Introduction

Digital Assistive Technology

Content

- What are smart devices, and what are some of the differences between them?
- What are some of the options available to make your device easier to use?
- What is an app, and why would you need one?
- How can you use smart devices to increase social connections?
- There are also other workshops in this series which will go into further detail

What are Smart devices?

- Smart Phones
- Laptops
- Tablets
- Smart Watches
- Smart home technology
  - Smart locks
  - Smart lighting

How do you choose which device is right for you?

- What do you want to be able to do?
  - Video calls?
  - Prompts and reminders
- How are you going to use it?
- Is it easy to charge
- Is it compatible with your other tech
- Do you need additional features?
- Where do you want to use the devie
- How does it need to be setup for you
- Can you travel with it?
- Is anyone else going to use it
- What is your internet quality like?

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Why choose a phone?

- Portable
- Can support communication
- Can be used with other devices

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Why choose a tablet?

- Need a larger screen
- Engaging in therapy sessions via telehealth
- Access to internet
  - Online banking
  - Emails
  - Browsing the internet

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Why choose a computer?

- Specific mounting
- Need to complete more complex tasks

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Why choose a smart watch?

- You often leave phone behind
- You respond better to vibrations (haptics) rather than on-screen notifications or sound
- Some watches rely on a mobile phone being nearby to make phone calls

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What can digital AT do

Allow access to:

- Social media (Facebook, Instagram, etc)
- Video calling
- Online gaming
- Online communities

Connect to smart technology

- Home control

Will enhance social connection

Allows you to access these things when it suits you and you can take breaks when needed.

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What can digital AT do

- Information sharing and receiving
- Access to up to date information
- Communicate with service providers
- Monitor finances and NDIS funding
- Health monitoring including falls detection
- Prompts and reminders
- Apps for leisure activities
- Puzzles and brain training games
- Record Keeping
- Increased control of environment (smart home control)

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How do I use Digital Assistive

You need to be able to

- Know what is on your screen
- Identify what you want to interact with
- Interact with your target
- Write letters/ symbols

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Know or identify what is on the screen

In built features on devices:

- Magnification
- High Contrast settings
- Larger screen
- Simplified Layout

Additional Peripheral options:

- Text to speech
- Braille readers

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Hear

In built Features:

- Use of vibration or visual alerts
- Use of captions

Additional options to support function:

- Auditory hearing supports (hearing loops)
- Speech to text software or apps

Target/ Touch

In Built Features

- Increase the size of the target
- Change the mouse speed settings/ size of the cursor
- Positioning

Additional Options

- Mouse alternatives
- Screen or keyboard guards
- Switch control

Interact (e.g. write)

Inbuilt features

- Modified mouse controls (e.g. dwell to click or 'ignore repeats')
- Slow keys
- Sticky keys

Additional Options to support function

- Voice to text software
- Grammar applications
- Modified keyboards
- Switch control
- Eye Gaze

Attend (pay attention to)

In Built Features

- Simplified Screen
- Use of shortcuts

Additional Options to support function

- Use of focus/ productivity apps
- Software that can highlight text
- Use of prompts/ reminders

What is an App?

- An app is a piece of software you can download to increase device functionality.
- Apps can look different depending on whether you use a mobile device or computer
- Some apps require an internet connection or GPS
- Some are free, some require a fee, and others require an ongoing subscription.

Apps for Visual Access

- Be my eyes
- Google lens
- Voice dream reader
- Good maps outdoor

Apps for Physical Access

- Exercise apps
- Apps to enhance coordination

Apps to support executive functioning

- CanPlan.
- Luminosity (brain training app)
- Google calendar/Google assistant (using reminders)
- Brain in hand
- Timer
- Visual schedule planner

Apps to support emotional regulation

- Calm.
- Portal
- Trigger Stop social and emotional check in

Apps to support communication

- Proloquo2go

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Thankyou for Listening

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