

Tech 4 Tots

Independence Through Innovation



Overview:

Ability Connection is making assistive technology more accessible to individuals with disabilities by providing different types of technology to individuals who can benefit from its use. Our Technology Initiative gives individuals with disabilities the opportunity to receive assistive or therapeutic equipment at no cost.

Tech 4 Tots is a branch of the Technology Initiative that gives infants and toddlers the opportunity to enhance early learning and overcome functional limitations by providing a wide range of equipment and/or software. These assistive technology items will be awarded to a limited number of children based on a competitive application process. Devices are awarded on a quarterly-basis.

About Ability Connection:

Ability Connection has been providing the very highest quality care and support to children and adults with all types of physical and intellectual disabilities for over 60 years. For more information about Ability Connection, please visit our website at www.AbilityConnectionTexas.org, www.Ability-ConnectionNewMexico.org or contact us at (888) 999-1898.

Eligibility Requirements:

To be eligible for placement from the Tech 4 Tots branch of Ability Connection's Technology Initiative, children must:

- Have a documented physical or intellectual disability
- Provide documentation or report from a licensed Speech and Language Pathologist (SLP), Occupational Therapist (OT), or Physical Therapist (PT) that states the equipment and/or software will benefit the individual. If the child does not yet have a therapist, a doctor (MD or DO) may provide the necessary documentation. In some cases, disability professionals or special education professionals may provide recommendations.

- Device(s) and/or software are available for those who cannot afford or have no other funding source for the equipment
- Applicant/recipient must be between 9 months and 4 years old
- Live in one of the following regions:
 - o North Texas (Greater DFW Metroplex & surrounding)
 - o East Texas (Tyler, Longview, Lufkin & surrounding)
 - o Northwest Texas (Wichita Falls & surrounding)
 - o Central Texas (Greater Austin, Waco, San Antonio & surrounding)
 - o Gulf Coast (Greater Houston Metroplex & surrounding)
 - o West Texas (Greater El Paso Metroplex & surrounding)
 - o New Mexico (Statewide)
- If selected, individuals must be present at the presentation ceremony and agree to participate in a required training/orientation (1 hour required; additional training available at no cost)
- If selected, individuals/families must be willing to participate in follow-up questionnaires/surveys

Application Requirements (Continued):

Individuals are strongly encouraged to also provide a letters of support from other therapists, special education teachers, or professionals that lists additional information on why the child will benefit from this technology, including:

- A statement that specifies why the requested device is an appropriate device for the child to use to become more independent or increase early learning.
- A statement regarding why this individual should be placed with a device and the difference he or she believes it will make in the child's life.
- If you choose to include a photo as an attachment to the application, please include only one. Photos will not be returned and will be considered property of Ability Connection.

Device Placements:

Recipients of devices through Ability Connection's Technology Initiative must understand and agree to the following:

- The device is property of Ability Connection and cannot be sold or transferred to another individual; the device must be returned to ACT if the individual is unable or unwilling to use it.
- The parent or guardian of the child must sign a waiver of liability upon receipt of the device as well as a photo release for publicity purposes.
- The parent or guardian and/or therapist must agree to provide all necessary device operating updates (as applicable). NOTE: Some devices may require internet service to download the program or any corresponding updates.
- Damages to the device or charges incurred through its use are the sole responsibility of the recipient.

- If you choose to include a photo as an attachment to the application, please include only one. Photos will not be returned and will be considered property of Ability Connection.

Device Placements:

Recipients of devices through Ability Connection's Technology Initiative must understand and agree to the following:

- The device is property of Ability Connection and cannot be sold or transferred to another individual; the device must be returned to ACT if the individual is unable or unwilling to use it.
- The parent or guardian of the child must sign a waiver of liability upon receipt of the device as well as a photo release for publicity purposes.
- The parent or guardian and/or therapist must agree to provide all necessary device operating updates (as applicable). NOTE: *Some devices may require internet service to download the program or any corresponding updates.*
- Damages to the device or charges incurred through its use are the sole responsibility of the recipient.