

SOLUTIONS FOR **LIVING**

Innovative Devices for Continued Independence

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Solutions for Living:

Innovative Devices for Continued Independence

An estimated 54 million Americans have some level of disability—about 21 percent of the total population. More than 50 percent of those disabled Americans are in their working years, from 18-64. In the last U.S. Census, 77,000 Wyoming citizens, or 17.1 percent of the state's population, self-reported some type of disability.

Today, individuals with disability can turn to assistive technology (AT) for help in continuing to perform basic tasks independently. This independence may be all it takes to help the individual in a work and/or home setting. AT is defined as any item, piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially off the shelf, modified, customized, or homemade, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities. AT devices may be inexpensive and used for a specific task, such as taking medication, or they may be cutting-edge devices that can be used in a variety of settings.

Purpose of this document:

To show examples of innovative devices or solutions that can help an individual with everyday tasks reduce the likelihood of injury and maintain independence. The document is arranged in the following categories:

- Communication solutions
- Hearing solutions
- Vision solutions
- Cognitive solutions
- Medical solutions

Using the document:

Items listed are only examples of the many solutions that can be used. All products were identified through an Internet search. Many of the products came from these sites:

- *AbleData* www.abledata.com
- *AbleLink Technologies* www.ablelinktech.com
- *Active Forever* www.activeforever.com
- *Independent Living Aids* www.independentliving.com
- *Maxi Aids* www.maxiaids.com

Other items came from the brand or trade name of the product. To locate these products, place the brand name, trade name, or product description in an Internet search engine. Those devices identified with an asterisk (*) are housed in the Wyoming Assistive Technology Resources (WATR) at the University of Wyoming. For more information about a particular device or to learn about the device loan center, contact:

Wyoming Assistive Technology Resources (WATR)

Email: watr@uwyo.edu

Phone: (307)766-6187

TTY: (307) 766-2720

Toll-free: 1 (888) 989-9463

www.uwyo.edu/wind/watr

Limits to this document:

New AT products come out daily, and old products are discontinued. This document is as current as the day all images were downloaded. It is not intended to be an all-inclusive list.

Due to the dynamic nature of the World Wide Web, Internet sources may sometimes be difficult to find. Addresses change and pages can disappear over time. If you find problems with any of the listed websites or products in the publication, please contact Wyoming AgrAbility. Contact information is on the back cover of this publication.

Acknowledgement:

- *Solutions for Easier Living Located in Your Neighborhood* by Therese Willkomm of the University of New Hampshire Institute on Disability.
<http://www.iodbookstore.org/products/Solutions-for-Easier-Living-Located-in-Your-Neighborhood.html>
- *Solutions for Living: Everyday Tools for Ranchers and Farmers* B-1184 University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension Service.
<http://www.uwyo.edu/ces/Publications/index.html>

Many additional products and solutions are contained in these documents, which can be ordered online.

Communication solutions

improve ability to communicate ★ provide a means to communicate ★ expand communication options

The Lingraphica *



A sophisticated augmentative communication device that provides an extensive vocabulary of icons that can be combined to create personalized phrases and simple sentences.

Voice Activated Phone System



Allows individuals with limited mobility to dial and answer the phone hands-free by using their voices.

Cyrano Communicator *

A portable communication tool allows people who have lost the ability to speak to communicate through simple pictures and symbols and also through text and pre-stored phrases.



GoTalk 20+ *

A durable picture communicator device with a 100-message capacity.



Cheap Talk 8 Advanced 6-Level Communicator

A communication device that can speak and turn on home appliances.

