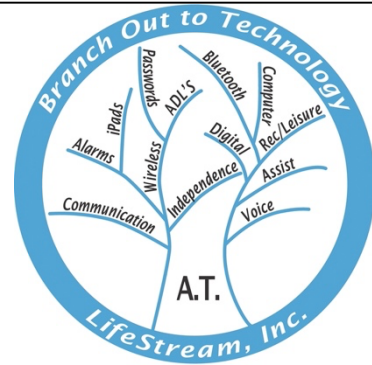LifeStream

Assistive Technology News

August 2021

LifeStream's LifeTech Assistive Technology (AT) Program

In April 2021, LifeStream received a grant in response to the DDS Innovation Funding to Promote the Use of Supportive Technology RFR. Our proposal focused on assessment, education and training. The LifeTech program has evolved into a webpage on lifestreaminc.com under the "Disabilities Serivces" tab. We modified our assessment for the individuals in our Community & Family Supports program. Each individual was reassessed and we are in process of developing plans to help meet their goals for more independence. For the education piece we met and discussed topics that would be beneficial for individuals and staff to learn more about currently developed 8 trainings ranging from "Intro to Assistive Technology" to "Social Connections in the Community". We are also collaborating with Bridgewater State University to develop a training program for staff to become more knowledgeable in the area of Assistive Technology and able to assist the individuals they support to become more independent in their lives.

APP OF THE MONTH

Happy Color - Coloring Games (Google Play Store and App Store)

Coloring helps reduce stress and increases relaxation. All pictures are marked by number. Allows sharing of your finished product with friends and family.

For further information, please email:
assistivetech@lifestreaminc.com

LifeTech AT Lending Library

LifeTech now has a lending library for assistive technology. 80% of assistive technology gets abandoned due to lack of training and support from caregivers. Assistive Technology equipment can also be expensive for individuals. Items in the lending library allow for individuals to borrow equipment and trial it before purchase in order to ensure the technology will meet their needs.

Visit the lending library at lifestreaminc.com, select "Assistive Technology" under the "Disabilities Services" Tab, then select "Lending Library" on the right of the LifeTech page. All you have to do is create an account and discover what is available. Reserve the equipment and you will be notified when it is available for pickup.

Follow LifeStream Inc on Facebook and participate in the Assistive Technology "Guess the Device" contest. Contest winners will receive a $20.00 gift card.

Send submissions to:
assistivetech@lifestreaminc.com

6 Ways to Build Communication Partner Skills

Part 3: Pausing and Waiting

Using AAC takes time! We need to allow more time for communication. We must learn pause and wait.
 •Allow time for the AAC user to make their message.
 •Wait for a message to be composed before talking.
 •Pause for the AAC user to take a turn or respond.
 •When we do pause, pause expectantly. Look toward the AAC user with an open expression that invites them to take up their turn if they wish to.
 •It can be a great idea to count in our head for at least 5 seconds. This is a useful strategy to help us to pause.
 •Some AAC users take more time to start their body moving to communicate. Count how much time they need. Make sure everyone knows.(e.g. Communication Plan should include: "Sally can take 4 seconds to start her communication, make sure you allow her time!").
 •Don't jump in with prompts or help if they have not responded immediately.

from: Communication Partner Skills for AAC Users