

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY (AT): BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE

Training Program Overview



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Introduction:

Communication and Information Technology (ICT) has already emerged in all aspects of life and supports many jobs and tasks in General Education but also contributes a lot to Special Education. The existing technological advances have changed the life style and life expectations of many disadvantaged people all over the world. Enhancements on electronic devices and the development of **Assistive Technology (AT)** contribute to the quality of life of the differently abled people, especially in areas like:

- *Education*
- *Communication*
- *Mobility and accessibility*
- *Vocational training*
- *Work placement and support at work*
- *Entertainment*
- *Social integration*
- *Independence and personal development.*

Assistive Technology (AT) proved to be a valuable tool for the differently abled and there are numerous cases of them who succeeded in life only because they have taken advantage of the tremendous potentials of AT. Their success became a reality because their educators, carers, support groups, parents and close relatives received advance trainings on how to take advantage of AT applications.

Program Content:

The present training program has been specially designed to provide a thorough knowledge on the impact of AT in people with disabilities and it addresses its contribution to differently abled children and adults with Dyslexia, Autism, Down Syndrome, ADD or ADHD, with Intellectual Challenges, with Severe Learning Difficulties, with Motor Control Problems, children who are Slow Learners or are Communicatively impaired, people who are hearing or visually impaired and generally people who need a different approach and tools to support them.

The program provides many opportunities with lots of practical examples and case studies rather than been theoretical and will cover a big series of issues and topics with emphasis on the implementation, the use and contribution of AT.

The trainees will realize that there is strong justification for the use of AT, learn of terms and definitions, work with special devices and special software (demonstration and hands on experiences), acquire skills of basic assessment procedures and tools and will become able to integrate AT into the Individual Educational Plan (IEP) of the student/child.

Expected benefits for the trainees:

- Acquire both theoretical and practical knowledge on AT as a tool for Education and Communication as well as a tool for Social Integration
- Learn and practice with special software, special hardware
- Appreciate the great potentials of AT, in Special Education
- Learn of the different organized activities which can be integrated in their students'/children's curriculum or of activities to be added in their Individual Educational Plans (IEP)
- Become able to utilize AT for the benefit of their students/children
- Have the chance to take with them lots of other free software and teaching material.

Beneficiaries:

The training program will be of interest to all those involved in the education and rehabilitation of the handicapped, parents and professionals. Professionals and paraprofessionals like logopedics, speech pathologists, speech therapists, teachers for the differently abled, educational psychologists, primary and nursery school teachers, occupational therapists, teacher aids, Rehabilitation Centres, Parents' Associations, Professionals' Associations, differently abled people themselves and also individual parents will find it very useful.

Duration of training:

7 **consecutive** days, 6 hours daily, including breaks.

Number of participants: 15

Date:

31st March–6th of April 2019, both dates included.

Venue:

Upon request.

The last training conducted in Amman, Jordan

Certificates:

Certificates will be provided by the end of the training.

Note: Trainees will be given a free, fully functioning in Arabic, software called SALAM (Speech and Language Acquisition Method).

Language of training:

English. If translation is provided the training will slow down.

Assessment:

There will be formal and informal assessment of the participants throughout the training program, with quiz/es and assignment/s. Each participant will have to present in writing (in English) a case and suggest specific tools as well as activities to provide both for intervention and for assessment. Other small assignments might be required.

The training will be delivered by two trainers have intensive qualifications and experiences in special education with studies in Deafness, Dyslexia, Augmentative, Alternative Communication (AAC), Assistive Technology (AT) and Inclusion, experiences in Special Needs, been a special needs teacher, teacher for the deaf, an inclusion coordinator for Hearing Impaired, an Inspector of Special Education, an AT Evaluator and an instructional material and curriculum developer; with more than three decades of experience with Assistive Technology educational and instructional tools. He has introduced computers and Assistive Technology in public and special school in many countries.

Trainers contributed in the designer localizer and developer of a big series of tools (software-hardware) and teaching materials focusing on speech, verbal and nonverbal communication, Mathematics and language development (MAPS, MACS, PESKIDS, PAMAT, DES, PES, READIND for deaf, SPEED OF READING, SALAM, ABCD etc), including a considerable number of Arabic tools.

Daily Agenda:

Day 1.

08:30	09:30	Presentation of the program Overview of Assistive Technology, Justification, Case studies, Definitions list
09:30	11:00	Special Hardware Part 1 – Demonstration, Description.

11:00	11:30	Break
11:30	13:00	Special Software Part 1- Demonstration, Description.
13:00	13:30	Break
13:30	14:30	Disabilities -Tools they will need.

6:00 hours.

Day 2.

08:30	09:30	Definitions list - AT methodologies Categorizing tools by skill (table to fill in)
09:30	11:00	The IEP and the integration of AT in learning (IEP to complete)
11:00	11:30	Break
11:30	13:00	Special Hardware Part 2 - Hands on experience
13:00	13:30	Break
13:30	14:30	Special Software Part 2 - Hands on experience

6:00 hours.

Day 3.

08:30	09:30	Definition list, Discussion of trainees' Assignment. Bring your scenario (case study, template).
09:30	11:00	SALAM-ABCD software for all abilities all disabilities, analysis of its purpose.
11:00	11:30	Break
11:30	13:00	SALAM, activities, Phonology and Reading
13:00	13:30	Break
13:30	14:30	Irlen Syndrome – Reading difficulties (Free pre-screening tests)

6:00 hours.

Day 4.

08:30	09:30	Definition list, AAC, Low, Light and High IPAD and Augmentative, Alternative Communication (AAC)
09:30	11:00	Prepare Low Tech AAC (A3 paper, markers, rulers) The Eye Gaze System
11:00	11:30	Break
11:30	13:00	AAC - ME, design an individual program

13:00	13:30	Break
13:30	14:30	Educational robot- Hands on experience, Design your own mat, Revision, short quiz. Deciding on your assignment

6:00 hours.

Day 5.

08:30	09:30	Rotating working stations. Reading with the talking pen, designing activities- talking wall, Using switches, communication tools
09:30	11:00	Assessment Tips –Participants working on their assignment
11:00	11:30	Break
11:30	13:00	Other tools (memory, speech, visual discrimination).
13:00	13:30	Break
13:30	14:30	Revision

6:00 hours.

Day 6.

08:30	09:30	Definition list-Assessment Tips –Participants working on their assignment
09:30	11:00	Assessment of Verbal Communication –Participants working on their assignment
11:00	11:30	Break
11:30	13:00	Participants working on their assignment
13:00	13:30	Break
13:30	14:30	Revision, Tips for presentation

6:00 hours.

Day 7.

08:30	09:30	Submit your definition list Participants presenting
09:30	11:00	Participants presenting
11:00	11:30	Break
11:30	13:00	Final test

13:00	13:30	Break
13:30	14:30	Discussion Closing the training Certificates.

6:00 hours.

Special notes:

1. We suggest that trainees should have their USBs with them as they will receive lots of free tools.
2. Trainees will need local material like A3 size paper 50x70 board paper, scissors, markers, long and short rulers, and note paper, to complete their assignments.
3. For the installation of the software to be used and the functioning of computers an IT person will be available.
4. Software can be installed before the training.
5. The training includes a variety of tools for education, communication, inclusion, everyday use and lots of tools will be available but it is impossible to have all tools physically available.
6. There is a need for two tables next to the podium for exhibition of the tools and another 3 at the back of the room for group work.
7. There is a list of tools that the trainer will bring them. So, the trainer will need a letter from the Client saying that he is carrying technology tools for demonstration and training so that they will not stop him at the airport.

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