

What Is Assistive Technology (AT)?

Assistive Technology, or AT, refers to equipment that maintains or improves the lives of individuals with disabilities. AT may include:

- Alternate access to technologies such as computers or power wheelchairs (via switches, joysticks, light pointers, touch windows, etc.)
- Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) systems, such as communication boards, speech generating devices (SGDs), or talking switches
- Electronic Aids for Daily Living (EADLs), tools that allow children with disabilities to control lights, appliances and other devices within their environment
- Written communication output options for children unable to use traditional methods (paper/pencil, handwriting)
- Customized mounting of AT devices (such as computers, SGDs, wheelchair control mechanisms or other medical equipment) for ease of access



About Sunny Hill

Sunny Hill Health Centre for Children is a provincial facility offering specialized services to children with disabilities, their families and communities throughout British Columbia. Using a family-centred approach, Sunny Hill helps promote the healthy development of children and youth by supporting families and community service providers in their efforts. It is also a resource for educational services and information about disabilities. Services are delivered close to home in a child's community, or on site at Sunny Hill, located in Vancouver.

How To Contact Us

Sunny Hill Health Centre For Children

3644 Slocan Street, Vancouver, BC V5M 3E8

Phone: (604) 453-8300

Fax: (604) 453-8301

www.bcchildrens.ca/sunnyhill

Promoting Better Health for Children with Disabilities through Clinical Services, Education and Research



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Who Does The Assistive Technology (AT) Team Serve?

The AT Team at Sunny Hill provides services for children 0 to 19 years old throughout British Columbia. Children who are seen by the team include:

- Children who are not talking because of delays in physical development and/or delays in thinking and learning
- Children who may benefit from an augmentative communication system because although they are able to talk, they are extremely difficult for people to understand
- Children who have a disability that affects their ability to explore toys with their hands
- Children who are having difficulty with written output or with accessing the computer for play and development
- Children who have power mobility needs

If you are unsure about whether or not the AT Team is able to address the specific needs of your child, please contact the Assistive Technology Team Leader at Sunny Hill.

How To Initiate A Referral to the AT Team

Send a doctor's referral to the Sunny Hill Health Centre Health Records Department describing the service you require.

What Does The AT Team Do?

The AT Team at Sunny Hill:

- Provides assessments to assist parents, caregivers and community teams in determining a child's AT needs
- Assists with the implementation of AT recommendations
- Provides AT-related information
- Designs and builds custom solutions (including mounting, communication aids, access to devices, etc.)
- Participates in AT research
- Provides support and AT education

Who Is On The AT Team?

The AT Team includes:

- Occupational Therapists
- Speech-Language Pathologists
- Rehabilitation Engineers
- Educators

How Does The AT Team Work?

We work closely with each child, family and community team to determine the best way to deliver service. Options may include:

- Telephone consultation
- Telehealth (videoconferencing)
- Information sent by mail
- Appointments with the child, parents/caregivers and relevant community team members at Sunny Hill
- Appointments at a site deemed most appropriate (including home, school, preschool, Child Development Centres, etc.)
- In-services
- Workshops

Funding For AT Equipment

The Assistive Technology Team works with community organizations that provide assistive technology to children. These organizations include SET-BC, the "I Can Talk Too" program, the At Home program, and various other charitable organizations and community service groups that support children with Assistive Technology needs.

