

# What is Assistive Technology (AT)?

**A**ssistive Technology (AT) is any device or service that makes it possible for people with disabilities to live and work as independently as possible in our communities.

## AT includes aids for:

- Daily Living
- Low Vision
- Communication
- Hearing
- Mobility
- Adaptive Toys
- Computer Access

## Some examples include:

- Rollerball Mouse
- Communication Boards
- Gait Trainers
- Wheelchair Ramps

The type of devices or equipment selected will depend on the sensory, physical and cognitive levels of the individual.

## Considerations include:

- how easy it is to move from one environment to another,
- how well it stands up to typical daily wear and tear,
- how available the vendors or manufacturers are for repair and technical assistance,
- how easy the equipment is to use,
- how easily changes can be made, and,
- if the device has the capacity to grow as the users' needs change.

## VATS Central Office

Department of Rehabilitative Services  
8004 Franklin Farms Drive  
Richmond, VA 23229  
804-662-9990  
www.vats.org

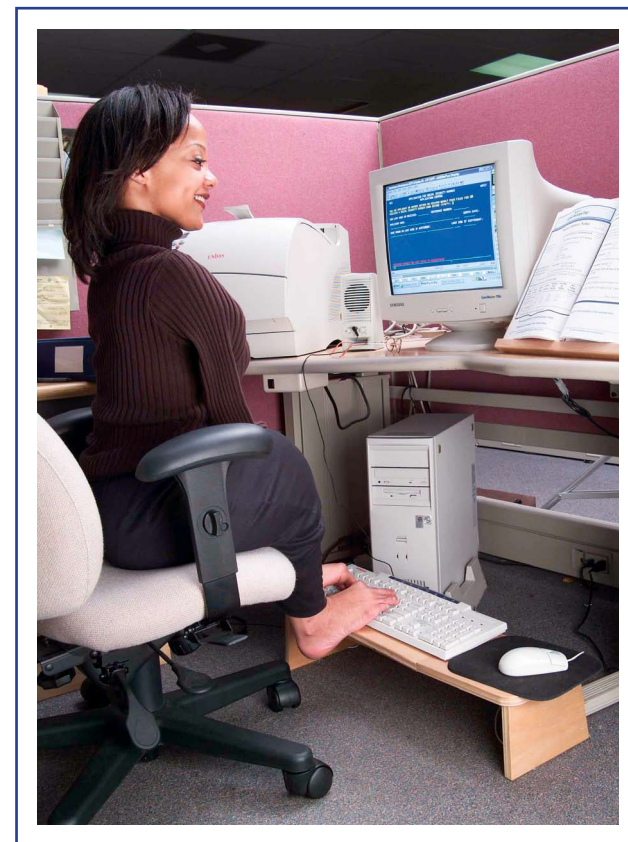
## Our Mission

The mission of the Virginia Assistive Technology System (VATS) is to ensure that Virginians of all ages and abilities can access and acquire appropriate, affordable assistive and information technologies and services they need to participate in society as active citizens.

VATS is administered by the Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services. Its activities are guided by the VATS Advisory Council which provides oversight and ensures consumer responsiveness.



The contents of this brochure were developed by the Virginia Assistive Technology System under a grant by the U.S. Department of Education. However, these contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.



## Virginia Assistive Technology System

[www.vats.org](http://www.vats.org)

## AT Recycling

VATS works with localities across the state to support the development of community-based recycling programs, which receive and refurbish gently-used devices and equipment and redistributes the equipment to people who need them. To access recycled AT, visit the VATS website at [www.vats.org](http://www.vats.org) to view the list of equipment available for exchange and contact information for recycling programs in your area. You can also call the VATS toll-free Information and Referral number at 1-800-435-8490.



## AT Demonstrations and Training

Individuals interested in acquiring AT want to know what kinds of devices are available, what device is best for them, and how it can be obtained. VATS Regional Sites offer demonstrations and

trainings, directly and indirectly, to increase the knowledge of devices and improve the individuals' ability to use their devices.

AT demonstration labs located in the Regional Sites allow individuals with disabilities to see, touch, and experience a variety of devices as they search for the right tools.

## Public Awareness

VATS offers workshops, presentations, and exhibits to increase public awareness of AT, and to provide strategies and resources for independent living, employment, and education. Visit the VATS website to find dates and locations of upcoming events.

## Information and Referral

VATS provides a toll-free number to call for information about devices, services and funding for people with disabilities, care providers, case managers, and service providers.

**1-800-435-8490 / [www.vats.org](http://www.vats.org)**

## Locations

VATS has four regional locations to serve you. For more information about VATS programs and services in your area, please visit our website at [www.vats.org](http://www.vats.org) to locate the site nearest you, or call toll-free at 1-800-552-5019 (voice), 1-800-464-9950 (TTY).

