CTG 2016

Title: Considerations for Assessing Mounting Needs

100 Word Summary:

Mounting systems help to optimize student’s access to technology and independence. This session will examine the features, applications, and benefits of movable mount systems. Using the Mount’n Mover as an example, the instructor will explain how to assess an individual’s device mounting needs, how to match mounting features with those needs, how to justify medical necessity, and how to set up a movable mounting system for optimal device positioning. Additional benefits are identified as reported in a study by Ithaca College that investigated the functional and psychosocial impact of using a movable mounting system on those who use it.

Learning Outcomes:

* List 3 assessment questions for determining the best alternatives when choosing a mounting system
* List 5 benefits and medical justifications for a movable mounting and positioning system
* Examine the functional and psychosocial impact of using a movable mounting system

Abstract – 300 – 500 words

Technology is constantly changing and your student’s ability to access that technology and have it readily available is essential for interacting with the world. Mounting systems help to optimize access to technology and impact independence in other regards as well. With the wide variety of mounting options available, it is important to be familiar with feature considerations to determine the best mounting recommendation possible.

This course focuses on an accessible movable mount, the Mount’n Mover, identifying the benefits of using it to position devices for optimal access and independence. The Mount’n Mover is a customizable mounting system that allows independent repositioning by individuals, even with limitations in motor control, dexterity and strength. It also benefits individuals who cannot move it themselves, as they can use the Mount’n Mover to assist with functional needs like eating, writing, and communicating. Family members and caretakers appreciate the safe, quick and easy repositioning of devices for transferring, eating, toileting, changing devices and pulling up to tables or sinks. The custom memory lock positions provide consistent positioning of communication devices, essential for accessing eye gaze technology successfully. Considerations, strategies and solutions for accessing eye gaze systems will be discussed.

This course will review considerations in determining the best alternatives for mounting and positioning a range of devices, including iPads, tablets, laptops, speech devices and trays. The instructor will take participants through a step-by-step process to set up a movable mounting system for access, set multiple lock positions, and attach devices to the mounting system. Options will be demonstrated via case studies, showing ways to provide clients access to multiple devices at once. Updated product features will be explained and future product developments announced.

Attendees will learn key questions to ask during an assessment to determine what features in a mount help meet functional needs and a person’s goals in other areas. Case studies will be used to review the evaluation process and illustrate how specific mounting solutions address complex needs. They will also be used to illustrate the advantages and limitations of different mounting systems. Movable mounts offer an alternative to stationary mounts and trays and provide benefits that go beyond access to the device for both the client and the professional. Other benefits include easier access and device safety during transfers, increased visibility for driving, access to multiple devices simultaneously and improved interactions with others.

Health benefits result from improved ergonomics and positioning: better head control due to device positioning; reduced neck and back pain with height and tilt adjustability; and increased range of motion and strengthening with the use of one’s upper extremities. In a research study of individuals using the Mount’n Mover conducted by Ithaca College, their findings showed individuals experienced functional gains, and psychosocial benefits resulted from increases in their independence and self-esteem.

Goodwin, D., Gitlow, L., Kinney, A., Chapman, S., 2014. Functional and Psychosocial Impact of Accessible Mounting Technology