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Center on Technology and Disability's Free Resources

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>> For those who have joined us today, early, we'll be starting in about three minutes. Today's webinar is from the Center on Technology & Disability. Free Resources to Support AT Use by Young Children with Disabilities. You can adjust the volume on your end. You don't need to worry about being micced today. Get the volume adjusted to your liking, and you'll be good to go.

Today's webinar is going to be recorded and posted online. So, if for any reason, your experience is disrupted today, never fear, it'll be available in the next week or so, so you can view it again or share it with people that you think might benefit from this webinar or any of the webinars that were presented this week as a part of the better hearing and speech month webinar series.

>> I think a lot of people probably take off work on Friday.

>> If you're just joining, we'll be getting started soon. You can adjust the volume on your end as in your computer speaker settings or your head set settings. No worries about being micced. Today you'll have an opportunity to ask questions via a text field that will be displayed on your screen in that portion of the webinar today. We'll be starting shortly.

Marco, I see we're at the top of the hour. I'm going to initiate the recording and hand it over to you.

>> Great, yes.

>> Hold on one second.

>> Okay, Marco.

>> Good afternoon and welcome to the final webinar in the Better Hearing and Speech month, Coffee Break Webinar Series. The Office of Head Start and the Department of Education are extremely grateful and want to thank all of our participants in the coffee break webinar series. We hope you found the webinars informative and were able to learn more about hearing screening and the use of assistive technology to support children and their families. We appreciate you taking the time to help with webinars this week. With that being said, I want to turn it to Jacqueline Hess. She will provide information on the Center on Technology & Disability and will point us to free resources to support the use of assistive technology in young children with disabilities.

>> Okay, thanks, Marco. That was a great introduction. Hello, everybody. My job today, as Marco said is to introduce you to the Center on Technology & Disability. CTD was funded in 2013 by the Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs. The purpose of this is to teach people to understand and advocate for, acquire and use, and of course help children use assistive and instructional technology devices and services.

The reason assistive technology and instructional technology have been paired in CTD's mandate is to acknowledge the blurring of the line between what we used to consider a rather narrow, very narrow, specialized expensive category of technology. And then the technology that's become much more universally designed, less expensive, and more widely available to and used by consumers at home, in classrooms, and just generally in the community. That's been thanks, in large part, to mobile tech. If you have questions or comments about that technological convergence, we can discuss it during the Q&A.

CTD is run by a partnership of non-profit organizations, let by mine. The Family Health International and that includes American Institutes for Research. AIR, Pacer Center in Minnesota and Adirondack Accessibility.

CTD offers really, a wide array of resources and that's where we're going. I'd like to show you how to get to them today, for those of you who may have been familiar with what our previous website looked like, you'll notice that we have a refresh here that we launched a new website interface a couple weeks ago. Sorry for the sirens, that's Washington, D.C. at its best.

So...let me mention a couple times, the URL for this is WWW.CTDinstitute.org. I also want to say up front, if you're

looking for something and you don't see it, please let us know. Because...as much as we've got, we are in the business of producing more resources and we very much like to produce resources that are in response to an expressed need. So...you know, if you don't see it, there's lots of ways to get in touch with us. And...I hope that you will.

What you're looking at is what our screen looked like on the screen of the person who captured, who did this screen shot. It may look different on your computer, based on what size your monitor is. And if you're looking at it on a mobile device, like perhaps, small tablet or your phone. Our homepage or landing pages, and increasingly more and more of our site is mobile-friendly. So, it will display differently, depending on what you're looking at.

So, now we're looking at the top half of the homepage, there's a little arrow in the middle of the bottom there to give you an idea that there's more below, if you'll scroll. The red arrows are not on the website, they're just on this PowerPoint to indicate that we have three destination portals, the library, webinars and eLearning. And we have four new audience landing pages. So, that's state and local leaders, teachers and researchers, families, and service providers.

So...let's go...ah! Before we move on, I wanted to point out the register and login buttons in the upper right-hand part of the screen. You can access a lot of resources on the site, primarily those in the library, without registering. But...we encourage you to register because it's free, it's very fast, we don't collect a lot of information, but what we do put there, we don't share with anyone and it let's you RSVP to any and all of the webinars and our courses.

