

What WATI Offers

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- √ WATI Developed Materials
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- √ Assistive Technology Interest Groups
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- √ Electronic Newsletter

The Mission of WATI ...

Wisconsin Assistive Technology Initiative assists school districts and Birth to 3 programs in their responsibility to ensure that every child in Wisconsin who may need assistive technology (AT) has equal and timely access to appropriate assessment and the provision and implementation of needed AT devices and services.

The goal is to improve the outcomes and results for children with disabilities birth to 21 through the use of assistive technology to access services, curriculum, and school and community activities. The project increases the capacity of early intervention agencies, school districts, and their partners to provide assistive technology by making training and technical assistance available throughout Wisconsin.

Access to AT

Lending Library

The WATI Lending Library is available to professionals in public schools, child care centers, Head Start programs, and Birth to 3 programs in Wisconsin. Over 1000 pieces of equipment, software and resource materials are available for preview and trial use to help aid in purchase decisions. The full list of available items can be found on our online searchable database at www.wati.org.

Used Equipment Marketplace

This service, similar to classified ads, allows individuals to obtain, sell, donate, loan or rent used equipment valued at \$25 or more. There is no charge to advertise. The ads appear in the *Monitor* newsletter and on the WATI website. WATI connects buyers with sellers of used equipment and does not store the equipment.

State Buys

WATI negotiates with AT vendors to offer a special price to Wisconsin residents. This service helps lower the cost of AT for school districts. State buys are posted on the WATI website.

T raining

Awareness, knowledge, and mastery level training is provided throughout the state on a variety of topics related to AT to interested persons working in public schools, child care centers, Head Start programs, and Birth to 3 programs. Training opportunities are advertised on the WATI website, in the *Monitor*, and various Cooperative Educational Service Agency (CESA) newsletters and through direct mailing.

Training is available at no or low cost and can be scheduled by contacting your WATI consultant at your local CESA office or the main WATI office. WATI staff are available to teach a variety of workshops on topics related to the provision of assistive technology services to children with disabilities, including assessment.

AT Across the Lifespan

WATI co-sponsors an annual conference with WisTech, Wisconsin's Tech Act Project. It brings service providers, consumers, and AT vendors together to share the latest technology and implementation strategies. The conference offers pre-conference workshops as well as concurrent sessions that address AT issues related to individuals with disabilities across all ages.



Information Dissemination

Technical Assistance

WATI Consultants are available to answer questions from the field via email and phone.

WATI Materials

WATI has developed a variety of materials to help support service providers as they implement the assistive technology requirements of IDEA 2004. These materials include manuals, assessment forms, self assessment tools, children's stories, and low cost AT devices that we find useful and want to share them with others.

Our materials have been sold in 50 states and 7 countries, with many repeat customers. These practical materials provide useful information to assistive technology service providers in many different situations.

A number of these information documents are available free of charge as a download from the WATI website (click on Products).

The Monitor Newsletter

The newsletter is disseminated as a collaborative effort between WATI and Milwaukee Public Schools. It contains information about workshops, conferences, new products, vendors, publications, and other resources related to assistive technology. It is distributed electronically via email and the WATI website.

WATI - Central Office

Toll Free Phone: 800-991-5576

Local Phone: 920-424-2247

Fax: 920-424-1396

Email: info@wati.org

WATI - Central Office Staff

Elizabeth A. Lahm, Ph.D., ATP
WATI Director

Sharon Rhode, Lending Library Manager

Mary Chapin, Product Sales Manager and
Events Coordinator

Kelly Brodhagen, Secretary



*A statewide project to make
assistive technology devices and
services more available to children
with disabilities.*

WATI
Mailing address:
Polk Library, 800 Algoma Blvd.
Oshkosh, WI 54901

Shipping address:
Polk Library, 801 Elmwood Ave.
Oshkosh, WI 54901

**visit us on the web at:
www.wati.org**