



# DIRECTIONS

*Technology in Special Education*

Vol. 3 , No. 11

June/July 1997

## The Year in Review

*DIRECTIONS: Technology in Special Education, Volume 3*

It has been our practice each year in the June/July issue, to provide an index into the past year's volume. This year will be no different! Each article title is listed with the volume and number of the issue that it was in. And, if you do not have access to an article that may interest you, it is very easy to receive it! You can receive back issues of *DIRECTIONS* by contacting us in a number of convenient ways. Call our office at 607-539-3027, e-mail us at [backissues@dreamms.org](mailto:backissues@dreamms.org), or visit our web site at <http://www.dreamms.org>. We will be happy to assist you!

### Adaptive Devices

Adapting Toys & Games, DREAMMS Staff, Vol 3, No 3

### Augmentative Communication

Considerations in Selecting an AAC System, Joan Bruno, Ph.D., CCC-SLP , Vol 3, No 2

Six Things to Consider when Choosing a Communication Device, Sentient Systems, Vol 3, No 2

'Woofing' Isn't Talking, Sandy Osborn, IDEAS, Special Needs Consults, Vol 3, No 8

AAC Intervention: Field of Dreams, Gail VanTatenhove, Prentke Romich Company, Vol 3, No 10

### Environmental Control

Controlling the Environment, Janet Hosmer, Vol 3, No 5

Environmental Control Unit Vendors, Vol 3, No 5

### Funding

Asking the Community for Help, Teaching Exceptional Children, Vol 3, No 1



## Inside

<b>Advocacy in Action</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>ATFSCP Notes</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Back Issues</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Donation Incentive Act</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Conferences</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>FATIC Workshops</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Bulletin Board</b>	<b>12</b>

*Please see YIR on page 6*



My Dear Friends,

6/97

Well, here we are in the middle of the summer already! Does anyone know where the time goes?

Each year, our June/July issue recaps the past 10 issues of *DIRECTIONS* in a format that gives you the opportunity to scan the topics that we have covered. If you're a new subscriber, possibly you'll see an article that interests you, or one that will help you with your child at home or in your classroom. Or maybe you've misplaced a particular issue of *DIRECTIONS* and would like a copy of an article that was contained in it either way, you can easily look through the article titles and select any that you may be interested in, and just give us a call. This issue also provides an ideal index to put into your notebook (you DO keep a notebook of all issues don't you?) for easy access to the year's worth of newsletters.

I'd like to take this opportunity at the end of our third year of publishing to thank all those who help to make *DIRECTIONS: Technology in Special Education* happen each month. Some of the folks who make this happen are truly behind the scenes and hardly ever receive the recognition they deserve. And believe me, the past 3 years would have been impossible without them. So, thank you to Bob Blackburn and Allan Guillen at E- Systems in St. Petersburg, we'd never reach the scores of people that we do without your help; thank you to Rosemary Rukavena who devotes hours each month volunteering at DREAMMS; thank you to our Board of Directors who help us to keep on going; and a special thank you to my family, who has given me support, encouragement and hours upon hours of help and assistance over the years! Thanks to all from me and I know the parents and teachers of all the special kids we reach thank you too. Till next month

Kind Regards,

**Janet**

# DIRECTIONS

*Technology in Special Education*

155N: 1079-607X

**Editor / Publisher**  
Janet P. Hosmer

**Technical Editor**  
Chester D. Hosmer, Jr.

**Administrative Assistant**  
Kathy Knight

**Educational Consultant**  
Donna M. Eno

**Contributors**  
Lorianne Hoenninger

DREAMMS FOR KIDS, INC.  
273 Ringwood Road  
Freeville, NY 13068-9618  
VOICE: 607.539.3027  
FAX: 607-539-9930

Greetings@dreamms.org  
www.dreamms.org

*DIRECTIONS: Technology in Special Education* is published monthly (except July) by DREAMMS for Kids, Inc., (Developmental Research for the Effective Advancement of Memory and Motor Skills), a non-profit service agency and AT information clearinghouse. Annual home delivery subscription rate is \$14.95 U.S., \$17.95 Canadian, and \$29.95 Int'l. (U.S.\$). Single copies are available in the U.S. for \$2.50. Add \$1.00 for postage outside U.S.

Authors - We welcome editorial submissions. Please include name, address and phone. Submission will be returned with self addressed stamped envelope, if desired.

Vendors - We welcome product news. Please include pricing and contact name with press releases.

Copyright © 1998 by DREAMMS for Kids, Inc. Permission to reprint all or part of this publication with acknowledgment to *DIRECTIONS: Technology in Special Education*, and DREAMMS for Kids, is granted. Articles are presented for information purposes only — no product endorsement is expressed or implied.

