

Heading with information:

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TTAP

Image of white snowflakes over a blue background where the header writing is.

Then on white background are blue hanging snowflakes.

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Welcome to TTAP (Texas Technology Access Program) and our Newsletter! This winter we have some great new things to warm you up and we are happy to share what may interest, or benefit you. We thank you for your support of our services. If you have any ideas or suggestions that you'd like to see us publish or devices you'd like to see in our Loan Program, please feel free to let us know and email: Olivia Rains orains@austin.utexas.edu

What's New With TTAP?

Drawing of a red megaphone over a rounded shaped teal background with 3 white snowflakes and the word Announcement written in cursive.

We are pleased to announce that TTAP headquarters here at the University of Texas at Austin now houses a demonstration center! For demonstrations, presentations, trainings, please contact Olivia Rains at orains@austin.utexas.edu or 512.232.0753 to make an appointment, or if you have any questions.

Header image of an abstract artistically drawn image of a blue person in silhouette form and multiple colors of design images moving around the person. Then next to the image says: International Day of People with Disability.

Since 1992, the United Nations International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) has been celebrated annually on December 3 around the world. Each year the **UN announces a theme**. The theme for 2016 is: Achieving 17 Goals for the Future We Want, which draws attention to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and how these goals can create a more inclusive and equitable world for persons with disabilities.

The annual theme provides a frame for considering how people with disability are excluded from society by promoting the removal of all types of barriers; including those relating to the physical environment, information and communications technology (ICT), or attitudinal barriers. This has been occurring since 1992 when the General Assembly proclaimed December 3 as the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. Today, countries all around the world celebrate the day. How will you celebrate?

How you can commemorate IDPD 2016 in your local community?

Include: Observance of the Day provides opportunities for collaborative and inclusive events by all stakeholders – Governments, the UN system, civil society and organizations of persons with disabilities – to focus on issues related to the inclusion of persons with disabilities in society and development, both as beneficiaries and agents of change.

Organize: Hold forums, public discussions and information campaigns in support of the themes of IDPD 2015 to discuss and share ways of including and empowering persons of all abilities to develop and be fully included in their local communities.

Celebrate: Plan and organize performances everywhere to celebrate the contributions made by persons with disabilities as agents of change in the communities in which they live. Celebrate persons with disabilities by creating opportunities to help realize their potential, be it through music, sport, academia or interpersonal skills.

Take Action: A major focus of the Day is practical action to realize the objectives of the Day for persons with disabilities and their communities. So, highlight best practices and think about making recommendations to your local political leaders, businesses, academic institutions, cultural centers and others. Work to ensure that your activity leaves a legacy and brings about lasting change.

Events from around the world

Find the list of events from around the world and click here:

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/international-day-of-persons-with-disabilities-3-december/idpd-2016-commemorations-from-around-the-world.html>

“Accessible Toys” written in large red letters with green shadowing.

Picture art of the elves all carrying stacks of wrapped presents and a bird flying between them with an envelope in its beak.

Here are some new toys we have in time for the holidays! You can borrow these from our Loan Program by going to our [website](#), find the device you want to request and fill out the form.

Go Go Hot Wheels: Activate your capability switch to race your car on this roundabout racetrack. Exciting racetrack sound effects and the song “You’ve Got to Take a Chance” play in the background. Comes with two cars that can be placed on the track together. On/off volume control. Works with most Hot Wheels and Matchbox type cars.

Photo of black wheel and toy cars moving inside the wheel.

Race Around: Activate your capability switch and three race cars spin around the track while music and racing sounds play. Great for teaching cause and effect and for promoting visual attention especially for car lovers. On/off volume control. Clamp able base prevents falls. Three removable cars included. You can also attach your own cars with Velcro.

Photo of toy cars in a circle over a yellow plastic disc and black stand, and a yellow switch attached.

The Twinkler: Pressing the yellow textured switch on the front of the device will send sparkles flying around the dome while simultaneously playing music and lighting up. Provides visual and tactile awareness. It can also be activated with an external switch.

Photo of little boy pressing a yellow disc switch that is flush against a larger blue plastic round device with a bubble top with glitter flying inside.

