



Assistive Technology Partners, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, 1224 5th St. PO Box 173364 Campus Box 180-Hub, Denver, CO 80204, 303-315-1280, FAX- 303-837-5247, [www.TechForTykes.org](http://www.TechForTykes.org), [www.assistivetechologypartners.org](http://www.assistivetechologypartners.org)

## **Early Intervention AT Consultant FAQ**

### **What knowledge and expertise does an AT consultant need?**

The intent of these positions is not to have providers in place that are experts in assistive technology. It is more to have professionals who have a good basic understanding of AT in EI; enough that they can either do an initial consult with a child who may need AT, or know where to find resources to meet those needs if they don't have the expertise, themselves. Much of the knowledge needed is in the trainings offered by Assistive Technology Partners. The Consultant position guidelines ([hyperlink](#)) will give you an idea of expectations.

### **What training is required if I want to be an EI/AT consultant in Colorado?**

You are required to take the [online training](#) we provide, along with reviewing the [video](#) ([hyperlink](#)) of the training we conducted in November, 2016 in order to gain this level of knowledge. You will also need to view the tutorial on use of the loan bank. Contact [Brian Burne \(brian.burne@ucdenver.edu\)](mailto:brian.burne@ucdenver.edu) for more information.

### **I've completed and passed all the courses. How do I find my scores? What are my next steps?**

The online training is pass/fail so there are no scores. Once completed, email [Brian Burne](mailto:brian.burne@ucdenver.edu) to let him know you have completed the training and which CCB(s) you work with. Also let him know if you would like a certificate of completion. He will contact Alexis Missel so she can get you set up with loan bank access.

### **How much time does it take to do the job?**

The time required varies significantly depending upon the number of children you support through requests from service coordinators or other providers, and the needs of those children or providers. After receiving a request on a child, anywhere from a single visit to numerous visits may be needed. Time demand also depends on the requests you get for access to the loan bank. That said, for each child, the time required includes billable time with a child that needs AT services, along with potential time spent researching or obtaining AT, or accessing the loan bank either for yourself or for another provider. The latter is not billable, although we do encourage the consultants to use face to face time for things like researching, modifying or troubleshooting devices so that time can be billed.

### **I am an OT. Will I be expected to know how to do an augmentative communication evaluation?**

No, each provider has knowledge on a range from none to expert in each area of AT. No providers can be an expert in all areas. Any discipline recognized as qualified EI providers can qualify to be an AT consultant. However, not all EI providers have expertise in AT. For example, speech language pathologists do not necessarily have experience in augmentative and alternative communication. Conversely, providers with expertise in AT are perfectly capable of providing AT services without having to be AT consultants.



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### Can this be a two-person job?

In smaller CCBs, our first preference would be for one provider to become a consultant. By splitting up those responsibilities, it seems to water down the effectiveness of the position for increasing knowledge and awareness of AT and creating “ownership” of AT services for the CCB. However, larger CCBs will absolutely require several individuals to serve as AT consultants.

### How do I access the Loan Bank?

Here is a direct link: <https://swaaac.goalexandria.com/>. You can also get there on the [Tech For Tykes](http://www.TechForTykes.org) website. Once you open the loan bank, if you click on “Search” and then “Explore”, you will see categories of devices you can explore. To borrow items, you must be a designated AT Consultant which requires online training. For steps on how to do this, see above.

### Can anyone borrow from the loan bank?

Only EI/AT Consultants can borrow directly from the loan bank. Most CCB’s have AT Consultants who will be happy to help you. If you would like access to something in the loan bank, you can contact an EI AT Consultant with your CCB. Your program coordinator can help you with that. You can also go through the training to become an AT Consultant in order to access the loan bank and help others to do so.

### I completed the training and I am now an AT consultant in EI in Colorado. How do I start getting referrals for my services?

Be patient yet persistent. A key to building capacity for AT in EI is expanding understanding and awareness of AT, particularly with service coordinators. There is still much education that needs to happen. Some consultants carve out time to conduct inservices or meetings with their EI programs, or to talk with their service coordinators about AT. “Comparing notes” with other providers about their kids can oftentimes reveal the need for AT as well. There are also numerous resources on the [Tech For Tykes](http://www.TechForTykes.org) website that can provide others with increased knowledge of AT in EI. Here are a few links:

- FAQ: <http://techfortykes.org/FAQ.html>
- AT Handouts: <http://techfortykes.org/ATHandouts.html>
- Technical Assistance Brief: [http://techfortykes.org/files/TA\\_Brief.pdf](http://techfortykes.org/files/TA_Brief.pdf)
- Video on the [Tech For Tykes](http://www.TechForTykes.org) home page: Assistive Technology in Early Intervention: A Parent’s Perspective

### Do I need to do an AT consult with the family before I can request items from the loan bank?

It’s always up to the AT consultant and/or the IFSP team to determine if a consult is needed. It depends on their level of expertise. If the borrower has greater expertise than the consultant with a specific AT device, a consult isn’t really indicated. No paperwork is required for the borrower. You would just need to follow the procedure for checking the item out of the loan bank.



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I heard there are different reimbursement rates for the AT Consultants versus regular therapy visits. Is that something straight across the board with all CCBs or something we work out with the CCB individually?

It is correct that there can be different reimbursement rates for providing AT services because they are negotiated on an individual basis with each CCB. We would encourage you to talk with the program coordinator at your CCB to negotiate a higher rate. You will need to educate the PC about the other expenses of time involved with AT. The state can assist you with strategies for this. Contact Beth Cole - CDHS, [beth.cole@state.co.us](mailto:beth.cole@state.co.us).

Once I have completed the online training modules how do I get set up to borrow AT?

Once completed, email [Brian Burne](mailto:Brian.Burne@state.co.us) and let him know you have completed the training and which CCB(s) you work with. He will contact Alexis Missel so she can get you set up with loan bank access.

How do I Access the Courier?

1. A courier stop may already be set up in your area. You can check with other AT Consultants with your CCB or with a SWAAAC team member in your area. You can contact Alexis Missel ([alexis.missel@ucdenver.edu](mailto:alexis.missel@ucdenver.edu)) if you need help with this.
2. If you don't have an existing courier stop, in order to send items through the Colorado Library Consortium (CLiC) Courier you will need to find a library in your area that would be willing to accept the device or box (you would need to let them know the type of devices/boxes we would be sending to you – Packed boxes with AT for your clients/students). **Go to the CLiC website to find a location:** <http://courier.clicweb.org/>. Enter the name of a library or city near you into the Search Courier Codes. This will pull up locations which the courier runs to. From there, you would need to personally contact that office/branch and talk with them about sending any items to their location for pickup (i.e. ask their permission to use their courier infrastructure for free). If you could choose a library where you are an actual library card holder for that location there is usually no problem.
3. From there you would need to set up a plan for you to pick up the boxes from that delivery location. It's very important for us to keep good relationships with these locations since we are not technically sending books and they are under no obligation to provide this service for the loan bank. Usually, if you give a good explanation, they are more than willing to help if they have the room and appropriate staff.
4. If you have any difficulty, contact Alexis Missel.