**Check out [www.dragonflytoys.com](http://www.dragonflytoys.com) or call 1-800-308-2208 to get your FREE Dragon Fly (special play needs) Toy Catalog**

# Advocacy in Action

## CEC Participates in IDEA Forum to Address Reauthorization

Source: *CEC Today* Vol. 3, No 9

CEC is among a small group of key congressional staff, education department officials, and advocacy group representatives invited to discuss issues and try to reach a consensus on the reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The group recommends reviewing, strengthening, and improving IDEA to better educate children with disabilities and enable them to receive a quality education by:

\*Ensuring access to the general education curriculum and reforms.

\*Strengthening the role of parents.

\*Focusing on teaching and learning while reducing unnecessary paperwork requirements.

\*Giving increased attention to racial,

ethnic, and linguistic diversity to prevent inappropriate identification and mislabeling.

\*Ensuring that schools are safe and conducive to learning.

Other IDEA goals the forum out-lined are to encourage parents and educators to work out their differences by using non-adversarial means and to assist educational agencies to address the costs of improving special education and related services to children with disabilities.

### CEC IDEA Recommendations

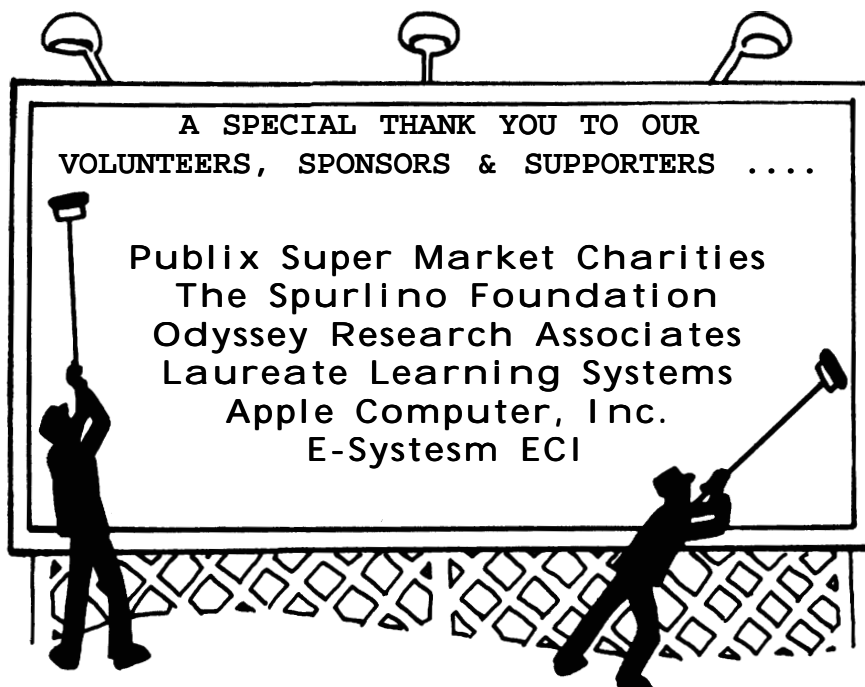
CEC addressed most of these issues in its January 1995 formal recommendations to Congress. We are proceeding from those

recommendations as modified by our January 29, 1997, testimony, in which we urged Congress to look at ways to improve IDEA other than statutory change. CEC recommends that improvements in IDEA be achieved by state action, federal regulation, policy guidance, or activities under the federal support programs. For example, the support programs can assist in addressing accountability and student outcomes. Through the support programs, we can examine the array of practices already being tested by states and districts and build on them with new techniques and practices in key reform areas.

CEC will continue to urge the toughest possible test on any proposed statutory change. As this issue went to press, vigorous discussion had taken place in the IDEA reauthorization meetings, which have been closed to the public. To date, the Hill/Administration working group has not indicated how it will proceed on any of the issues nor whether IDEA will be amended.

If you have suggestions regarding any part of IDEA 's reauthorization, fax them to CEC, 703/620-4334, or Mark Hall (fax, 202/224-2262) between 6:00 PM and 6:00 am (their fax is very busy during the day) or mail to Mark Hall, Office of Senator Trent Lott, SR-487, Senate Rus- sell Office Building, Washington, DC 20510.

For CEC's complete IDEA testimony, call 703/264-9498 or see our web site: <http://flwww.cec.sped.org>. §



# ATFSCP Notes

## The Assistive Technology Funding and Systems Change Project

### Funding Decision Case Report

By Susan Goodman, Esq.

**Case:** Hunter V. Chiles

**Reported by:** Susan Goodman, Esq.

**Decision Date:** October 25, 1996

**Plaintiff's attorney:** Julie Lippman,  
Advocacy Center of South Florida

### BACKGROUND

Plaintiffs E.H., age 22, and C.P., age 7, are Medicaid recipients with severe speech disabilities. Both are unable to communicate verbally or with hand gestures. Their evaluations concluded that the only way in which they can communicate is with alternative augmentative communication (AAC). Both plaintiffs are receiving benefits through the federal Medicaid program.

