**Assistive Technology in the PE setting with a focus on Augmentative & Alternative Communication**

**Assistive Technology**: a generic term that includes assistive, adaptive, and rehabilitative devices and the process used in selecting, locating, and using them. AT promotes greater independence for [people with disabilities](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Disability) by enabling them to perform tasks that they were formerly unable to accomplish, or had great difficulty accomplishing, by providing enhancements to or changed methods of interacting with the [technology](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Technology) needed to accomplish such tasks.

***Augmentative Communication****:* Electronic and non-electronic devices and software solutions that provide a means for expressive and receptive communication for students with limited speech and language.

What can we do to enhance a student’s participation in PE?

**Common AT usage in PE:**

Leisure/Recreation

-flexible time limits

-simplify activities and modified equipment

-clarify boundaries with colored tape

-use visual cues such as photos

-adjust space for easier access

-switches

Mobility:

-Use strategies developed by the PT – collaborate together when working on mobility skills

Educational – PE teachers should use the same accommodations that have been setup for the general classroom.

Communication-

Strategies developed by Speech Language Pathologist

Use of photos, symbols or objects in schedules and to provide visuals to reinforce learning of routine or new skills.

Use of pictures or social stories to teach rules and appropriate language

Use of signs, pictures and visuals to given directions

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