

WV Birth to Three Communications to the Field

Subject: Assistive Technology Reminder

Released: March 5, 2008

Hello,

I wanted to send a reminder regarding assistive technology requests. I'm sure that everyone realizes that assistive technology, just like other Part C services, is only a service if it is needed to achieve an outcome on the child's IFSP.

West Virginia has shown a strong commitment to considering modifications that are necessary in order to allow the child to participate in achieving these functional outcomes. However, if a child is able to achieve the outcome through the use of other strategies, without the use of assistive technology, then BTT is not required to provide the modification.

Since everyone works so hard to support children and families, there might be a misconception sometimes that BTT is more like an insurance carrier – and will buy 'equipment' while the child is under age three. But BTT is not an insurance carrier and cannot provide equipment unless it meets the definition of a Part C service, including documentation that the child cannot achieve his/her IFSP outcome without the use of such equipment.

BTT cannot cover equipment requests that come in a short time before the child is turning three years of age because by the time the equipment is purchased, there is no opportunity for that equipment to be used to achieve an outcome while the child is participating in BTT.

I know that IFSP teams want to help families prepare for the next setting that their child may be in after leaving BTT – which is great. BTT services have probably helped them learn ways to do their own modifications for their children, and to learn about resources that may be available to assist their child after BTT. IFSP teams are in a unique situation to help families know about resources that may be needed in the future.

For some families, their child's need may be life long and they will appreciate knowing where they might be able to access support. Sometimes assistive technology needs after age two may be addressed through the IEP process – but there may also be needs that are not related to the child's educational day. Families may want to know more about supports such as Family Support, Children with Special Health Care Needs, CDCSP, Title XIX Waiver, WVATS, Ski Hi, Insite, community organizations, etc. Families may also choose to use their private insurance for these non-educational services.

I thank you for your commitment to children and families. If you have any questions, please email me at pamroush@wvdhhr.org.

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