# Easterseals Redwood – Assistive Technology and Accessibility Center (ATAC)

Assistive Technology and Accessibility Center 2901 Gilbert Ave Cincinnati, OH 45206 513-281-2316 EastersealsRedwood.org

United Way Agency Partner

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## Mission

At Easterseals Redwood, we believe in the power of purpose and the power of work. We empower children and adults with disabilities, military veterans, and people facing disadvantages to live full and meaningful lives.

## **Overview & History**

The story of Easterseals Redwood is a story of love, dedication and community.

Easterseals Redwood was formed when Easterseals Serving Greater Cincinnati and Redwood joined together in August 2022 to expand our services across state lines. Both organizations were founded by parents seeking brighter futures for their children with disabilities.

Building on Easterseals' 110-year history and Redwood's 70-year history, Easterseals Redwood continues to enrich education, enhance health, expand employment, and elevate community in the Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky region. Together, we are helping more people with disabilities, people with disadvantages, and veterans thrive through our comprehensive services and compassionate care.

## Assistive Technology and Accessibility Center (ATAC)

Assistive Technology is any item, piece of equipment or product system, whether acquired commercially off the shelf, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities.

The ATAC officially opened in August 2024 in our Walnut Hills location. The ATAC provides both assistive technology devices and services, such as assessments, demonstrations, and training, to individuals who attend or receive services through Easterseals Redwood, individuals in the community, and organizations.

Redwood, in Ft. Mitchell, Kentucky, has a long history of providing specialized technology and support services for its many programs. In January 1999, the assistive technology services joined the Kentucky Assistive Technology Services (KATS) Network and officially became the Redwood Assistive Technology Resource Center. In 2022,

Easterseals Serving Greater Cincinnati and Redwood merged and made it possible to expand our assistive technology services into Ohio.

# Programs and Services

### Assistive Technology Loan Library

The ATAC library features a wide selection of assistive technology devices that range from low tech to high tech and address a range of needs. There are six main categories of assistive technology available in the ATAC, including communication devices, switches and technology to improve access, AT to address hearing and vision needs, adapted tools for activities of daily living, Smart home devices, and equipment for workplace accommodations. Individuals or employers may use the loaned assistive technology to aid decision making before pursuing a purchase, to address a temporary need, for support while a personal device is being repaired, or while waiting for funding. The inventory for the ATAC library is maintained at EastersealsRedwood.myturn.com/library

#### **Device Demonstrations**

Demonstrations of equipment are available for anyone in the community to compare features and benefits of more than one device which assists in decision making. The individual, caregiver, and support staff have the opportunity to interact with the ATAC staff and devices to increase knowledge and understanding in order to make informed choices about the assistive technology that will best meet the individual's needs. These may be in person or virtual.

#### Training

Members of the AT Team provide ongoing public awareness, product specific training, and trainings on appropriate intervention strategies to consumers, families, and professionals. The ATAC participates in local, regional, and national conferences.

#### **Evaluations and Consultations**

Members of the AT Team collaborate to provide AT evaluations and consultation services for children and adults to identify the most appropriate technological solution to meet individual needs and increase independence. The ATAC staff collaborates with school districts, community therapy providers, individuals and families, and the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities SLAs to assess individual wants and needs and determine if assistive technology will be beneficial and which devices would be most supportive.

#### Program Support

Educational, technology-based experiences embedded in Easterseals Redwood programs, along with collaborative teamwork and planning, help individuals develop skills necessary for future success in school, work, and life.

## **Contact Information**

Hours are Monday through Friday, by appointment only. Contact the Assistive Technology and Accessibility Center at 513-281-2316 or ataccincy@eastersealsredwood.org

Website: www.EastersealsRedwood.org