So...let's see, let's move ahead. This is still scrolling down on the homepage. It gives you another access to the library, to Webinar Central and our eLearning courses and here, you'll see a featured resources section which tends to be new resources. Things we want to bring to your attention if you're a regular visitor to say, hey, here's some things you might want to look at. This is also a fast way to look at some of the upcoming webinars and if we have a new course, for instance. This is mostly webinars.

Let's see...so now let's take a look at the library. The library's organized in five overarching categories. Early childhood, education, K-12, family and student support, transition, and SEA, LEA leaders. There is a full site search, as you know, pretty common protocol for websites in the upper

right-hand corner, but on this landing page, you can also do a library-specific search and for the purpose of this demo, we use the word hearing.

So, with that search, you can see, it yielded 37 resources and this is various kinds of resources. If you look at the icons, you'll see most of them are PDF, there's a webinar, no, the website in there. And, if you look at the second red circle, what that's showing you is that you can refine your search based on audiences, in addition to just those four or five target audiences on the homepage, this is a full list of all the audiences we serve and organize our materials by. So...if you're in, if you're a service provider, you might want to click on that, or if you're an advocate, you know, so...this is another way to say I want things that are really designed for my particular profession. You can also refine your search by resource type, and...so, here, the search has been refined to just show articles, guides and other PDF-type materials.

Let me go back and just say, if you continue to scroll on this search results page, you can see here, the audience filter and the resource filter, but below them, there is a language filter, so we have quite a few resources in Spanish, for instance and then we have some resources in other languages. And then, also, you can search by certain sources of the materials. So, for instance, if you were used to getting, to using the family center on technologies and disabilities materials or sited.

Here, we refined the search, just looking for websites and these icons all indicate that our researchers have gone through and identified other, you know, external sources, like...wills, you know, [indiscernible] -- I don't want to -- well, you can, at some point, say you're on the full name of your center. This is better than a Google search. They've been vetted. We give you a sentence or two about what you'll find at that website and then a direct link to it.

And then, finally, here, we've pulled up our webinars, so...again, using hearing as the search term, our staff decided that these two webinars were particularly relevant if people were looking for things related to hearing. But...I would encourage you to just go to Webinar Central itself. You might find things that weren't designated as being a particular interest to somebody looking for hearing-related materials that you think would really serve your purposes.

So, now we're going take a look at Webinar Central. It's not the jazziest-looking landing page, but it does connect you with a lot of really great archived webinars.

We've been doing them -- first of all, you can see what's reported. That's in the left-hand side and then over on the right, where it says upcoming events, you'll be able to see what's, you know, the next few months-worth of webinars and we're constantly adding to those.

We've been doing webinars for less than a year and a half, but we have over 10,000, between 10,000 and 11,000 people have looked at our webinars. Either when they were live or afterward. We draw expert from throughout the country. Some of you, might be future presenters. We have some great experts who try to make it fun and interesting, one of them used a jeopardy game format. They tend to include lots of video clips and often they're demonstrating a tablet app, for instance, apps are kind of a hot topic and...so, they'll share their screen and take you through a variety of apps and things that, it's just that, it's very helpful to actually have somebody there showing you where you can ask questions and say, well, why does it do that and not that. Our webinars are where we're generally getting between 4 and and 500 people registering. I hope that you become active participants as well. Here, for instance is a webinar that's coming up on May 26th that some of you might be interested in. You might have heard about Dr. Rupal Patel. She's a speech researcher creating personalized voices for people that are hard of hearing and they take whatever sound the person can make and have the donor record a library full of words and in using Alternative and Augmentative Communication which we did a webinar on on Tuesday. The person gets to hear a voice, not a digital voice. It's a voice that is as close to their own as anything could be. And I think it's going to be a really interesting webinar.

So, again, it's free, like all of our webinars. So, please, do, do sign up.

So, this screen shows you, well, here, it's highlighted to log into your user account. You can also see the tabs for creating a new account. Logging in and resetting a password. All you really need is a username that you set up, a password that you set up and of course, we make it easier for you to get a new password when you forget your old password, which is something I do all the time.

