Moving from Information to Action: Considering Assistive Technology and MFP

Carolyn Phillips and Rachel Wilson, Tools for Life
With contributions from TFL Team
www.gatfl.org
For Handouts: http://www.gatfl.gatech.edu/tflwiki

www.amacusg.org

Tools for Life and MFP: Transformational Partnership

- Direct Service:
  - AT Evaluations
  - AT Demonstration
  - AT Lending Library – "Try Before You Buy"
  - AT Reuse – Bridging Gaps for smoother transitions
  - Lead to AT Toolkits in every AAA and ILC and more AT Labs throughout Georgia

- State Leadership:
  - Providing AT training to MFP - Options Counselors to build awareness and knowledge
  - Providing Technical Assistance - Policy for AT Consideration
  - Providing Technical Assistance – Ensuring Quality AT Services throughout Georgia

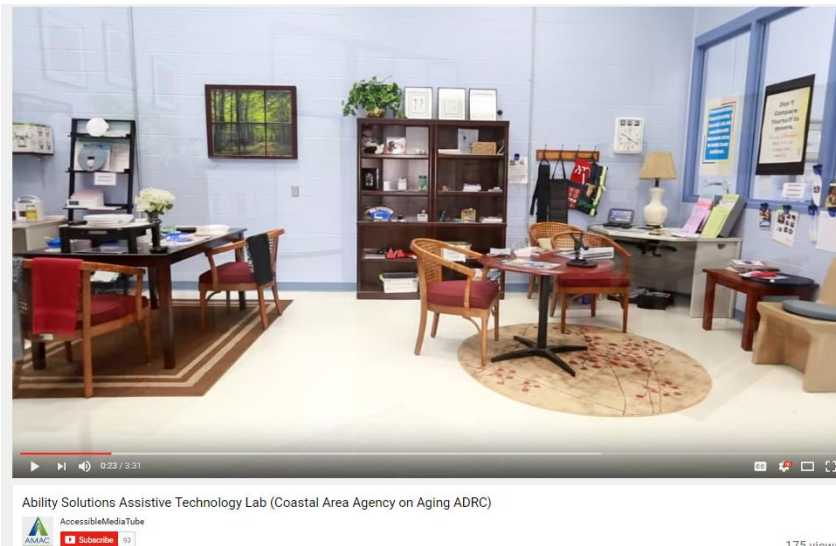- Development of National AT Decision Tree/Algorithm Tool

TFL and MFP – Growing Relationship

- Since 1991, TFL has been developing relationships with Division of Aging Services. AAAs and the ADRC's throughout the state of Georgia.

- This includes participating on various advisory boards and committees committed to ensuring assistance and resources for individuals with disabilities and/or naturally aging process.

- MFP representatives actively participate on the TFL Advisory Council.

AT and MFP – Expanding AT Access

- **Lead to AT Tool Kits in all AAA /ADRCs**
  - AT from all areas to support people with disabilities and the natural aging process
- **AT Solution Lab at MFP and Aging-related Conferences**

- **AT Solution Lab at the Coastal Area Agency on Aging Georgia**
  - Coastal AAA/ADRC Won the *2016 AIRS Distinguished Service Award* for their work with the AT Lab.
  - Presented at the Awards Luncheon at the 2016 AIRS Conference in St. Louis.
  - AIRS is the premier professional membership association for community I&A with over 5000+ national and international members

Ability Solutions Assistive Technology Lab (Coastal Area Agency on Aging ADRC)

AccessibleMediaTube

175 views

AT and MFP – Success!

- AT Evaluation Pilot program began August 2015:
- Proof of Concept – AT is a Key Factor to Success
- Started in 2 Regions:
  - Atlanta Region (Urban)
  - Southeastern Georgia Region (Rural)
- TFL Customized AT Evaluation Process for MFP:
  - In home and/or in nursing home
  - AT Research support to determine appropriate AT to meet needs of individuals
  - AT Report/Roadmap - extensive written report with AT recommendations and resources
  - Follow-up and follow-along consultation
- Building on these AT Services for MFP:
  - AT Demonstration
  - AT Lending Library – "Try Before You Buy"
  - AT Reuse - Bridging Gaps for smoother transitions