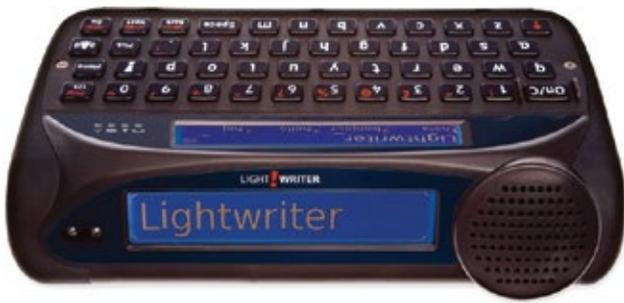


Say-it! SAM Communicator *

An Augmentative Alternative Communication device that uses word prediction software to make it easier to generate communication—it remembers the words you use often.



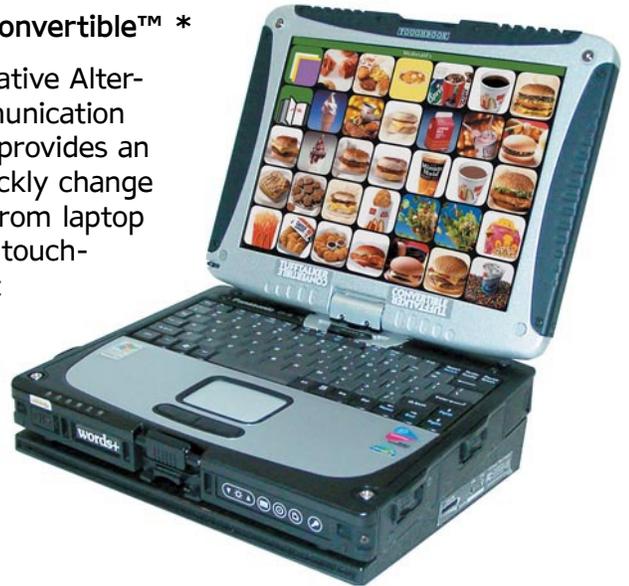
Lightwriter® *



A portable text-to-speech device with dual displays, one facing the user and a second out-facing display, allowing natural face-to-face communication.

TuffTalker Convertible™ *

An Augmentative Alternative Communication system that provides an option to quickly change its function from laptop computer to touch-screen tablet and back again with a touch of a button and a twist of the wrist.



Tango® *

A communication device for individuals with motor difficulties and language and learning challenges. Designed to help people express themselves with natural-sounding voices.

iPod Touch *



Pocket-sized, portable device has many communication applications (apps) and Internet access.



ChatterVox® Voice Amplifier *

Elevates vocal output of individuals with temporary or permanent voice impairments.



The Eyegaze Edge®

A communication and control system for people with complex physical disabilities. The system is operated entirely with the eyes.

Hearing solutions

know what's said without sign language ★ make sharing easier ★ don't miss out on calls or guests

UbiDuo: Face-to-Face Communicator *



For immediate communication, the hearing impaired and hearing person can initiate a conversation right away instead of writing with paper and pen or waiting for an interpreter to arrive.



Sennheiser TV Listening System *

This headset system enables a person with a hearing impairment to listen to the TV at his or her preferred volume. The transmitter is connected to the headphone socket of a television set or stereo system.

Text Telephone with Printer and Text Answering Machine *



Designed for use by individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or who have speech or communication disabilities. Allows users to type ahead of actual transmission.

Pocketalker ULTRA Personal Amplifier *



A high-quality personal assistive listening device that allows improvement of hearing in conversation while listening to a television program or while just taking a walk.

Ameriphone Dialogue VCO *



Amplified big button speak-and-read phone designed for people with severe hearing loss who still want to use their voices. Speak into the handset and read responses on the display screen.

Clarity AlertMaster® AL10™ Notification System

Alerts individuals with moderate-to-severe hearing loss to telephone calls, alarm clocks, and doorbells.



* Available from Wyoming Assistive Technology Resources at the University of Wyoming.



Wireless Ring Extender

Sound-activated transmitter and vibrating pager alerts the user of visitors, deliveries, or phone calls.

Bellman Visit Pager



Receives signals from transmitters and provides alerts by using vibrations and light signals for different alarms such as fire, telephone, door bell, or baby crying.

Midland Alert Weather Radio with Strobe



A base weather alert radio with bright strobe for visual notification of weather and hazard alerts.