So, luckily, most websites make it easy for you to just start again. So, this is the login page. Then our third destination portal on the site is our eLearning center. That's where we have the in depth courses. When these courses were live, they took place over a series of weeks. Two to four weeks. Now the ones we have here are archived. You can take as much time or as

little time as you want. You can just do a couple of lessons, let's see...the next page shows you, here, you can see a little bit of the summary screen, so...it tells you about, about the course, all the lessons are here. If you scroll down further, you'd see the resources that the expert posted are all available. If there was a forum, there's a click there and...it's, it's pretty intuitive.

All of our webinars and all of our courses provide certificates of participation. Some of the courses, like this one that we just looked at provide CEUs as well. So this particular one provided .9CEUs. We had ones that go up to 1.5 and even higher, I think. For, for the completed course. And even though they're archived now, I'm pretty sure you can still get CEUs if you want to complete it on your own.

So...let's see what else we have. We're actually at the end here. I took, seriously, the advice to keep it to 15 minutes, but I'm happy to answer questions that you have about what's on the site. And...I see we didn't post my e-mail address here. So, perhaps -- let's see if I can post it.

>> It is there. Jacqueline, it is there.

>> Yep, I see it here. JHESS@FHI360.org. If you, yourself or someone you know would like to be a presenter, if you have resources that you've developed that aren't in our library, that you'd like to have us put there, we'd love to have them. If there'd something you'd like to see us develop, we are happy to do that as well.

>> So, everyone, you should now see the question field on the lower left-hand corner of your screen, to which you can type your questions for Jacqueline. Jacqueline, I have a couple questions to kick things off, if that's okay. I know at the beginning -- whoops! It looks like somebody disappeared the Q&A field.

>> Oh, I'm sorry, I was trying to minimize it so I could bring the PowerPoint back to the homepage. I messed it up.

>> Okay, I got it back here.

>> Okay....

>> So, the question I have is, I knew at the beginning, you talked about the different audiences or target groups for the website. So, do you see family members and individuals who are affected using your website? Is that one of your primary audiences or mainly more for professionals?

>> No, we have, let's see, if I can show you the library. There is, now...unfortunately the young woman who put together the PowerPoint didn't include one of our new landing pages. We have new landing pages specifically for family members or teachers, for these four, the, these four entry points here.

These audience-specific. So, if you click -- if you go into the site through any of these four portals, like families, for instance, you'll get to a landing page that has highlighted resources that we think are particularly relevant for, in this case, you're asking for families, it will give you highlighted webinars that we think would be of particular interest. But...again, there's a lot of -- I'm a big believer in redundant access to a website.

So, lots of different ways people think about how they get information differently. They like to jump around in different ways. We have lot of -- multiple ways of getting at the same information. Each of these categories, including family and student support, have subcategories, and you can, you know, instead of using a search term, as we just picked any search term, we've suggested subcategories that are particularly relevant to the overall category. The first one in family and student support is advocacy and awareness. We find a lot of basic materials there. An introduction to systems and instructional technology, materials that include information about funding, something that families are always very interested in. How to participate in an IEP meeting. Lots of information about IEP meeting participation.

We have videos, including videos that are aimed at Spanish-speaking families, videos in Spanish with captions in both Spanish and English and English voiceover. But...they're designed for Spanish-speaking families to help them understand the IEP process, how important it is, what, they're likely to do role modeling with the principle and IEP team members and people can see it. The beauty of these videos, I think is, is it lessens anxiety and let's you see "ah hah, this is what something's going to look like." It also shows you the art of the possible. So many times we get pulled, you know, we're so used to all the limitations that it takes an external person or an external video or somebody else to say you know what? I really think you haven't set the bar high enough. It's time to raise your expectations. And...a site like ours gives you lots of videos to, let's a parent see what could be possible for a child, you know, with their particular issues.

>> All right.

>> I have a couple others for you. First I want to let our captioner know that we're repeating all of the questions verbally, that are being presented in the text field, so...don't worry, you're going to hear each of those questions announced. And...one of them is, I see a lot of good information, appropriate for pre-schoolers, are there resources appropriate for infants and toddlers in the IFSP process?

