"My son Nicholas was non-verbal until almost 6 years old, which is when he started receiving assistive technology services and a communication device was introduced. This coincided with his first words and took him to a whole new level. He has truly thrived using assistive technology, and his every day quality of life over the past few years is all the more bright because of it."

**—NICOLE CONN, PARENT**

## Assistive Technology Equipment Loan

Assistive technology equipment is available for loan, after a consultation, to Lanterman clients, their family members, advocates, or service providers providing service or assistance to a Lanterman client (e.g., therapist, teacher, rehabilitation counselor). Equipment includes everything from hardware to software and books.

Items available for loan can be viewed by visiting **http://library.lanterman.org** and using the words "assistive technology" in your search.

## Referral for Assistive Technology Services

If you are interested in learning more about assistive technology and how it may be of benefit to you or your family member, contact your service coordinator. All referrals for assistive technology services must be made through your service coordinator.

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Partners in Lifelong Support

# Assistive Technology Program

## Lanterman's Assistive Technology Program

Lanterman's Assistive Technology Program covers a wide range of technology solutions, including:

- ❖ alternative computer access, such as switches and modified keyboards;
- ❖ augmentative and alternative communication (AAC), such as picture communication and speech devices;
- ❖ low vision-blindness, such as screen readers;
- ❖ learning disabilities, such as word prediction software;
- ❖ environmental control units; and
- ❖ deaf and hearing impaired.

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Technology is often created without regard for people with disabilities. Assistive technology adapts or enhances these existing technologies to minimize barriers and maximize the individual potential of users with disabilities.

## What is Assistive Technology?

Assistive technology is any device, software or resource that enables children and adults with disabilities to perform tasks that they were formerly unable to accomplish or had great difficulty accomplishing. The use of assistive technology promotes greater independence and self-reliance, ultimately helping to increase opportunities available and enhancing overall quality of life.

Assistive technology solutions can range from the simple to the complex, and each solution is individualized to meet the user's unique needs. To find the appropriate solution that offers the most benefit, it can take both time and an equipment trial period. However, this process can be greatly enhanced by an individual assessment/consultation and training.

## "Circle of Support"

For any success with assistive technology to be realized, a close working relationship with the client's "circle of support" must be developed. The "circle of support" includes family, friends or anyone who is providing services for the client. All services provided will include an invitation to the client's "circle of support" to participate as fully as possible in the client's plan.

"Assistive technology is not a retail experience, but an ongoing process and collaboration that requires consideration, trial, and evaluation by the child, adult, parent, family and professional. It can be the tool and pathway to opportunity for personal development, education, employment, friendship, citizenship and self-determination. Assistive technology enhances the quality of daily living while transforming both personal and public expectations of what it means to be a person with a developmental disability."

**—MARTIN SWEENEY, PARENT AND AT PROFESSIONAL**

## Assistive Technology Services

Assistive technology services available to Lanterman's clients include:

- ❖ individualized assistive technology consultations/ evaluations/trials,
- ❖ development of individualized assistive technology service plans,
- ❖ technical assistance,
- ❖ assistive technology equipment loan,
- ❖ quarterly assistive technology workshops,
- ❖ individual and group training, and
- ❖ users groups.