E.H. applied for funding of a communication device alleging that it should be classified as Durable Medical Equipment (DME) under the Medicaid program for individuals over the age of 21. C.P. applied for AAC under Medicaid's Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) program. The EPSDT program sets forth requirements the state must meet for recipients under the age of 21.

The state of Florida has a policy which excludes AAC under its definition of DME for adults (over the age of 21). It also has a policy to provide such equipment where medically necessary for Medicaid recipients under the age of 21, after all other funding sources have been exhausted. This means that if another source exists, such as a school district, the individual must apply to and be refused by that source

before applying for Medicaid funding. The federal district court rejected the states' claims and ordered that it be provided to both recipients.

### SUMMARY

The purpose of the federal Medicaid Act is to enable each state "to furnish rehabilitation and other services to help such families and individuals attain or retain capacity for independence or self-care..." Once a state chooses to participate in the program by receiving federal Medicaid funds, it must follow the federal Medicaid law. This means that they must provide certain services, called mandatory services. In addition, the state can choose to provide "optional services" listed in the Act. Home health care and DME were characterized as "optional services" by the court here. There is strong support in the federal Medicaid Act and case law for the interpretation of home health care and DME as a mandatory, service. Nonetheless, the court in this case ordered the state to provide it although it believed it was an optional service. A relevant point is that the state of Florida provides reimbursement for home health care services for adults and children and therefore, both age groups are entitled to receive MC under the category of DME. In order for plaintiffs to receive MC under the Medicaid program, they must show that: (1) they are eligible to receive Medicaid reimbursement; (2) MC is a covered service; and, (3) MC is medically necessary. Here, the disputed issue was whether MC devices in question were a covered service and if so, whether they were medically necessary.

### ANALYSIS

Is it a covered service?

### Plaintiff C.P.

The court determined that MC was a covered medical service because it enabled individuals *to attain or retain capacity for independence and self-care* by augmenting verbal communication. However, it stated that it had the discretion not to include MC for adults. The Florida court said that the state exclusion of this service/device had to be rationally based. The state provided home health care services for adults if the services (or equipment) meet the criteria for DME. Therefore, it is included within the range of covered services under the home health care provision.

Again, defining Home Health Services as an optional service, the state argued that it had the discretion to define the scope of covered optional services. Because the state recognized AT as a covered service for individuals under the age of 21, the states' position had the effect of illegally denying Medicaid funding solely based on age. Because of this reasoning, the court held that adults, who meet the criteria for receipt of MC were entitled to it under the Medicaid Act.

Some very important language on the issue of MC as a covered service came from an earlier case in Texas called Fred C. This language read as follows:

*“Language is the principal skill distinguishing human beings from other animals. The inability to speak can be the single most devastating aspect of any handicap. Augmentative Communication Devices are on the market today which enable many people with severe speech impairments to communicate verbally.” (Quoting a 1990 law review article by Ellen Saideman)*

Clearly, the importance of MC is being recognized by an increasing number of courts when dealing with Medicaid beneficiaries.

### **Plaintiff E.H.**

The state of Florida recognized that MC was covered under the EPSDT program. However, it stated that Medicaid was the payer of last resort, which meant that Medicaid would pay *only* if all other sources that could be tapped refused payment (e.g., school districts ). The court rejected the states’ argument that the Medicaid program was the payer of last resort. To support this reasoning, they referred to the section of the Medicaid law which states:

*Nothing in the Social Security Act “ ... shall be construed as prohibiting or restricting, or authorizing the Secretary to prohibit or restrict, payment under sub-section (a) for medical assistance for covered services furnished to a child with a disability because such services are included in the child’s individualized education program established pursuant to Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act or furnished to an infant or toddler with a disability because such services are included in the child’s individualized family*

*service plan adopted pursuant to Part H of the Act.”*

In addition, the court stated that the defendants had not proved, as required a by regulations, the probable liability of a third party. This means that the state could not deny payment based on its belief that another funding source might be available. The law required an acknowledgment by another funding source of its obligation in the matter in a order for Medicaid to escape responsibility .Nor had the state shown any proof that benefits were available from a third party at the time the Medicaid claim was filed. Therefore, the state could not deny these devices under the EPSDT program because they considered themselves the payer of last resort.

*Hunter* is most valuable for its finding on the payer of last resort.

