Laryngeal Mirror	Therapy tool- not for home use
River Stones and Similar Items	Suitable for all children ages 0-3
Therapy Mirror	Therapy tool
Therapy Putty	Therapy tool
Treadmill, pediatric	Commercially available, therapy tool
Twist Pillow	Commercially available
Wiggle Writer	Commercially available, therapy tool
Therapy Ball Pump	Commercially available
Helmet	Medical, nontherapeutic
Therapy Ball with Shaggy Doo Cover	Therapy tool, Can use household items to replicate cover

NOTES: **Natural environment-** Families and therapists are encouraged to utilize items within their natural environment or that are readily available to meet the developmental needs of the child.

Definition of Commercially Available: an item that is readily available at stores or online stores.