Success – Expanding to All Regions in Georgia in 2017
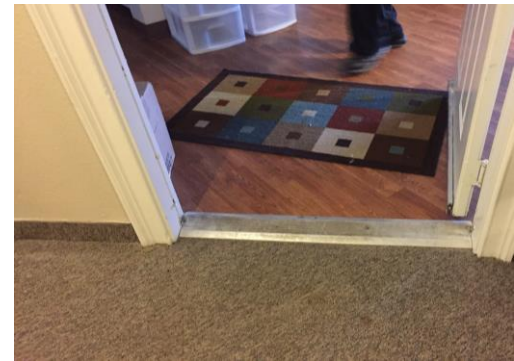
Meet Lisa !

Need for AT Knowledge Transfer

- A Lot of Gaps in AT awareness and knowledge
- AT is undeniably linked to Successful Transitions and Independent Living
- Need to ask more questions – Some "don't know what they don't know…"
- Many Red "Flags"!
- Using AT to turn RED "flags" to Green "Flags"

Examples of Some "Red Flags"

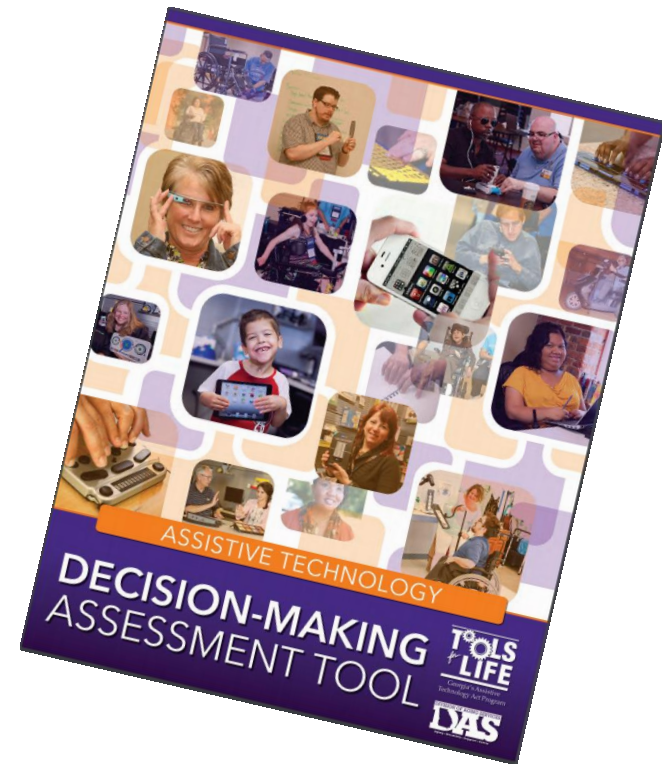Examples of many common hazards in the home

DME never used

Medication errors

Development of National AT Decision Tool/Algorithms

- **Real-time Tool to Share What Works**
  - Learning from each other
  - AT solutions, strategies, resources
  - When to call in a professional
- **Smart-Sourcing Approach**
- **Hosted 2 Workshops – Georgia**
- **Hosting National Workshop at ATIA in 2017**
- **Growing into Specific areas – Dementia, Mental Health, etc.**

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY
DECISION-MAKING ASSESSMENT TOOL

The Tools for Life Team

Carolyn Phillips
Director, Tools for Life
Carolyn.Phillips@gatfl.gatech.edu

Sarah Endicott
Research Scientist
sarah.endicott@design.gatech.edu

Danny Housley
AT Funding & Resource Specialist
Danny.Housley@gatfl.gatech.edu

Justin Ingham
Support Specialist
jingham3@gatech.edu

Ben Jacobs
Accommodations Specialist
Ben.Jacobs@gatfl.gatech.edu

Krista Mullen
Speech Language Pathologist
krista.mullen@gatfl.gatech.edu

Samantha Peters
Support Specialist
Samantha.peters@gatfl.gatech.edu

Liz Persaud
Training and Outreach Coordinator
Liz.Persaud@gatfl.gatech.edu

Martha Rust
AT Specialist
Martha.Rust@gatfl.gatech.edu

Rachel Wilson
AT Specialist
Rachel.Wilson@gatfl.gatech.edu