Types of Assistive Devices

Examples of assistive technologies and how they are used:

- **Mobility aids**, such as wheelchairs, scooters, walkers, canes, crutches, prosthetic devices, and orthotic devices.
- **Hearing aids** to help people hear or hear more clearly.
- **Cognitive aids**, including computer or electrical assistive devices, to help people with memory, attention, or other challenges in their thinking skills.
- **Computer software and hardware**, such as voice recognition programs, screen readers, and screen enlargement applications, to help people with mobility and sensory impairments use computers and mobile devices.
- **Tools** such as automatic page-turners, book holders, and adapted pencil grips to help learners with disabilities participate in educational activities.
- **Closed captioning** to allow people with hearing problems to watch movies, television programs, and other digital media.
- **Physical modifications in the built environment**, including ramps, grab bars, and wider doorways to enable access to buildings, businesses, and workplaces.
- **Lightweight, high-performance mobility devices** that enable persons with disabilities to play sports and be physically active.
- **Adaptive switches and utensils** to allow those with limited motor skills to eat, play games, and accomplish other activities.
- **Devices and features of devices** to help perform tasks such as cooking, dressing, and grooming; specialized handles and grips, devices that extend reach, and lights on telephones and doorbells are a few examples.

For more information about types of assistive devices, check out the following resources:

- The **National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders** provides detailed information on Assistive Devices for People with Hearing, Voice, Speech, or Language Disorders.

- **PBS "Move to Include"** provides [examples of assistive devices](#) for people who need assistance to produce or comprehend spoken or written language.
- The **Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation** has information about available assistive technology to help people with impaired mobility or other disabilities [drive motor](#) vehicles.
- The **Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America** describes [standards for different types of assistive technology](#) on its website

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