Using technology to support students with autism at home and in the community

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Lunch & Learn
July 2
Today’s Agenda

- Overview of Technology & ASD
- Strategy examples and demos
  - Recent Research
- VCU ACE Online Resources
  - Question & Answer
Key Points

• Technology greatly broadens our range of tools, but high tech is not always the best tool for every situation.

• Fit the tool to the child

*Beware the 60 Minutes effect*
Examples of Low Tech Strategies

• Whiteboard
• Fidgets
• Visual cues (highlighters, graphic organizers)
• Adapted seating
• Headphones/earplugs
• Slantboards
• Timer
Instructional vs. Assistive Tech

- Textbook = Instructional Tech
- Magnifying glass = AsTech
SETT Framework

- Student
- Environment
- Task
- Tool
Finding the Tool to Fit the Purpose

• What works with our kiddos in home and classroom environments and tasks?
• [http://autismmpdc.fpg.unc.edu/](http://autismmpdc.fpg.unc.edu/)
• Briefs on 27 evidence-based practices for students with autism
• Implementation guides and summaries
• [www.autisminternetmodules.org](http://www.autisminternetmodules.org)
• Interactive modules for ‘Autism in the Classroom’ as well as the home, community, etc.
• Lots of videos and case studies
• VCU-ACE Online Course: Evidence-Based Practices

• Register at:
  https://vcuautismcenter.org/te/courses/effectiveInstruction.cfm
Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC)
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• But does using an AAC prevent or slow the development of natural speech?

NO

Task analysis

• Boardmaker
• Word/Pages
• iPad apps
  – Choiceworks
  – First-then
• Digital camera
• Vary based on individual student (Written, picture, symbol, etc.)
• Pages/Word or Boardmaker are good to use
• Helps to preview and reduce anxiety about new and routine situations and transitions
Visual supports

• Creating and using visual supports
  —Photos or picture-symbols
• Time Timer
• First Then
• Choiceworks
• 5 point scale
Video modeling

• Easy to make & use
• Highly effective for teaching and generalizing many new skills
• Evidence-based in communication, social skills, vocational, play, and many others
Video resumes

- Beneficial alternative to a traditional interview
- A digital way to share a potential employee’s skills to an employer
- How to construct a video resume
  - https://youtu.be/-Ky4WT_b3OE
Social narratives

• Keynote (Mac) or Powerpoint
• Boardmaker (PR or Mac)
• Pages (Mac) or Word (PC)
• Pictello (app)
• Comic Life (iPad/Mac)
• Story Kit (iPad)
Technology in Transition

• Can be used to prepare students for work
  – social narratives for interview prep
  – video modeling as a teaching tool
  – video resumes
  – visual Schedules
Technology in Transition

• Can create more independence on a job site
  – Using phones as a work tool
    • CanPlan app
    • Notes app
    • Texting
    • Timers
    • Virtual Check Ins
    • Visual Schedules
Using tech & devices at home

• Take a moment to reflect on how technology could be used in the following:
  – Home routines
  – New experiences in the community
  – Adjusting to changes
  – Structuring time management
  – Completing homework
# Upcoming Topics

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Presenter</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 4, 2020 12:00 - 1:00</td>
<td>Communication Strategies for Families</td>
<td>Stephanie Paull &amp; Charlene Wentland</td>
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Registration Link: [https://vcu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJIkdeusrDwsHdNcnuXggG_jt77dCaK ICqfa](https://vcu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJIkdeusrDwsHdNcnuXggG_jt77dCaK ICqfa)

Or, go to the [www.vcuautismcenter.org](http://www.vcuautismcenter.org) and click on Lunch and Learn
For questions or more information

Please visit:

www.vcuautismcenter.org

Or

e-mail: autismcenter@vcu.edu