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UAAACT News

Utah Augmentative Alternative Assistive Communication and Technology Teams

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UAAACT Web Site: <http://www.uaaact.org>

Legal Issues in Assistive Technology

Is a school district responsible to provide assistive technology devices for home use?

May a school board overrule a determination by an IEP team that a child with a disability needs access to an assistive technology device at home?

What is the time limit on implementation of an IEP?

Judy A. Schrag, recent director of the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), answered these questions.

Digest of Response (November 27, 1991)

Assistive Technology Devices May Be Required for Home Use

If an IEP team determines that a child with a disability needs access to an assistive technology device at home as a matter of FAPE, then the school district must provide the device for home use in order to implement the child's IEP.

School Board May Not Change IEP Team's Determination

Under Part B, a school board has no authority to unilaterally change any statement of special education or related services contained in an IEP, including a statement of a child's need to have access to an assistive technology device at home.

Without reconvening the IEP team, the school board may not change the IEP, and the school district is obligated to implement the IEP requirements, regardless of the school board's objections.

IEPs Must Generally Be Implemented Without Delay

Under Reg. 300.342(b), an IEP must be in effect before the provision of special education or related services and must be implemented as soon as possible following the conclusion of the IEP meeting(s). In accordance with Appendix C to the Part 300 regulations, an IEP should generally be implemented without delay after being finalized, although a reasonable delay may be permissible in limited circumstances. In certain circumstances such as when the IEP meeting occurs during the summer or a vacation period, or where there are circumstances which require a short delay (e.g., working out transportation arrangements) the implementation may not be immediate. See Comment 34 CFR § 300.342.

For more details see: www.pluk.org.AT1.html

AAC In The Mountains

AAC in the Mountains will be held in Park City on July 12-14, 2004. Karen Erikson, Caroline Musselwhite and Pati King-DeBaun will be presenting. For more conference information see: www.creativecommunicating.com

UAAACT members who wish to attend this conference must send a conference registration form to Lynn Marcoux at The Computer Center by May 14th, 2004. Late registrations will not be accepted. There will be a 20%-40% administration fee on any cancellations. UAAACT members who cancel their AAC in the Mountains registration may be held personally responsible to pay the cancellation fee. UAAACT project funding for your expenses will be limited to your team's current training budget.

You may want to contact Lynn Marcoux at The Computer Center as you begin to make your travel plans. She will help you follow the University of Utah travel procedures and insure your travel expenses will be covered. Also, review the UAAACT Travel Policy information in the appendix of the current UAAACT Policy and Procedures Manual. Please feel free to call The Computer Center if you have any questions.

2005 UAAACT Conference

The 2005 UAAACT Conference will be held February 10-11, 2005. Emily Rubins of Communication Crossroads (see: www.commXroads.com) and Susan Johnston of the University of Utah will be the keynote speakers at the conference.

Will you also be a speaker? It's never too early to start thinking about presenting your latest and greatest ideas. As we have done in previous conference years, the UAAACT Project plans to provide a \$500 equipment grant to teams that are accepted as conference presenters. Conference details, (including a possible new conference location) and calls for presenters will be announced near the beginning of the 2004-05 school year.

Boardmaker Books

There is a new link on the UAAACT website where you will find a variety of books that have been adapted using the Picture Communication Symbols (PCS) and Mayer-Johnson Boardmaker. The Picture Communication Symbols are used by individuals who have difficulty being understood verbally or have severe difficulties with reading and writing.

Seven hundred and forty-three popular children's books such as 10 step Guide to Living with a Monster by Laura Numeroff, Berlioz the Bear by Jan Brett, and It's Science: The Five Senses by Sally Hewitt have a corresponding symbol file at the Baltimore City Public School System web site. These files allow you to print the symbols that can be used to adapt the books. The symbols can be cut and affixed onto your personal book. This is a great way to adapt a book for a student with limited reading skills.

For more information see: www.uaaact.org, click on "Professional Links" and select Baltimore City Schools Adapted Library Books.