### **Is it “medically necessary?”**

The next question addressed by the court a was whether the MC was medically necessary .Under the Medicaid Act, a state may develop its own definition of medical necessity .In the state of Florida the following definition has been developed:

“Medically necessary” or “medical necessity” means that the medical or allied care, goods, or services furnished or ordered must:

(a) meet the following conditions: “

(1) be necessary to protect life, to prevent significant illness or significant disability, or to alleviate severe pain;

(2) Be individualized, specific, and consistent with symptoms or confirmed diagnosis of the illness or injury under treatment, and not in excess of the patient’s needs;

(3) Be consistent with generally accepted professional medical standards as determined by the Medicaid program, and not experimental or investigational;

(4) Be reflective of the level of service that can be safely furnished, and for which no equally effective and more conservative or less costly treatment is available statewide; and,

(5) Be furnished in a manner not primarily intended for the convenience of the recipient, the recipient’s caretaker, or the provider.”

The experts who evaluated the Plaintiffs found that MC will prevent significant disability or alleviate severe pain; are consistent with generally accepted professional medical standards; and is the level or service that can be safely furnished. Further, the experts stated that there is no equally effective and more conservative or less costly treatment available and that it is furnished in a manner not primarily intended for convenience. In addition, the treating professionals determined that MC was the only effective speech therapy for E.H. and C.P. and that MC for these individuals met the states’ criteria of “medically necessary .”

### **ACTION STEPS**

1. If your state Medicaid program uses a “payer of last resort” approach in determining whether to pay for otherwise covered services and equipment, find out how they decide whether a third party payer is available. Medicaid does not have the right to make legal decisions that bind any other agency. Therefore, the other agency must provide documentation

*YIR Continued from Page 1*

Frequently Asked Questions on AT Funding, AT Funding & Systems Change Project, Vol 3, No 2

State Tech Act Project Information, AT Funding & Systems Change Project, Vol 3, No 3

Funding Decision Case Report, AT Funding & Systems Change Project, Vol 3, No 4

Common Funding Excuses, AT Funding & Systems Change Project, Vol 3, No 5

Frequently Asked Questions on AT, AT Funding & Systems Change Project, Vol 3, No 7

Frequently Asked Questions About the Legislative Process, AT Funding & Systems Change Project, Vol 3, No 8

New Strategies for Systems Change, AT Funding & Systems Change Project, Vol 3, No 9

Medicare as a Funding Source, AT Funding & Systems Change Project, Vol 3, No 10

**General AT**

FATIC/DREAMMS Strategic Alliance, DREAMMS Staff, Vol 3, No 2

We Need More Than Stories, Alexandra Enters, RESNA QA Committee, Vol 3, No 2

AT Advocate Corner, AT Advocate, Vol 3, No 3

Medicaid & AT: What Should be in a Doctor's Letter, AT Advocate, Vol 3, No 4

Assistive Technology Examples, AT in Education -A Policy Framework for Florida, Vol 3, No 4

ERIC Offers Wealth of Resources, Community Update, Vol 3, No 5

AT for Students with Mild Disabilities, ERIC Digest, Michael M. Behrmann, Vol 3, No 7

**IDEA**

IDEA Update, TAM Connector, Vol 3, No 5

IDEA Reauthorization, AT Funding & Systems Change Project, Vol 3, No 6

Reauthorizing IDEA -Take Action, AT Funding & Systems Change Project, Vol 3, No 9

**Legislation**

The Court's Impact on Special Education, CEC Today, Vol 2, No 10, Vol 3, No 1

18th Annual Report to Congress, CEC Today, Vol 3, No 7

**Online**

Internet Resources via Netscape, Part 1, Charles Doty, Ph.D., Vol 3, No 6

Getting Started with Online Services, Edmark Corporation, Vol 3, No 6

Internet Resources via Netscape, Part 2, Charles Doty, Ph.D. Vol 3, No 7

**Press Release**

Cordless Control System, AbleNet, Inc., Vol 3, No 1

BIGGY Cursor Control, RJ Cooper, Vol 3, No 1

Bubble Busy Boxes, Enabling Devices, Vol 3, No 1

Closed Caption Encoder, International Computers, Vol 3, No 1

Edmark Software Savings, Edmark Corporation, Vol 3, No 2

Overlay Maker for Windows, IntelliTools, Vol 3, No 2

Big Buddy Button / Ultra One, TASH, Inc., Vol 3, No 2

Online Access, Compuserve, Inc., Vol 3, No 2

Humanware on the WWW, Humanware, Vol 3, No 2

Handbook of Adaptive Switches and AugComm Devices, Academic Software, Inc., Vol 3, No 3