We also now have these new items in our Loan Program:

Voombox: Wearable Speaker helps boost sound when using tablets and mobile phones on the go. The wire free Bluetooth connection, shoulder strap and carabiner make it user friendly.

Photo of small black disk attached by a key ring.

Pillow Speaker: A lightweight, discreet and comfortable alternative to headphones. Fits standard 2.5-mm headphone jack. Includes machine washable cloth cover.

Photo of a blue, small, soft round switch and shows a hand pressing it with a thumb and first finger.

Spec Switch: A compact wired switch featuring a 1.375-in/3.5-cm activation surface that provides an auditory click and tactile feedback. Requires 3.5-oz/100-g of force to activate. 24-inch strap included. Colors: Red, Blue, Yellow.

Photo shows an index finger pressing a small yellow button to a switch.

Bottom of the page is a border art clip of Santa waving in a red sleigh with a gold colored bag behind him, as 4 Reindeer are flying upward pulling it all.

Traveling with Accessibility

Traveling for the holidays can be a very busy task. Here are some tips to remember that might help make your holiday travels more accessible.

Consider Your Specific Needs

Much of planning for a trip will revolve around your needs. Someone who has difficulty walking, for example, may have to prepare a differently for travel than someone with a sight impairment. If possible, contact organizations associated with your needs and inquire about resources for traveling. Many organizations have information on their websites about traveling on flights, as it's a very common transportation method. Communicating with members of your community can also be helpful, as people like yourself who've already traveled are some of best sources of information. Such individuals may be able to offer specific suggestions on what to pack during your travels and provide checklists. Additionally, some travel agencies specialize in booking trips for people with disabilities and offer special itineraries for those with particular impairments, like those who use wheelchairs.

- [Traveling Tips for People With Neuromuscular Disabilities](#)
- [How to Travel With a Sight Impairment or Blindness](#)
- [The Amputee Coalition's Travel Tips](#)
- [Child Restraints for People With Special Needs](#)
- [15 Best Catheter Travel and Packing Tips](#)
- [Travel Tips for the Hearing-Impaired](#)
- [Take Charge of Your Travel: A Guide for Persons With Disabilities](#)
- [Travel Preparedness in the Event of an Emergency for Individuals With Disabilities](#)

Additional Traveling Tips

Certain cities and countries have reputations for being more accessible than others. If yours is a pleasure trip, research cities' accessibility rankings to ensure the smoothest excursion. Verify that any foreign countries that you plan on visiting do not have current travel warnings or alerts associated with them by checking the U.S. Department of State's official website. Consider buying additional items that may make your trek easier: Rolling luggage, large-print tags, carriers and nets for wheelchairs, and folding bath chairs are just some of the products that can make traveling more accessible for people with disabilities.

Asking your doctor for referrals to other physicians who are familiar with your condition at your destination can help put your mind at ease when traveling. Those with mental health issues should always have copies of prescriptions with them to ensure that a medication schedule isn't interrupted. Making sure that you have enough medical supplies is integral to experiencing a safe and healthy trip, so pack more supplies than you anticipate needing. Shopping for medical supplies, such as catheters, in bulk will give you the opportunity to purchase the extra equipment that you need at a reasonable price while buying you peace of mind.

- [Choosing the Right Luggage for People With Disabilities](#)
- [Mental Health Wellness Abroad for Students \(PDF\)](#)
- [How Is Packing for Peace Corps Different for People With Disabilities?](#)
- [Travel Tips for Seniors](#)
- [Travel Warnings and Alerts](#)
- [Rights of Disabled Passengers Using Buses and Coaches](#)
- [Best Cruises for Disabled Travelers](#)

(Full article and more information from www.cheapair.com)

Photo of a header with a dark open space with a spotlight shining down from the right hand corner and the light is in tones of white and blue. At the top above the light reads: Demonstration Center Spotlight. In the spotlight reads: Heart of Central Texas Independent Living Center (HOCTIL) Belton.

Heart of Central Texas Independent Living Center (HOCTIL) Belton

The Heart of Central Texas Independent Living Center (HOCTIL) is a non-profit agency run for those with disabilities, by those with disabilities dedicated to the promotion of independence for persons with disabilities for equal access and to actively participate in their community.