Shake-n-Wake ZZZ Vibrating Alarm Clock Watch



A combination personal alarm watch, appointment, and medication reminder. Comfortable to wear on the wrist while sleeping or placed under the pillow.

Telephone Alert Ringer w/Strobe *



External phone ringer with flashing strobe light for noisy environments or for individuals with visual impairments or hearing loss.

Sonic Alert Clock with Bed Shaker and Phone Signaler *



Bedside alarm clock with telephone signaler and flashing lights alerts user to ringing telephone and shakes the bed at desired wake up-time.

Vision solutions

maintain your independence ★ continue your love of reading ★ let GPS guide you

Talking Alarm Clock with Time and Temperature

Activates the time and temperature announcement through a soft touch.



Reading Magnifier *

Makes reading, drawing, writing, handiwork, and precise instrument operation easy.



Scan N Talk *



myReader2 *

Enhances print materials (books, bills, mail, or photos) by enlarging and reformatting text. Also customizes background, text color, and line spacing.



Scans and "talks back" printed text and displays it on a monitor in highlighted large type.

Vibrating Liquid Level Indicator *



The knfbReader Mobile *

A cell phone, optical character recognition device, and voice output reading machine. User takes a photo of the text to be read with the built-in cell phone camera, and the text is read aloud.



Detects the level of liquid and emits an intermittent series of vibrations indicating the cup is nearly full, and a continuous vibration indicates it is full.

BrailleNote GPS *



Know where you are, where you are going, and the best way to get there with the BrailleNote Global Positioning System software with easy-to-follow maps.

MoreKeyboard *



Letter and number keys more than 25-percent wider than standard keys and bright white characters three times larger than standard keyboards.

BookSense XT® *
Digital Audio Book Player with FM Radio



A portable digital audio book player that allows users to access information for education, business, and entertainment; especially helpful for individuals who are blind or visually impaired.

Step Hazard Alarm



A detection device that gives advanced notification of a potential step hazard. Detects movement and activates warning.

VoiceNote mPower QT *



An accessible personal digital assistant (PDA) that enables individuals with visual impairments to create and review documents, set appointments, handle email, surf the Internet, and maintain contact information.

Chess Set for Those With Low Vision *



White pieces have bumps on top to differentiate against black pieces. On the board, black spaces are slightly raised over their counterparts so players can recognize playing fields.

Cognitive solutions

easier remembering ★ better calculating ★ faster mental processing



iPad 2 *

Includes applications that support memory, organization, task list-making, audio books, communication prompts, and more.

Talking Labels™

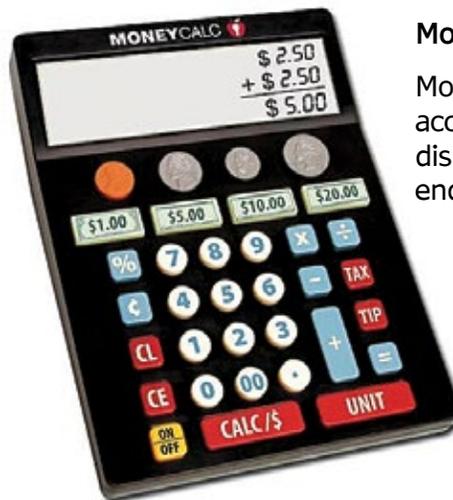
Eliminates the risk of confusion with medication by helping to understand and follow important instructions. Labels attach to standard packaging.



Nintendo™ Wii Sports Resort Pak Game console *



In addition to sports and engaging activities, the Wii can teach turn-taking, improve eye-hand coordination and balance, and social interaction.



MoneyCalc *

Money and math calculator for accuracy. Money amounts are displayed with dollar sign and ending zeros.



