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STARTING COMMUNICATION

Start Modeling with AAC

AAC are tools or technology that help people communicate if they can't rely on speech. To build communication with AAC, modeling is a valuable strategy.

Why we model

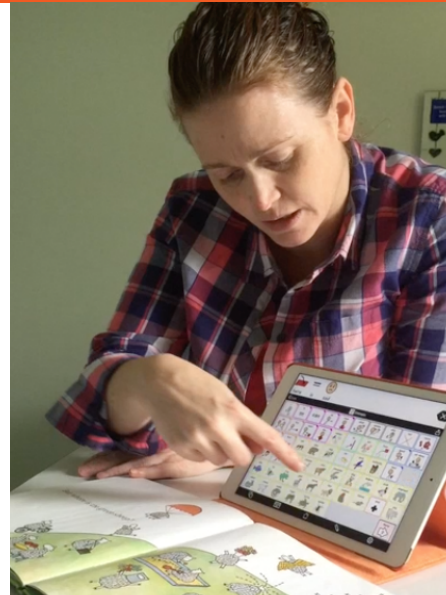
You cannot simply place an AAC tool in front of someone and expect that they will know how to use it to communicate. We need to model. AAC learners need to see AAC in use: to communicate real messages in real situations.

Start small

When you first start, it can be difficult and feel clumsy. Start small and build up your modeling every day. Focus on a few words to model at a time. Every time you model, it does get easier!

Tips and tricks

1. Keep AAC available so you can model quickly and easily.
2. Model on iPad or on a paper-based version.
3. Get the team on board so everyone can model.
4. Model throughout the day, especially during real, meaningful and motivating activities.
5. Model in conversations.
6. Show how you can use different words to communicate different messages.
7. Model one-two words more than the AAC learner needs.
8. You do not have to model every word that you say.
9. It is okay if the grammar of modeled words is wrong.



Modeling means you point to words on the AAC tool as you speak

Modeling helps

Modeling does not need to be perfect. But trust that each time you point to a word, and every time you show concepts on AAC, that the AAC learner is building their knowledge of words. Your modeling will help them to learn how they can use words to communicate. Make it fun and enjoy the adventure!

For more information: <https://www.assistiveware.com/learn-aac/start-modeling>