

"Giving Students Equal Access"



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Speech-Language Pathologist

RESNA & ASHA Certified Assistive Technology Professional

2022-2023 School Year:

Connecting to Care is excited to be a local community resource offering <u>Comprehensive Assistive Technology Services</u> for students using or in need of Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Devices to access education. Speech-Language Pathologist, Vickie Edgar has expanded our Assistive Technology (AT) Services by offering Professional Speech Pathology Assessments, Recommendations Identifying Speech Objectives for IEP Goals and Short-Term Training Intervention.

AT Specialist, Geoffrey Barley provides Professional AAC Device Assessments, Equipment Recommendations, Device Programming and Training.

<u>Defining Assistive Technology</u>: AT is a term used to describe any device, technology, tool, or product, from the simplest to the most complex that can make a particular function easier or possible to perform. From low tech to high tech devices, technology is changing the way nonverbal students are communicating and accessing their educational environment, regardless of their ability. Connecting to Care specializes in AAC devices, systems, strategies, and tools that replace or support natural speech.

<u>AT Service Objectives</u>: Connecting to Care (CtoC), a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, is certified by the California Department of Education (CDE) to provide AT and SLP services as a Nonpublic Agency (NPA). Located in Redding, California. CtoC's mission is to fill gaps in services, with a focus on improving the lives of students with mental health issues, special needs, and physical barriers to resources.

The purpose of the AT program is to provide a Comprehensive Assistive Technology Service, including speech assessments, equipment recommendations, programing, and training, to help students access education and improve their ability to communicate.

<u>How to initiate AT services</u>: Assistive Technology Services are provided for public & private school-aged students. District, Local Education Agency (LEA) are served under a SELPA Master Contract. School services are initiated through Individual Education Plans (IEP) and Individual Service Agreements (ISA) for the purposes of assisting students in accessing education.

To begin services, a Referral letter, Student Intake Packet, and Individual Service Agreement can be found on our website at www.connectingtocare.org