Kindle Wireless Reading Device *

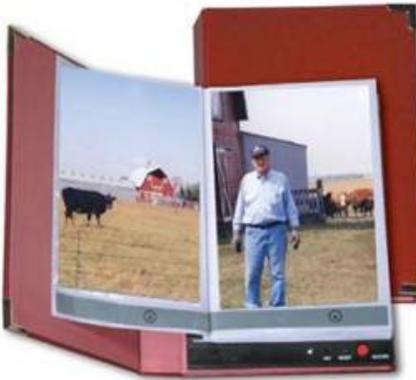
An electronic device for downloading, storing, and reading e-books, newspapers, audio books, and mp3 files.

Pocket PC with WayFinder software

Software program uses GPS-based personalized audio and visual cues to support independent travel via bus systems and on foot.



Talking Photo Frames and Albums *



Handheld aid so individuals can remember family and friends. Insert photos or pictures/text cards into the sleeves and record messages. Press PLAY to activate speech.



Dragon NaturallySpeaking 11 Premium *

Enables users to speak commands, functions, and text content; offers an alternate form of input for persons with visual or physical impairments.

Pocket Endeavor Suite *



When combined with a Pocket PC, this integrated software solution helps those facing challenges in making plans, tracking time, completing tasks on time, and remembering details or conversations.



Timex® Weekly Medication System with Talking, Visual, or Beeping Reminder

For those with difficulty recalling when to take medications. Individuals have a choice of four programmable dosage time settings and a missed pill alert.

Foto Dialer Telephone Companion



Push the button next to the photo of the person or place to be called and the FotoDialer, connected to an existing phone, dials the phone number.

Silent Reminder *



Offers vibrating reminder signal when transmitter button is pressed. Can be used to alert help when needed, let someone know they are in danger, or that they are acting inappropriately.

Medical solutions

safety when taking medications ★ home safety and comfort ★ support for daily living tasks

Cadex® 12 Alarm Watch



Up to 12 daily alarms, scrolling reminder message, snooze, and ALERT button displays medical information. Set alarms for taking medicine, eating, or other issues.

SilverCare Personal Safety Emergency Alert Device



8-in-1 device allows users to manage their own health and safety around the house without the complications of costly monthly payments or service contracts.

SilverLite Remote Light Switch Activator



Enables user to activate lamps or kitchen appliances by pressing a remote switch button.

Talking Blood Pressure Meter



Designed to meet the needs of an individual with low vision who must regularly check blood pressure, this unit announces blood pressure and pulse rate.

Advocate™ Redi-Code Talking Blood Glucose Meter Kit

Welcomes the user, announces the room temperature, directs user to apply blood into the strip, announces the blood glucose results, or states that the reading is out of range.



The N-Abler III™ Soft Brace *



Assists partial hand amputees or persons with hand dysfunction to perform daily living activities such as cooking, eating, personal hygiene, gardening, and outdoor sports.

* Available from WIND Assistive Technology Resources at the University of Wyoming.



WYOMING AgrAbility

Cultivating Accessible Agriculture

Wyoming AgrAbility provides education, networking and information, and assistance to ranchers, farmers, agricultural workers and their families and is focused on promoting independence for those with disability resulting from injury, illness, aging, or other causes.

Authorized by the 1990 Farm Bill, the U.S. Department of Agriculture initiated funding for state-level programs to provide help on accommodating disability in agriculture. Twenty-two states are operating through this funding and make up the national effort known as the National AgrAbility Project.

As one of those states, Wyoming has created a partnership of the University of Wyoming through its Extension, Wyoming Institute for Disabilities, and non-profit disability service providers Wyoming Independent Living and Wyoming Services for Independent Living. This partnership offers comprehensive assistance to individuals and their families. Building on the strength of nationwide informational resources, along with a statewide network of agricultural, rural health, safety, and social agencies, **Wyoming AgrAbility** offers individual services for increasing self-sufficiency and independence.

For more information about **Wyoming AgrAbility**, or to request an on-site ranch or farm assessment,

call (866) 395-4986 or

email AgrAbility@uwyo.edu

www.uwyo.edu/agrability/

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