

# Assistive Technolgy

To increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities.



### WHAT IS ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY?

According to the Technology Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities Act of 1988, an assistive technology device is defined as any item that is used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities. LADACIN has always been committed to remaining on the cutting edge of assistive technology that will benefit our students and clients.

Both Lehmann and Schroth Centers utilize a wide variety of assistive devices in order to encourage the highest degree of success for each student and adult client in any activity in which they are engaged. Our assistive technology program includes augmentative communication, computer access, adapted toys and switches, electronic aids for daily living, seating, positioning, mobility, and work site modification. Each individual has a transdisciplinary team that assesses his or her need for assistive technology to aid in increasing, maintaining, and/or improving functional capability as well as enhancing their quality of life, whether that be at home, school, day programs or jobs.

The mission of LADACIN Network, a non-profit Agency, is to provide a continuum of care including educational, therapeutic, social, residential and support services to infants, children and adults with complex physical and developmental disabilities or delays.

The Agency focuses on enhancing the quality of life for those served and their families. Since its founding in 1949 by a group of parents seeking therapy for their children with cerebral palsy, the Agency has brought together a network of volunteers, qualified staff, people with disabilities and their families dedicated to providing vital services. LADACIN Network now serves over 3,500 individuals and their families in 14 facilities in Monmouth and Ocean Counties in New Jersey.



### TECHNOLOGY AND COMPUTER ACCESS

Although computers have revolutionized learning for our students, accessing a computer can be a challenge. Touch screens and adaptive switches similar to a mouse, which both accommodate decreased fine motor control, are examples of assistive technology used every day in LADACIN Network's Programs. Each classroom is outfitted with interactive white board technology, multiple iPads, laptops/desktops, and a wide array of adaptive support equipment.





LADACIN uses hybrid technology as needed to provide equitable access to our in-person and remote learners. The SWIVL Robot is an innovative video collaboration system, which enables teachers and therapists to move around the classroom and engage students online and in the classroom simultaneously.





# ACTIVITIES OF DAILY LIVING (ADL)

ADL's are routine activities that people do every day including dressing, bathing, toileting, hygiene, and transferring. We encourage the training and development of ADLs and practical living skills such as: personal hygiene, feeding, meal preparation, laundry, sewing, basic computer skills, vocational exploration, and planning for the future. Fostering independence in these activities is important for building self-esteem and for participation in community life. There are many high- and low-tech devices that help individuals gain greater independence in these areas.



## AUGMENTATIVE COMMUNICATION DEVICES

Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) refers to any piece of equipment or assistive device that can be used to supplement or augment an individual's current method of communication (verbal, gestural, etc.). AAC equipment can have many forms. Language boards/books, alphabet boards, and voice output switches are considered low tech devices.

Higher technology items include, but are not limited to laptop computers, iPads, or computer-based voice output devices using photos, icons or words/spelling with prediction. Assistive technology such as key guards, mounting systems, switches, or eye gaze systems may be required in addition to the AAC equipment.









### SENSORY STIMULATION

Our sensory programs incorporate various tools that can be used to create a relaxing setting to help calm students and clients to ready them for learning and recreational engagement. Individuals can work on skills such as switch access, cause-and-effect, color recognition and eye-hand coordination. Our mobile sensory cart contains a complete sensory environment that offers calming input or sensory stimulation to individuals anywhere in our facility.



The Funtronic Floor is an interactive projection tool that is designed for exercises, games, and all motion-based activities. The system reacts instantly to the movement of people or objects over the surface creating a wide range of visual effects. It encourages movement and interaction, while aiding communication and social skills with a wide range of sensory activities.

### POSITIONING AND MOBILITY

LADACIN Network is proud to offer a wide variety of mobility and positioning equipment in our assistive technology inventory. We also have the ability to access other pieces of equipment on loan directly from the manufacturers.



### **Positioning**

Prone standers, supine standers, mobile standers, positioning wedges and mats, bolsters, custom chairs, upper extremity weight bearing devices, trays, bolster chairs, corner chairs, other cushion postural support hardware, and wheelchair cushions are some of the positioning devices utilized at LADACIN.

### Mobility

Mobility devices or equipment utilized at LADACIN include an extensive variety of walkers, gait trainers, canes, wheelchairs, strollers, and adapted bicycles. The Quadriciser, located in the Schroth Center, is a state-of-the-art motorized exercise device used with individuals who are unable to use traditional exercise equipment.







Transfer Aids
Mechanical lifts (power and manual), sliding boards and transfer discs are transfer aids utilized at LADACIN.

# SCHROTH SCHOOL ADULT DAY PROGRAM ACCESS UNLIMITED – MONMOUTH COUNTY

WANAMASSA, NJ

# LEHMANN SCHOOL ADULT DAY PROGRAM ACCESS UNLIMITED – OCEAN COUNTY

LAKEWOOD, NJ



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