>> Oh, I'm so happy to say there are. You know...we have really been, we started out, oh, maybe 25, 30 years ago. Focusing on assistive and instructional technology for college-age students. Then it took awhile for us to move it down to high school and then another few years and it's been taking us years to push the focus down to birth to say, second grade or birth to 5. We have now, I was at the White House just last month, for a symposium on early child STEM and my role was to be an oar in the water for kids with disabilities and make people aware of the universal designs for learning issues that they really should be focused on as they develop materials for the birth to 5 set. So, yes, we have, as you see, we have this whole part of library in early childhood. There is a subcategory specifically on the IFSP process, we also have another project that Tracy Dixon from OSEP is a project officer for called Let's Participate. It's specifically AT for infants, toddlers and pre-schoolers. Of course we have links to their website. It's not a website that was developed for a national audience but has material tomorrow little ones. We're happy to have people look at that website as well. It's LetsParticipate.org. We pulled a lot of that information into the website. We have specific webinars that are focused on the little ones and what, and how AT is different when you're looking at it for a 2-year-old as opposed to a 12-year-old. Yes.

>> Great, thank you, I can say from my own perspective, I'm so impressed with the volume of resources that you have organized on here in having only been doing this for a year and a half. This is really an impressive set of resources. I know that resources in Spanish are always much harder to come by and so, one of the questions, is it, once they, you have them, if you don't already, is the search function going to allow for one to search specifically for Spanish resources?

>> Yes, absolutely. I really apologized that we didn't practice beforehand, sharing the screen, I'd love to show you the site live, but if you go, what you're looking at now in the PowerPoint is a search and...as I may have mentioned before, you can see what's above the line on the screen shot. You can see the filter by audience and resource type, but below that, there is language filter and you can just click Spanish. And you don't get all of the materials in Spanish. I wouldn't narrow the research, say, in this case, by hearing. I'd go into, whichever category that you're interested in, and just hit Spanish and all of the Spanish language resources will come up for you.

>> That's great, excellent. Let's see, are there any other questions for Jacqueline today? It doesn't look like there are,

Jacqueline, this has been a helpful webinar. I know that it's always great to encourage people to go and spend some time tooling around on a website that is new to them. I know you'd welcome that. So...we encourage everybody to do that. This webinar, like the rest of those that were offered this week has been recorded and will be posted online within the next week or so. I'm sure there'll be a link from Jacqueline's website as well. You'll learn about that link viate same way that you learned about today's webinar, once that's determined in the next week or so. So --

>> Exactly and I will say, kind of, you know, to, just, about our webinars, so...one of our favorite tweets came in a few weeks ago and somebody, it wasn't anybody related to us, said their guilty pleasure was watching CTD's archived videos. They are interesting, I'd encourage you to spend some time with them.

>> It's always fun too, for people to learn about new technologies that they never knew about before. I mean, I, I'm really excited to hear about the donor voices and all of, all of that can potentially mean. For people who have trouble with their speech. So...I'm excited to hear about that as well as many others. Tracy Dixon from OSEP asked the question, are CEUs available for professional development webinars you offer?

>> Not the one-hour webinars. That's not our decision, unfortunately. Our CEUs are made available through RESNA. The Rehabilitation Engineering Society of North America. We submit tons of documentation to back up our request to issue CEUs and they tell us what level of CEUs can be provided. So, so far, we've only done that for our courses, not for the webinars. That might be something, Tracy, down the road, that we can look at. RESNA has tightened up quite a bit, they used to give a lot of CEUs, even for conference sessions, but they're not doing that anymore.

But we do issue certificates of participation and for quite a few people, those are useful to them. They're useful to them if they're teachers, whatever they are, sometimes. They're useful to show your parent organization that you're serious about your ongoing professional development and you are doing, taking part in these educational activities.

>> So, once again, before we end today, there's Jacqueline's e-mail on the screen, over to the left. I'm going to move it into the middle so it's really clear. She's welcome to answer any other questions that you might have subsequent to today's webinar. So, know that she and her colleagues at the center are, are there to provide support to you.

So, Jacqueline, again, thank you for your webinar today and for the others this week. And to OSEP and other participating organizations for this webinar series. Thank you, everyone.

>> Okay. Thanks, and be in touch.

[Presentation concluded at 2:31 p.m. ET].

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