

# How to...Use AAC to model language



We all learn language through models (examples) around us. This also applies to children using a different communication system. Their communication partner (you) can contribute to this.

## Model

Use the AAC system alongside your spoken language. The child doesn't need to repeat or copy yet.

## Expand

Expand on what they've said by using one more word. E.g. child says "push-ball", adult says "mum-push-ball".

## Teach operational skills

Teach them how to navigate the system e.g. how to turn pages, point to parts, turn on.

## Allow mistakes

Model that it's OK to make mistakes. Show them how you fix it and say what you are doing. E.g. "oh no, I'm on the wrong page".

## Think about prompts

Gradually fade the level of support provided so that the child becomes more independent.

## Language to focus on:

Model language using 'core' vocabulary.

Pronouns: I, your, she, his

Verbs: want, help, push, open, finish, like.

Attributes: big, small, more.

## Prepare

Familiarise yourself with the system and think about the types of vocabulary available.