

Q&A with the Institute

ADAPTIVE COMPUTER AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ACCT) SERVICES

Rehabilitation Institute Adaptive Computer and Communication Technology (ACCT) Coordinator, Suzie Wiley, explains the benefits of adaptive technology for students with disabilities.

Q: What are some of the obstacles a school-age child may face when returning to school after a disabling injury or illness?

A: “In addition to the challenges a student may have had before their traumatic event, they are also working with additional physical and cognitive changes that may further impact their academic and social activities. We address these concerns in both our Pediatric and Adolescent Medical Rehabilitation Services as well as ACCT.”

Q: How does the ACCT program help them?

A: “The role of ACCT is to help students explore assistive technology tools to help maximize their success in school. These are often computer-related software and hardware. However, ACCT staff has extensive experience in rehabilitation, so adapting other aspects of school activities is quite common. For reading difficulties, we explore software that will display and read textbooks back to them-as well as introduce them to free online services for accessing their textbooks electronically.”

Q: In what capacity does ACCT work with school transition and summer therapy camp participants?

A: “We work with participants who are current students attending camps to further develop independence, mobility and skills that will help them transition to adult services and ‘life after school.’ We do this by discussing what difficulties they have in school and introducing them to tools that may increase their typing skills, such as using voice input software, or assisting with control of the mouse/cursor by showing them free, built in features on their own computer that can increase their efficiency.”

Q: In what capacity do you work with a student’s school? How does this help the student?

A: “Many times students or families will say, ‘the school is being very helpful, but we need to be able to tell them what we need.’ We provide suggestions for schools regarding technology options that may be helpful as well as offer training to staff that will be working with the student so they can support the student on this new technology.”

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ABOUT ADAPTIVE COMPUTER AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ACCT) SERVICES

The ACCT program works with individuals with disabilities who would like to exercise more freedom in their lives using adaptive technology. The program helps individuals identify, train and utilize the right adaptive equipment for their needs. Through the use of adaptive technology, children and adults with disabilities, including spinal cord injury, stroke, brain injury or other neurological condition can communicate, complete homework and work assignments and stay more active in their community. Our staff is trained to help individuals maximize their abilities in order to reach personal goals, including returning to work/school and self-sufficient activities.

WHAT WE PROVIDE:

- Augmentative and Alternative Communication
- Computer Access
- Home Modification Recommendations
- Work Ergonomics
- Technology Education for Work, School or Just Keeping in Touch with Family and Friends
- Training on How to Effectively Use Needed Equipment



For information about ACCT or The Rehabilitation Institute of Kansas City, contact us at 816-751-7700 or visit www.rehabkc.org