Step 'N Go Cycles, Treadle Power, Inc., Vol 3, No 3

Swim, Swam, Swum, Laureate Learning Systems, Inc., Vol 3, No 3

The New Katie's Farm, Lawrence Productions, Inc., Vol 3, No 4

The Speech Enhancer, Electronic Speech Enhancement, Inc., Vol 3, No 4

REHABDATA on the Web, NARIC, Vol 3, No 4

AII-Turn-It Spinner, AbleNet, Inc., Vol 3, No 5

Joystick (& Mouse) Trainer, RJCooper, Vol 3, No 5

kidBoard & COMPUTERTOTS, kidBoard, Inc., Vol 3, No 5

New Language Package for Alpha Talker, Prentke Romich Company, Vol 3, No 6

A Book of Possibilities, AbleNet, Inc., Vol 3, No 6

New AbilitySpeaker Pillow, Ability Research, Inc., Vol 3, No 6

Talk is Cheap!, Enabling Devices, Vol 3, No 7

Adaptive TV Control, APT Technologies, Inc., Vol 3, No 7

Needs First: AugCom System Search Tool, George Adams Consulting, Vol 3, No 7

New SLATS from AbleNet, AbleNet, Inc., Vol 3, No 8

EZ Phone, Prentke Romich Company, Vol 3, No 8

DigiVox 2, Sentient Systems, Vol 3, No 8

Liberator Upgrade, Prentke Romich Company, Vol 3, No 9

MINDPLAY Special Education Resource  
Area, MINDPLAY, Vol 3, No 9

AbleNet Award, AbleNet, Inc., Vol 3,  
No 9

DynaMyte AugComm Device, Sentient  
Systems, Vol 3, No 10

New Switches, TASH, Inc., Vol 3, No 10

Titles in Spanish, Edmark Corporation,  
Vol 3, No 10

### Resources

Resources for Special Education  
Teachers & Parents, AT Funding &  
Systems Change Project, Vol 3, No 1

### Reviews

Words Around Me, Edmark Corporation,  
Vol 3, No 2

Oppenheim Toy Portfolio, DREAMMS  
Staff, Vol 3, No 3

Augmentative Communication News &  
Alternatively Speaking, DREAMMS  
Staff, Vol 3, No 3

Building Bridges Training Seminar,  
DREAMMS Staff, Vol 3, No 4

Mighty Math Zoo Zillions, Edmark  
Corporation, Vol 3, No 5

Mighty Math Calculating Crew, Edmark  
Corporation, Vol 3, No 6

BOOKMAN Electronic Books,  
DREAMMS Staff, Vol 3, No 8

Resource Guide on Inclusion & Parent  
Advocacy, DREAMMS Staff, Vol 3, No 9

KidDesk from Edmark, DREAMMS  
Staff, Vol 3, No 9 ,

### Software

Using the Computer as a Reading  
Enrichment Tool, Edmark  
Corporation, Vol 3, No 4

What Can be Done to Increase  
Accessibility, Gregg C. Vanderheiden,  
Ph.D., TRACE Center, Vol 3, No 8

Educational Software Vendors,  
DREAMMS Staff, Vol 3, No 8

Software for Special Education  
Teachers, Janet Hosmer, Vol 3, No 9

New Public Domain Programs from  
TLL, DREAMMS Staff, Vol 3, No 9

Cause & Effect Carnival, DREAMMS  
Staff, Vol 3, No 10

### Technology & Inclusion

AT and Early Childhood Education.  
Jamie Judd-Wall, Vol 3, No 1

Entering School with AT K-2, Jamie  
Judd-Wall, Vol 3, No 2

AT as an Instructional Modification,  
Jamie Judd-Wall, Vol 3, No 3

Expanding Personal Productivity-AT in  
Grades 6-8, Jamie Judd-Wall, Vol 3,  
No 9

High School: Are You Ready for the  
Adult World?, Jamie Judd-Wall, Vol 3,  
No 7

Post-Secondary Education and  
Transition, Jamie Judd-Wall, Vol 3,  
No 8

Thank you for being with us for  
another exciting and informative year!  
...And thank you to our contributing  
authors!

## DIRECTIONS

*Technology in Special Education*

### Back Issues Available

January '95- Assistive Tech Intro -Part I

February '95- Assistive Tech Intro -Part II

March '95- Assistive Tech Intro -Part III

April '95 -What is a Conference?

May '95 -Adaptive Output Devices

June July '95 -Augmentative Communication

August '95 -Hearing & Vision Aids

September '95 -Assistive Tech Potpourri

October '95- Funding Assistive Technology

November '95- Special Toys

December '95 -World Wide Web

January '96 -Adapted Keyboards

February '96- Voice I/O and Software

March '96 Communications

April '96 -Transition

May '96 -Using Switches

June July '96 -The Year in Review

August '96- Technology in the Classroom

September '96 -Communication Devices

October '96- Adapting Toys & Games

Each issue is filled with valuable assistive  
technology information and tips, along with  
product information and news. Please send  
\$2.50 (check, PO, Visa or MasterCard) for each  
issue requested along with your name and  
address to:

*DIRECTIONS* Back Issues

DREAMMS for Kids, Inc.

