North Carolina Infant-Toddler Program
Assistive Technology Framework Instructions

The Assistive Technology (AT) Framework can be used as a guide for decision making when the IFSP team agrees that some category of AT may be needed by a child and family to achieve an established outcome. The AT Framework will lead the IFSP team through a process that will result in the appropriate identification of an AT device to meet the needs of the child and family.

The results of this decision-making process should be clearly documented in the child's early intervention record (e.g., service coordinator progress notes, on the IFSP, evaluation reports, provider notes and monthly summaries).

AT Planning Questions
The questions in each section provide guidance when completing the framework but are not exhaustive. The questions are based on the SETT Framework. The SETT Framework can be used as additional guidance and offer further questions for consideration.

The SETT Framework
(Rewritten for the child in early intervention, birth to age three; Adapted from the work of Joy Zabala, M.Ed.)

This SETT Framework is an organizational tool to facilitate the collaborative effort of the IFSP team in AT decisions. If the device or equipment being considered is simple and straightforward, also will be the answers to these questions. IF the situation is more complex, answering these questions will be helpful in making decisions about AT, documenting the need for AT, planning for trials with AT and in evaluating the effectiveness of the equipment or device.

The Child
- What activity does the child need or wants to do?
- What are the child's current abilities?
- What are the child's special needs?

The Environment
- Where will the activity take place? Describe the physical arrangements. Are there any special concerns?
- What materials and equipment are currently available in the environment?
- Who is available to child and the family to support the use of AT?
- What resources are available to the family for exploring the use of AT?
- What are the attitudes and expectations of the family regarding the child's use of AT to accomplish an activity or outcome?

(SETT Framework Continued)

The Tasks
- What activities does the child currently enjoy which may enable progress toward mastery of identified outcome(s)?
- What are this child's peers doing?
- What are the critical elements of the activities involved in the desired outcome? Of these, what can the child do now, what do you expect the child to master, how will AT help?
- How might the activity be modified to accommodate the child's special need?

The Tools
- What no tech or low-tech options can be considered in an AT system for a child with these needs and abilities doing these activities in these environments?
- What high tech options can be considered?
- What AT options appeal most to the family?
- What strategies might be used to increase the child's interest in the activity?
- How might the child try out the proposed AT in environment in which it will be used?
- How will the effectiveness of the AT be evaluated?

Responses to Planning Questions
The IFSP team provides child and family specific responses to the AT planning questions in this section. The answers to these questions may occur over multiple planning sessions.

Action Plan
The IFSP team determines what activities need to occur during the AT planning process. Example action steps may include observing the child in the environment in which the functional activity will occur, and AT will be used; assessment and equipment trial, consultation to collect more information for the IFSP team decision making process; and for exceptions to loaning - gathering vendor quotes after device selection or exploring funding sources. The action plan can also include notes of IFSP team member(s) that will be responsible for activities listed in the action plan and projected completion dates.

Disposition: Infant-Toddler Program records, including financial and automated information, must be maintained based upon the ITP's record retention policy. Records must be archived in accordance with ITP and state requirements to ensure their preservation for the required length of time.