

## Oklahoma ABLE Tech and SoonerStart Collaboration

Oklahoma ABLE Tech and SoonerStart desire to provide assistive technology to infants and toddlers, birth to 36 months. ABLE Tech provides assistive technology to SoonerStart teams in the form of assessment kits. SoonerStart uses these kits when working with families in their homes. The goal is to increase awareness of and access to assistive technology that may benefit children with disabilities in the SoonerStart program.

### What is assistive technology?

Assistive technology (AT) is any item, device, or piece of equipment used to maintain or improve a person's capabilities, allowing them to function independently in their daily activities.

AT services help children, their families, and service providers find and use AT that fit each child's individual needs. Some AT is simple and others more complex, but all are chosen to help the child play, communicate, and learn more easily.

### How can assistive technology help children with disabilities?

Young children with disabilities may have a difficult time performing everyday activities. Assistive technology can help them learn, develop, and become more independent and engaged in their daily lives.

### Assistive technology includes:

- Cognitive and learning aids
- Speech communication aids
- Computer access aids
- Feeding aids
- Listening devices
- Mobility aids
- Seating and standing aids
- Visual aids
- Daily living aids
- Adaptive toys

### Assistive technology allows children with disabilities to:

- See and hear better
- Be mobile and play
- Learn and communicate
- Participate in everyday activities
- Be more independent at meal time

*"Using the topic boards assists Charles in communicating his wants and needs. He is able to communicate more effectively, therefore, eliminating much frustration. Implementing the topic boards, and integrating them into daily activities, has allowed Charles to engage and interact more fully with his friends and family."*

*~ Oklahoma County Parent*