273 Ringwood Road

Freeville, NY 13068-9618

Voice/FAX: 607-539-3027

E-Mail: DREAMMS@aol.com

Web: <http://users.aol.com/dreamms/>

## Eshoo Proposes Greater Tax Incentives For Donation of Computers, Software, and Training For Education

Washington, D.C.-Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-CA) today introduced the Computer Donation Incentive Act to provide greater tax incentives for corporate donations of computers, software, and related training for educational purposes. Specifically, the legislation would give an enhanced tax deduction to companies for such donations to public elementary and secondary schools, libraries, recreational centers, and other governmental entities. It also would provide an enhanced tax break to non-profit and government organizations that provide computer training to people with disabilities. Rep. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) is the lead cosponsor of the legislation.

“Bringing our classrooms into the 21st Century is a tremendously expensive undertaking that cannot be accomplished by government alone,” said Rep. Eshoo. “We need to encourage greater public-private partnerships for upgrading the technology in our schools to make them world class centers for excellence in education.

“In Silicon Valley, private efforts, like Challenge 2000 and Net Day, have emerged because our high tech industry recognizes that a computer-literate work force is needed to keep companies competitive in the global market. And while some businesses have been donating computer

hardware to schools for several years, they have only recently begun to recognize that teachers need to be trained to use that equipment if they hope to employ it properly in the classroom. The Computer Donation Incentive Act will go a long way to encourage more companies to invest in our schools, our people, and their own future success.”

Under current law, computer donations from manufacturers to public schools qualify for normal tax deduction worth the cost of making the equipment. At the same time, donations to private schools, colleges, and universities qualify for an enhanced tax deduction worth approximately the production

### AT Survival Kit

A Comprehensive Assistive Technology Re-

#### INCLUDES . . . . .

- *DREAMMS Guide to Assistive Technology - extensive AT reference anthology of local, state and national agency literature - value #39.95*
- *A full year subscription to “DIRECTIONS: Technology in Special Education” - value \$14.95*
- *The DIRECTIONS Electronic Digest - the past 2 years on diskette (Mac or PC format) - value \$39.95*

**Receive this \$95.00 value for only \$59.95  
(Parents receive a 50% discount!)**

**Call us today!**

DREAMMS for Kids, Inc.  
Assistive Technology Solutions  
273 Ringwood Road  
Freeville, NY 13068-9618

Phone/FAX: 607-539-3027 • Info@dreamms.org •

### IDEAS

## Special Needs Consults, Inc.



*Seeking Creative Solutions*

- Individual Assessments
- On-Site Consultations
- Professional Seminars
- Program Development
- Solutions for Individuals

**P.O. Box 180605**

**Casselberry, FL 32718-0605**

**Phone: (407) 332-7770**

**FAX: (407) 332-7189**



cost of the equipment plus half of the profit that the manufacturer would have received if the equipment had been sold on the market.

The Computer Donation Incentive Act would make the enhanced tax deduction available for computer hardware and software donations to public K-12 schools, libraries, recreational centers, other government entities, and qualified organizations that provide computer training to people with disabilities. It would also offer the enhanced deduction to non-manufacturers that make charitable computer contributions within three years of the date that computers are purchased. Further, companies could claim the enhanced tax deduction for donations of up to eight hours of teacher training associated

with the equipment had been sold on the market.

Other features of the legislation include: an enhanced tax deduction for computer contributions to non-profit organizations that repair and refurbish equipment that is subsequently donated to public schools, other qualifying government organizations, and groups that provide computer training to people with disabilities; an enhanced tax deduction for donations of digital augmentative speech devices; a sense of Congress provision that one of the main purposes of the legislation is to encourage computer donations to schools serving low income communities; and a General Accounting Office study to be

conducted before 1999 on the effectiveness of the legislation.

The preceding press release marks the introduction by Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-CA) of legislation to provide enhanced tax deductions for computer hardware, software, and training donations to public schools and organizations that provide computer training to people with disabilities. It also provides the enhanced tax credit for donations of digital augmentative speech devices. Any questions or comments are welcome to: Lewis Roth, Communications Director, Rep. Anna Eshoo, U.S. House of Representatives, 308 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515, 202-225-8104 F 202-225-8890 <http://www.eshoo.house.gov>. §

## CONFERENCES & EVENTS

**Date:** June 29, July 2, 1997

**Event:** NECC 97

**Location:** Seattle, WA

**Information:** 541-346-2834

**Date:** July 8 - 12, 1997

**Event:** 1997 National Conference on Autism

**Location:** Orlando, FL

**Information:** 715-366-4500

**Date:** July 8 - 12, 1997

**Event:** ConnSENSE 97

**Location:** Windsor Locks, CT

**Information:** 860-455-0707

**Date:** July 11 - 13, 1997

**Event:** Linking Families: Connecting Strengths

**Location:** St. Louis, MO

**Information:** 800-500-7878

**Date:** August 3 - 6, 1997

**Event:** Educational Technology Conference & Expo 97

**Location:** Atlanta, GA

**Information:** 703-684-0510

## INNOVATIVE SOFTWARE

*Designed to Meet Special Needs*

Laureate offers over 80 programs in the areas of:

- \*Language Development
- \*Cognitive Processing
- \*Reading
- \*Instructional Games



### FREE BOOK!

Our book, *Sequential Software for Language Intervention and Development*, will help you more effectively select software for every stage of language development.

