

Assistive Technology: A Better Quality of Life for Persons with Disabilities

Training Program for Special Education Teachers



Date: 23 – 27 May 2021

Program Content

The present training program has been specially designed to provide a thorough knowledge on the impact of **Assistive Technology (AT)** in persons 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, persons who are hearing or visually impaired and generally persons 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.

Assistive Technology Tools covered in the Training:

1. Educational robots with two mats
2. Talking wall
3. Sequence bar
4. Talking album
5. Talking dice
6. Attention tracker
7. Educational robot and mats for the robot
8. Switches
9. Computer switch interfaces
10. Special keyboard, with large buttons
11. A keyguard
12. Big ball mouse
13. Special joystick
14. Big talking button
15. Talking buttons on one base
16. Talking pens
17. Briefcase communication device
18. Mounting arm with base and Velcro
19. Communication device with cells
20. Communication device with 44 buttons
21. Communication device with 30 buttons
22. Communication device with 10 buttons
23. Clever tiles
24. Video magnifier for the Low vision persons
25. Memory cards set
26. Talking buttons
27. Keyboard labels
28. Attention tracker
29. Irlen transparencies
30. Adapted toys
31. Battery contacts
32. Eye tracking (low tech)
33. Switches
34. Interfaces
35. Talking bee

Justification of the Training

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has already emerged in all aspects of life and supports many jobs and activities in education but also contributes a lot to special education. The existing technological advances have changed the lifestyle and life expectations of many disadvantaged persons 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 persons, 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, careers, support groups, parents and close relatives received advance trainings on how to take advantage of AT applications.

Expected Outcomes

Trainees will:

1. Acquire both theoretical and practical knowledge on AT as a tool for Education and Communication as well as a tool for Social Integration
2. Learn and practice with special software, special hardware
3. Appreciate the great potentials of AT, in Special Education
4. 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)
5. Become able to utilize AT for the benefit of their students/children
6. 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 schoolteachers, occupational therapists, teacher aids, Rehabilitation Centres, Parents' Associations, Professionals' Associations, differently abled persons themselves and also individual parents will find it very useful.

Training Topics

- Overview of Assistive Technology, Case studies, Definitions list
- Special Hardware Part 1 – Demonstration, Description.
- Special Software Part 1- Demonstration, Description.
- Disabilities -Tools they will need.
- Definitions list - AT methodologies
- Categorizing tools by skill (table to fill in)
- The IEP and the integration of AT in learning (IEP to complete)
- Special Hardware Part 2 - Hands on experience
- Special Software Part 2 - Hands on experience
- Definition list, Discussion of trainees' Assignment. Bring your scenario (case study, template).
- SALAM-ABCD software for all abilities all disabilities, analysis of its purpose.
- SALAM, activities, Phonology and Reading
- Irlen Syndrome – Reading difficulties

- Definition list, AAC, Low, Light and High IPAD and Augmentative, Alternative Communication (AAC)
- Prepare Low Tech AAC (A3 paper, markers, rulers) The Eye Gaze System
- AAC - ME, design an individual program
- Educational robot- Hands on experience,
- Deciding on your assignment
- Rotating working stations. Reading with the talking pen, designing activities- talking wall, Using switches, communication tools
- Assessment Tips –Participants working on their assignment
- Other tools (memory, speech, visual discrimination).
- Assessment of Verbal Communication –Participants working on their assignment
- Revision, Tips for presentation
- Participants presentations

Duration of training: 5 consecutive days, 6 hours daily.

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

Language of training: Arabic and/or English, based on participants preference.

Date: 23 – 27 May 2021

Venue: Corp Hotel, Amman – Jordan

Fees: USD 450 covers 5-day training course, one apparatus, applications, meal, stationery, certificate, and course consumables. Excluding flights, accommodations, vaccinations, and visas.

For Registration:

<https://ee.humanitarianresponse.info/x/GLun8B2l>

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