The Challenge of Integrating the Use of assistive technology equipment for independent control and access of multiple systems

"Facing the Challenges of Seating and Access" Series, Part One
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For PaTTAN

How to assess the problems

- List the Student's current equipment
  1. The computer itself (PC or Mac)
     a. Brand, age, memory
     b. Access hardware being used
     c. Software being used
  2. The AAC device being used
     a. Brand, age, memory
     b. Access hardware being used
     c. Software being used
  3. The powered chair being used
     a. Brand, age, serial no., model no.
     b. Access hardware being used
     c. Auxiliary control interface availability
     d. Remote programmer

How to assess the problems

- List the Student's AT experience
  1. Student's history of use of access methods
     a. Paired with what activity
     b. Software used
     c. History of success
  2. Student's level of independence with all activities above

How to assess the problems

- List the current problems
  1. A real list
  – Could include:
    - Equipment needs (doesn't have what is needed)
    - Staff support needs (not knowledgeable enough)
    - Experience needs (practice for the student)
    - Software needs (doesn't have what is needed)
    - Others

How to assess problems

- Identify the Goals
  1. The wish list
     a. What would work
     b. What could work
     c. What might work

  2. Where to start
  3. Who can start

Common Problems

1. Incompatible equipment
2. Lack of Knowledge of integration by Staff and/or student
3. Lack of REAL practice by student and staff
4. Lack of REAL time for planning for practice and use
5. Lack of REAL experience in role modeling use of equipment in tasks

Common Problems

6. Whose job is this? (to make things work), AT,SLP, PT, OT, Teacher, parents, personal assistant, student?

7. How to know about powered chairs and compatibility of equipment

Sharing Real Student's Problems

Christopher

Zach

Katelyn