**Laureate**

**Call 1-800-562-6801  
for your FREE book  
and catalog.**

Laureate \* 110 East Spring St. \* Winooski, VT 05404  
802-655-4755 \* <http://www.LLSys.com>

*ATFSCP Continued from Page 5*

that they are responsible and will immediately make the technology available.

2. If your child has MC on his/her IEP and you are seeking reimbursement from Medicaid, the school district cannot refuse to pay it based on the payer of last resort argument. You should immediately request a hearing if that happens.

3. Find out whether your state makes a distinction between youths (under age 21) and adults (over age 21), regarding what services will be provided. If it does, point out that denying services based on age is illegal- unless there is a compelling reason to do so.

4. Find out whom in your state gives the responsibility for deciding whether something is medically necessary .You should advocate for someone who is knowledgeable about what the technology does and familiar with contemporary medical standards and practices regarding the effectiveness of AT be in that position.

5. There is a now a large body of precedent in the law that exists for MC under Medicaid. If you are refused MC under Medicaid, contact your state Protection and Advocacy agency. You may also contact Lew Golinker at the ATFSCP Project at 1-800-827-0093.

The opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the position or the policy of the U.S. Department of Education, and no official endorsement by the U.S. Department of Education of the opinions expressed herein should be inferred. §

---

**See You At FATIC!**

## Highlighting FATIC Workshops

---

As we grow closer to this year's Florida Assistive Technology Impact Conference, we will highlight a few of the informative workshops that will be offered at this year's conference. Here are a few that we're sure you'll find interesting.

### **IntelliCelebrations: Exploring the Potential of IntelliKeys**

The IntelliKeys alternate keyboard has the potential to meet the needs of many students with disabilities for appropriate educational experiences. Its dynamic membrane surface can change to accommodate any number of active keys in any shape. The software programs that have been developed to accompany the IntelliKeys alternate keyboard provide the tools that allow the display area to be used for any educational purpose and any subject matter. Overlay Maker assists the user to create overlays on standard legal paper and send them to the IntelliKeys. IntelliTalk is a talking word processor that can speak the content of an overlay. IntelliPics provides a program in which activities can be custom-designed for any classroom. This hands-on session on the Macintosh platform will use an interactive cooking activity themed on autumn holidays to introduce capability of IntelliKeys and accompanying software. Participants will be provided with step-by-step instruction in order to successfully complete and replicate activities. Extensions for the classroom and additional applications of IntelliKeys will be shared with participants. This session is for participants already familiar with basic Macintosh computer and mouse skills.

### **Designing Accessible Web Pages That are Tailored for Your Curriculum**

We're all using web pages for just about

everything these days! (And if you aren't, you 're going to be amazed at how easy it is to create one on your own...) But have you ever thought about designing a web page that can be used by your students to access materials that will support your curriculum? And, more importantly, how can you make this page accessible to ALL students in your classroom, even those with challenges that make traditional "browsing" difficult? This work- shop will show you how to create a page that will be easily accessible by students who use adaptive computer access equipment like screen readers and switches, while it will be fun and easy to use for all! Although structured for PC users, the techniques learned will also be able to be used on Macintosh systems.

### **Switches**

In recent years, new technologies have become available making switch use easier for some and opening a new door of access for others. In this session participants will learn the components of assessment, including cognition, positioning, methods of access, types of switches and switch mounts. An overview of applications will be provided within the areas of computer use, environmental control, and toys.

Participants will also learn about switch mounts and the importance of correct switch placement. An in depth look at the wide variety of switches available today will be provided in order to improve the quality of use and expand opportunities for potential switch users. §

---

# FATIC '97 Update

The Florida Assistive Technology Impact Conference (FATIC) celebrates its sixth year with a new venue, a new agenda and a totally new perspective. FATIC '97 will be held October 16-19, 1997 at the Sheraton World Resort in Orlando, Florida. The conference started in 1992 with 457 participants from the State of Florida and included 62 informative sessions. By 1996, the conference had grown to an attendance of 3,613 participants from around the world with 197 sessions and hands-on workshops. This year, FATIC promises to exceed all expectations due to an unprecedented collaboration between the Florida Federation Council for Exceptional Children, the Florida Federation Technology and Media Division of CEC, the Florida Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (FSAAC), the Florida Association for the Gifted (FLAG) and DREAMMS for Kids, Inc.