"Every Move Counts"

This new 10 minute video and manual are now available at CCCD. This product describes the assessment and intervention program developed by Jane Kosrsten, Dixie Dunn, Teresa Foss and Mary Kay Francke to determine what experiences are reinforcing to children who are perceived as being unable to communicate. Students learn how to control their environment using sensory-based communication techniques. Staff members learn to recognize and use responses to stimuli and shape communicative behavior. Reproducible record keeping forms are included. If you have low functioning students, this video and manual may give you some practical ideas.

Sensitrac Pads

Each team that reads this information and would like to receive a free sensitrac pad should call Lynn at the Computer Center and place the request. For more information on the sensitrac products, see:

<http://www.sensitrac.com/padonly.htm>

Do You Know What You Have?

IntelliTools Classroom Suite provides preK-8 educators with a fully integrated suite of three teaching and learning tools:

1. IntelliPics Studio 3 is a multimedia presentation tool.
2. IntelliMathics 3 is a virtual math manipulation tool.
3. IntelliTalk 3 is a talking word processor and writing tool.

Each team recently received this software package. If you want training on how to use this software, please contact Scott or Craig at The Computer Center to request a training session.

A free, fully functional demonstration disk is available for a 45 day trial for parents and schools. The trial version is available as a download from the IntelliTools website or by calling 800-899-6687 to request a CD version. This trial version reverts to IntelliPics Studio Player after the 45 day period. This means that any IntelliPics Studio activities created can still be used.

Team Hours

This serves as a reminder to send in team hours and students served. These are the factors used for calculating the funding for team equipment budgets. The forms are located at www.uaaact.org, and as an insert in this newsletter. The reports will be due on June 10, 2004. Please send the reports to Sue Lancaster at the slancaster@do.carbon.k12.ut.us or mail to Sue Lancaster, P.O. Box 305, Cleveland, UT, 84518. The forms are also available in the Policy and Procedure Handbook.

Documentation of UAAACT Competencies

It is time to submit new competency forms for individuals who feel they have improved their skills. This form also needs to be submitted for new members. If you submitted a form last year and have stayed at the same level there is no need to turn in a new form. Training budgets are calculated by the compilation of the Competency Levels of the members of the team. The form should be sent to Craig Boogaard, 1595 West 500 South, Salt Lake City, UT 84104 or email to cboogaard@utah.gov by May 14, 2004. The competency forms are located in your UAAACT Policy and Procedure Handbook or on the website at www.uaaact.org.

Next Years Trainings

As this school year runs down we are already preparing for next years trainings. The staff at the Computer Center has added some new subjects as well as new technology for these trainings. The exact dates and time are yet to be determined so watch the Web site (www.uaaact.org) as well as future newsletters for this information.

Upcoming Trainings

Making Curriculum Accessible

The New IntelliTools Classroom Suite

Writing Software for Students with Disabilities

Writing Hardware for Students with Disabilities

Math Software for Learning and Writing

Boardmaker

Speaking Dynamically Pro

Reading Assistance Software

If you as a team or as a team member would like to receive any of these trainings or others within your school district please contact the Computer Center for Citizens with Disabilities to establish a date and time.

The Computer Center for Citizens With Disabilities
1595 West 500 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84104

UAAACT TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Training Activities are at the Computer Center for Citizens with Disabilities, 1595 W. 500 South in Salt Lake City, unless otherwise stated. Register for **Dynavox** workshops by calling Dynavox at 1-800-344-1778 ext 322. To register for all other workshops call the Computer Center at 877-9380 or toll free at 1-888-866-5550.

Prentke Romich Tools by Alan Renshaw

May 14, 8:20 am to 12:00 pm

Introduction to the Series 4 DynaVox Products by Rick Archer

June 4, 9:30 am to 3:30 pm

New Leadership Council Members

Along with the changing of the school year come changes to our leadership council. We would like to thank, Christine Warnock from Team O, Julie Brown from Team G and Tammy Miller from Team S for their hard work for the last two years on the leadership council. We would also like to thank Sue Lancaster from Team M and Tressa Beckstead from Team H for their continued support. Our new leadership council members are as follows:

Debbie Manning from the Box Elder Team represents Teams T, L, C, and B.

Lesa Stone from the Murray/Granite Team represents Teams Q, J, A, R and O.

Tracy Stewart from the Salt Lake/Tooele Team represents Teams G, E, D, and the soon to be Team U.

We would like to thank them for their support for the teams they represent and the UAAACT project as a whole.