

Practical Ideas and Activities at Home

Adapted from AssistiveWare Core Word Classroom

<https://www.assistiveware.com/blog/language-opportunities-using-aac-home>

Once you have the AAC system in place and you're modeling as much as you can, provide fun and motivating reasons for your child to use their AAC system.

The more often you build in opportunities to model AAC with your child in natural and fun ways, the more easily your child will learn to use AAC. These ideas and activities are easy and engaging ways to interact with your child using their AAC system:



Look at a family photo album

Talk about the pictures, the people, what happened, what you like, what you see, etc.



Read through junk mail, catalogues or magazines

Talk about things to buy, birthday wish lists, gift ideas for friends, things of interest, stories about celebrities, recipes, etc.



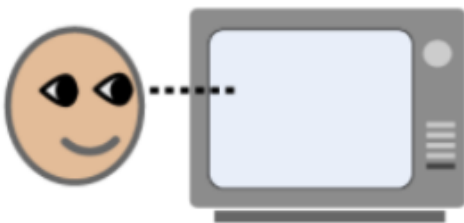
Read a book together

Talk about the pictures, the characters, what happened – you don't always need to read the words! Model the core words on the AAC system.



Cook together

Talk about what you have to do, the ingredients, the taste, what you like or dislike about it, etc.



Watch a TV program or movie

Talk about what happened, who's your favourite character, which part do you like most, is it scary/exciting.



Give the wrong item, like a fork to eat yoghurt or give them paper for drawing but no pencils

Talk about what they need and want, why the item you have given does not work!



Tidy up and put things away

Talk about what you have to do. Eg. folding and putting laundry away, discuss where socks and other clothing goes. Or putting away the groceries and talk about what goes in the fridge and what in the cupboard.



Play with favourite toys and games

Talk about the toys and games, take turns and model words like: *more, play, on, off, like, all done*, and much more!



Arts & Crafts

Talk about what to make, how to make it, describe the colours and what you see, what to use. You can also talk about art projects brought home from school.



Mirror play

Talk about things when you are looking in the mirror and pulling funny faces and making funny sounds.



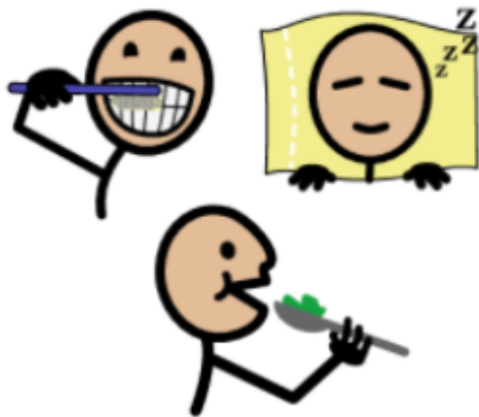
Play hide and seek or action games with toys

Talk about the game while you take turns. Make the toy do all kinds of fun actions. Model WHERE words like: *in, on and under*, and ACTION words like: *jump, sleep*, etc.



Listen to music and sing

Talk about favourite music and songs, sing and listen and play! And model words like: *more, loud, quiet, nice, like, go, stop* and much more!



Discuss routines

Talk about what you are doing during everyday routines like brushing hair, bath time, getting dressed, etc.

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But I know what my child is trying to say....

Without a doubt, no-one knows your child better than you. And in many cases you may be able to guess what he/she is attempting to tell you, without their AAC system. But beware - it is important to not always assume that you know what your kid is trying to tell you! They might have SO MUCH MORE to say! And we want to give them every chance to SAY it!

Look at every conversation and every interaction as an opportunity to model and build language and communication with your child.

Start today!

These are just some examples to get you started. It's easy to create opportunities for your child to communicate by being a little creative! Think about your daily schedule and things you do with your child every day. Can you find ways to build some AAC modeling into those activities?

You may wish to talk to your teacher about how the words your child is working on at school can be used in these home activities too.

Have fun with AAC at home! Start today!