See, Try, and Borrow AT!

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.

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

Hours: Tues 12pm – 3pm & Thurs 9am – 11:30am

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

Where do I start with Alexa?

Choose the right device: Alexa is available on a range of devices, including Amazon Echo smart speakers, Echo Show devices with screens, Fire TV, and some third-party devices. Choose a device that meets your needs and fits your budget.

Set up your device: Follow the instructions that come with your device to set it up. You will need to connect it to a Wi-Fi network and link it to your Amazon account.

Learn the basics: Alexa can do a lot of things, from playing music to setting reminders and answering questions. Take some time to learn the basic commands, such as "Alexa, what's the weather like today?" or "Alexa, play some music."

Customize your experience: Alexa can be customized to your preferences. You can change the wake word, set up routines, and add skills (apps) to enhance its functionality.

Explore third-party apps: Alexa has a range of third-party apps (called skills) that can be added to the device to expand its functionality. Browse the Alexa app or the Alexa Skills Store to find skills that match your interests.

Practice using it: The more you use Alexa, the more you'll get comfortable with it. Practice using it for different tasks and see how it can help you in your daily life.

Assistive Technology Initiatives in Pennsylvania and Maryland

Pennsylvania

ODP's Technology Task Force <u>surveyed providers</u> serving individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities and autism about current experiences with Remote Supports, Assistive Technology, Teleservices, and Video Monitoring.

Maryland

The Maryland Department of Health - Developmental Disabilities Administration's (DDA) Technology First Task Force "Tech Tuesdays" Lunch and Learn Series.

Smart Home Pilot
a different kind of natural support

With the integration of Alexa into nine Penn-Mar homes, team members are showing a keen interest in getting started with this technology. If you are one of those team members looking to embark on your Alexa journey, the guide below can help you get started.

Upcoming Events

July 25, 2023: "Let's Talk"- A Conversation with Shift, Inc. and DDA's Provider Service Team

<u>This workshop</u> will cover how to become a technology provider and the benefits of education and certification offered through Shift, Inc. as a provider in a Technology First State.

August 15, 2023: <u>One-year Celebration</u> of Maryland as a Technology First State

Questions?

Questions about the lending library or assistive technology?

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