



TECH FOR TYKES

A Center for Inclusive Design and Engineering (CIDE)
Early Childhood Program

A Testimonial from An Early Intervention Assistive Technology Consultant



Shelly Tarin is a Speech Language Pathologist who provides early intervention (EI) services through Imagine! Colorado. She is an EI assistive technology (AT) consultant with a passion for providing technology to help young children with disabilities gain greater independence. She is also a member of the EI AT Advisory Council through the Center for Inclusive Design and Engineering's (CIDE) Tech for Tykes program. She was gracious enough to share her thoughts on being an AT consultant.

Being an AT consultant is attractive to me because it just makes what I am already doing with kids on my caseload "official," so taking the step to be an AT consultant is making what I am already doing to serve these kids easier, and I would be doing it anyway, because this is what they need from their EI speech language pathologist.

It was great to get free continuing education credit that went toward my professional licensure by taking the courses required to become an EI AT consultant.

Being an AT consultant is helping me daily to be a better collaborator with the other team members and families of these complex kids because it has expanded what I have access to.

So many times, in the world of EI, I feel helpless to give families confidence and hope, as they grieve and look at all the challenges their child is facing and will face. Having access as an AT consultant provides needed support to navigate these early years for a family.



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Being an AT Consultant makes me better at setting families up for success when they transition out of EI. The gap between what the kids have been doing up until they turn 3 and what they are expected to do in preschool is smaller with the support of Tech for Tykes and all those resources.