New York City
Early Intervention Program
The Earlier, The Better

Assistive Technology:

Tools to Help Your Child Learn and Play

Assistive technology devices help babies and toddlers in the Early Intervention Program play, learn, and interact with others. Devices may be simple or complex. They include:

- Hearing aids
- Tools to help children talk and understand
- Toys with lights and sounds for children who have trouble seeing
- Special strollers, standers, walkers, and braces for children with motor delays
- Special spoons or cups that can help your child with everyday activities

To learn more, talk to your Early Intervention therapist.

If you and your Early Intervention therapist agree that an assistive technology device may be right for your child and family:

- With your written permission, a member of your Early Intervention team will contact your family health care provider to get a prescription for each device.
- Your team will then submit the request.
- After Early Intervention staff approve the request, a vendor will work with you and your therapist to choose the right device for your child and fit it as needed.
- Once you receive the device, the vendor and your therapist will teach you how to use it safely.

Try out different devices to find what's best for your child.

Some devices can be very complex, but often the best device for your child can be very simple, such as a spoon with a big handle.

ADAPT Community Network can help you learn about different assistive technology devices for free. Some devices may be available for a short-term loan to try out with your baby or toddler. Together with your Early Intervention therapist, or on your own, you can contact ADAPT Community Network at 718-436-7979 (extension 5024) or **techworks@adaptcommunitynetwork.org** to talk about your needs or schedule an appointment to learn about devices with experienced staff.



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