Their work is driven by the independent living philosophy that persons with disabilities have the right to choose:

- Independent Living
- An Appropriate Education
- Meaningful Employment
- Transportation
- Public Services
- Assistive Technology
- To Participate in their Community

They work to develop consumer driven service plans with individuals of all ages, disabilities, dreams & goals.

The Heart of Central Texas Independent Living Center
(HOCTIL)
222 E Central
Belton, TX 76513
(254) 933-7487

In large bold dark blue lettering that curves up on both ends reads: What's Coming Up? And has light blue shadow below script.

Image of 5 photos in a row from left to right of images at past ATIA conferences and over the image as whole reads: ATIA 2017.

ATIA 2017, showcasing international excellence in the field. Come to expand your knowledge or professional development through expert educational sessions, discover the latest in products and systems, broaden your contacts in the community, and share your own expertise. ATIA 2017 is the place to learn about advances in assistive technology, stay on top of best practices and trends, and network with others who make, sell, deliver, support, test and use products and systems that enhance life for persons with disabilities.

Questions? Email info@atia.org or call 1.312.321.5172 <https://www.atia.org/conference/>

ATIA 2017 Caribe Royale Hotel and Convention Center, Orlando, Florida
Pre-Conference seminars: January 17-18, 2017.
Conference: January 18-21, 2017.

Logo reads The Arc Texas with a gold and yellow flowing mark above the word Arc.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12 TO TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

ROYAL SONESTA HOTEL IN HOUSTON, TEXAS!

The *Inclusion Works!* provides learning opportunities for parents, educators, and school administrators to improve skills in collaborating to educate students who qualify for Special Education services in the regular educational environment with supplementary aids and services. The ultimate goal is to offer families and school staff information and education about research-based practices so that eligible students are effectively prepared for further education, employment, and independent living according to the purposes of the I.D.E.A. Register by clicking [HERE](#) today!

Image of looking down at a cropped desk view from left to right a leather bound notebook closed with a ballpoint pen on top then an open laptop with a pair of hands typing on the keyboard and far right top a back cup of coffee in a mug, and below that an iPhone. Above this photo reads: "Feedback".

Feedback from Our Loan Program borrowers:

"Wonderful service! Awesome inventory, very quick turn-around. Loved the proximity switch and hook adapter."

"You and your agency should consider this a highly successful loan. Last week, we transitioned my client to his own iPad with Proloquo2Go. With your assistance, he transitioned through the Go Talk 9, the Go Talk 32 and then the Proloquetogo2 on your iPad."

"Finally able to communicate with others and also go back to school and get a job."

Having your iPad to bridge to this more sophisticated system so that we could figure out if he could use the Proloquo2go was invaluable.

"You were awesome! Fast and friendly!"

"It was super helpful and he has his own device now! Thanks for all your help with getting communication into the hands of this little guy!"

"Through the help of successful trials with you guys, our little guy got his first personal continuation device (Dynavox t10) at age 13! Thank you!"

Photo of clip art of 3 elves in green suits and hats, sitting on top of red ornament balls covered with gold stars.

Logo image of UT tower top, and reads: "What Starts Here Changes. The World The University of Texas at Austin"

Logo for TTAP blue rectangle and reads: "Texas Technology Access Program"
TTAP values your input.

If you have any suggestions, comments, or article you would like to have included in our newsletter, please contact us:

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(512) 232-0750/dwest@austin.utexas.edu

(512) 232-0753/orains@austin.utexas.edu

TTAP Demonstration Centers

Brazoria County Center for Independent Living, Angleton
Brazos Valley Center for Independent Living, Bryan
Coastal Bend Center for Independent Living, Corpus Christi
Disability in Action, Abilene
Able Center, Odessa
East Texas Center for Independent Living, Tyler
Easter Seals of Greater Houston
Heart of Central Texas Independent Living Center, Belton
Helping Hands, Amarillo
Houston Center for Independent Living, Houston
Paso Del Norte Children's Development Center, El Paso
Project MEND, San Antonio
REACH of Dallas
RISE Center for Independent Living, Beaumont
Texas Technology Access Program, Austin
VAIL – Valley Association for Independent Living, McAllen

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