The Seven Principles of Universal Design

1. Equitable Use
Useful and marketable to people with diverse abilities
- Provides the same or equivalent means for all users
- Avoid stigmatizing or segregating any users
- Make design appealing to all users

2. Flexibility in Use
Accommodates a wide range of preferences and abilities
- Provide choice in methods of use
- Accommodate left- and right-handed users
- Facilitate accuracy and precision
- Provide adaptability to user's pace

3. Simple and Intuitive Use
Easy to understand, regardless of user's experience, knowledge, language skills or concentration level
- Eliminate unnecessary complexity
- Be consistent with user expectations
- Accommodate variety of literacy levels
- Highlight most important information

4. Perceptible Information
Communicates necessary information effectively to the user, regardless of ambient conditions or user's sensory abilities
- Use different modes to repeat essential information (pictorial, verbal, tactile)
- Provide contrast between essential information and its surroundings
- Maximize "legibility"
- Differentiate elements in ways that make it easy to give directions or instructions
- Provide compatibility with devices used by people with sensory limitations

5. Tolerance for Error
Minimizes hazards and negative consequences of accidental or unintended actions
- Arrange elements to minimize hazards and errors
- Provide warnings of hazards and errors
- Provide fail-safe features

6. Low Physical Effort
Can be used efficiently and comfortably with minimum fatigue
- Allow user to maintain neutral body position
- Use reasonable operating force
- Minimize repetitive actions
- Minimize sustained physical effort

7. Size and Space for Approach and Use
Appropriate size and space provided for approach, reach and use, regardless of user's body size, posture or mobility
- Provide a clear line of sight to important elements to any user
- Make reach to all components comfortable for any user
- Accommodate variations in hand and grip size
- Provide adequate space for assistive devices or personal assistants

Adapted from North Carolina State Center for Universal Design. A 2-page poster of the seven principles is available at:
http://www.ncsu.edu/www/ncsu/design/sod5/cud/pubs_p/docs/poster.pdf