Smart Home Pilot Update
A different kind of natural support

Alexa, a virtual voice assistant, will be moving into five additional Penn-Mar homes. The expansion of this Smart Home pilot will give us a broader perspective on the ways the people we support increase their independence with smart home technology. Current homes participating in the Smart Home pilot have experimented with the intercom feature to make announcements through the home as well as creating daily or weekly routines for trash, day program pick up, church, and "Alexa, Good Morning!" Team members encourage individuals to interact with Alexa.

Assistive Technology Spotlight

How the people we support are using assistive technology to live their lives.

Crystal B. has been encouraged and supported over the past year to use her tablet to connect with family and friends. When Crystal's support staff was absent due to illness, she used the tablet independently to call her to tell her she missed her. That same day, Crystal also called her friend Sue! Crystal also uses the tablet to order food at her favorite restaurants. Support staff Dawn created custom pages for each restaurant so she can order meals she enjoys, and the wait staff can easily understand Crystal's order when she uses the tablet. The tablet lets her use her voice instead of staff ordering for her. Recently a comment was made by the family at the annual PCP meeting that Crystal would like to read her Bible and other documents. Dawn began to share information with the team about the Penn-Mar Assistive Tech Loaner Library. Crystal and her family are excited to try new ways to increase independent reading.

Welcome to Penn-Mar's Assistive Technology Loaner Library!

Penn-Mar's Assistive Technology Library, funded by an ODP Assistive Technology grant, gives Penn-Mar's team members access to borrow available technology solutions for trial with people in the community, at home, and in a workplace setting.

See, Try, and Borrow AT!

Equipment can be signed out up to 4 weeks at a time.

Hours: Tuesdays 12pm – 3pm & Thursdays 9am – 11:30am

Location: Penn-Mar North (Far Hills) | 888 Far Hills Drive, New Freedom, PA 17349

Questions about the lending library? Contact alliskensing@penn-mar.org or assistivetechnology@penn-mar.org

Assistive Technology Team Member Survey

Assistive technology is any device that helps a person with a disability do the things they want to do. Technology is integrated within many aspects of daily life, including community connection, education, independent living, employment, and social interaction. The idea behind Assistive Technology is to increase a person's independence and community connections.

Please complete the survey below. Your input will enhance how we connect assistive technology and its processes to support the needs of individuals and team members.

https://forms.office.com/r/fXsGtugg5L

TAKE SURVEY

Mobile Application Resources

Meet the newest IDD App, Hello, It's Me! Hello, It's Me is an app tailored to the IDD Community. Your safe place to learn, interact, connect, and have fun! Launching February 2023! Want to know more about the app revolutionizing the way we connect within the IDD community? Check out the trailer here!

Hello, It's Me provides a safe place for individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) to learn, interact, connect, and have fun through products and community. Learn through interactive stories that are based on real-life scenarios.

Maryland DDA will cover the cost of the "Hello It's Me" app through the assistive technology waiver service if the tech aligns with the person's PCP goals related to building relationships and meeting people.