

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY (AT) SERVICES

The Keiki Tech Project within the Early Intervention Section of the State of Hawai'i Department of Health provides AT services in Hawai'i. The goal of Keiki Tech consultants is to determine AT strategies that will enable children with disabilities to function more effectively within their natural settings.

To determine the child's AT needs, Keiki Tech consultants gather information by meeting with families & therapists, reviewing individual therapy reports, and/or observing the child in his/her daily settings. Using this information, a functional assessment is performed, which may involve observing & playing with the child using different adapted toys & positioning aids, as well as considering the environment or situation in which AT will be used (e.g. playing indoors/outdoors, communicating with family), & the family's needs, desires, & resources.

Once an appropriate AT strategy has been determined (e.g. a large on/off button for battery operated toys to facilitate independent play; an augmentative communication device), the Keiki Tech consultant may provide one or more of the following services as necessary:

- Assist in acquiring, fitting, maintaining, and/or repairing the recommended AT.
- Provide access to Keiki Tech's lending library of adapted books, adapted toys, computer activities, access devices, communication aids, etc.
- Educate the child's family & other early intervention professionals in the use & care of the AT (e.g. how to attach an adaptive switch to any battery operated toy).
- Provide ongoing technical assistance to ensure proper AT and to modify it when necessary.

"What keeps me working as an assistive technology specialist is finding tools for tots so they may access their world."

