

Your AAC Journey: Core Strategies & Starting Point

AAC Core Vocabulary: Essential Words & Functions

1. Asserting Control

- **Core Words:** STOP, GO, MORE, WANT, HELP
- **Example Uses:** Expressing choices, requesting continuation or termination, and advocating for help.

2. Basic Affirmation & Action

- **Core Words:** NO, YES, PLAY, DO, EAT
- **Example Uses:** Expressing preferences, indicating agreement/disagreement, and initiating daily activities.

3. Directing Actions

- **Core Words:** GIVE, UP, DOWN, IN, OUT
- **Example Uses:** Directing others, requesting movement, and utilizing spatial vocabulary.

4. Socializing & Opinion

- **Core Words:** HELLO, BYE, GOOD, NOT, FINISHED
- **Example Uses:** Greeting peers, expressing feelings or opinions, and signaling activity transitions.

Powerful Core Implementation Strategies

Strategy	Action Step	Clinical Rationale
Aided Language Stimulation (Modeling)	Speak with AAC: Point to symbols while talking naturally.	Provides authentic language models without forcing demands or requiring immediate imitation.
Consistency in Layout	Don't Rearrange: Keep location placement uniform across devices and boards.	Builds motor planning and muscle memory for fast, automatic word retrieval.

Presume Competence	Believe in Potential: Maintain high expectations for every communicator.	Ensures students receive exposure to complex language and opportunities to learn.
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Combining Words & Expanding Length of Utterance

To move beyond single-symbol communication, model simple multi-word combinations during everyday routines:

- **MORE PUDDING**
- **STOP TICKLES**
- **GO PARK**

Additional Resources & Support

- **Additional Tips:** Target core vocabulary across diverse natural contexts throughout the school day.
- **Help Resources:** Consult with a Speech-Language Pathologist for customized communication board layouts and device setups.