**The Dream Goes On!**  
*From Vision to Reality*  
**Sheraton World Resort**  
**Orlando, Florida**  
**October 16-19, 1997**

**This will be a major event! Be a part of it!**

FATIC '97 will focus on research, implications and uses of assistive technology to facilitate the inclusion of at risk children, vocational rehabilitation, sensory, physical, mental, speech and language, and emotional impairments.

FATIC '97 will target teachers, parents, consumers, rehabilitation agencies, researchers, administrators, and other decision-making groups, and will:

- provide for staff development in the effective and appropriate uses of adaptive and assistive devices
- provide for the establishment and use of existing networks for the exchange of information related to the uses of adaptive/assistive technology and associated research
- provide for the promotion of partnerships with supportive business, industries and other organizations
- have manufacturers of adaptive and assistive devices and software represented at the Hands-On Expo

## SPECIAL INVITED SPEAKER

**"DEVELOPING A SPEECH RECOGNITION SYSTEM FOR CHRISTOPHER REEVE"**

**A TELECOMMUNICATION PRESENTATION**

Andrew Meshulam of AM Technologies, Inc. has been training Christopher Reeve on DragonDictate, which allows him to operate his computer independently to utilize on-line services, write and communicate by e-mail with his family overseas. They are currently exploring the teleconferencing capabilities of the system. FATIC will be the first venue to offer this exciting telecommunication presentation. ***This workshop will be included with full conference registration, however, seating is limited and you must reserve a seat. Make your reservation early!***

To receive a registration form or Exhibitors Contract, call 813-781-1239, e-mail: 104325.74@compuserve.com, or visit the FATIC homepage at <http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/FATIC> and print out the forms provided.



## JAWS NT Screen Reader

St. Petersburg, FL-Henter-Joyce, Inc. the preeminent developer of computer access technology announces their latest screen reader for the Microsoft Windows NT operating system.

“The speed and stability with which JAWS operates with Windows NT is terrific” stated Eric Damery VP of Sales. This new product will further support Henter-Joyce’s mission of providing computer access tools for people that are blind or visually impaired, to be competitive in the ever changing world of employment opportunities.

JAWS NT will be released and shipping to the public in the third quarter of 1997. It will support most popular hardware and several software based synthesizers, which work with Sound Cards, and Refreshable Braille Displays. DOS applications and Windows 95 will also be supported.

*Henter-Joyce, Inc.*  
11800 31st Court North St.  
Petersburg, FL 33716  
jawsNT@hj.com  
<http://www.hj.com>

## Compact Activity Center

Hastings-on-Hudson, NY-*The Compact Activity Center*, manufactured by Enabling Devices/ Toys for Special Children, is a small scale busy box designed to provide sensory stimulation and cognitive activity for the infant or child whose physical mobility is limited. The activity center is unique in that it has several different mounting options. You can mount it on a sidelyer or on a crib, use it on a lapboard, or place it on a table stand. The *Compact Activity Center* targets exploratory play and discovery activities: when you pull the wooden ball, music plays; touch the textured plate and it vibrates while a light shines; push the button and sparkling colored sequins swirl in a dome. It also has a multi-colored bead curtain that is reflected in a mirror. The features are all ultra-sensitive so even the slightest touch will produce a result.

*Enabling Devices*  
*Toys for Special Children*  
385 Warburton Avenue  
Hastings-on-Hudson, NY 10706  
800-832-8697

## Symbol Protection for AbleNet Switches

Minneapolis, MN—If you’ve ever tried to preserve the symbols you affix to switches, you’re going to enjoy *Snap* -switch caps. AbleNet, Inc., the Minneapolis-based developer of innovative products for people with severe disabilities, has created clear plastic caps that protect symbols from everyday wear and tear, excessive handling and even moisture. The durable, semi-rigid plastic caps fit snugly, yet snap off easily so that symbols can be changed throughout the day as needed. The caps also hold symbols in place atop the surface of AbleNet switches without any adhesive. Just place a symbol on the switch, then firmly press on the cap and it will quickly snap into place. *Snap* switch caps are molded for two sizes of AbleNet switches. The small cap fits the company’s 2 1/2 -inch diameter Jelly Bean Switch. The large size fits five-inch diameter Big Red and cordless Big Red Switches, and the BIGmack™ Communication Aid.

*AbleNet, Inc.*  
1081 Tenth Ave S.E.  
Minneapolis, MN 55414  
800-322-0956

 DREAMMS  
for kids, Inc.  
*Assistive Technology Solutions*  
273 Ringwood Road • Freeville, NY 13068-9618

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 13  
FREEVILLE, NY