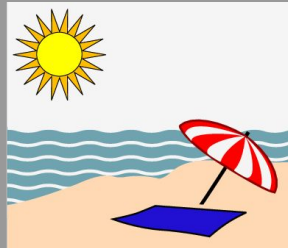


# **AAC in the Community**

**Always Available Everywhere**



**Communication happens  
everywhere, so we need to take  
our AAC everywhere!**



**When going places  
within your  
community  
remember to**

**TAKE IT!!**

**T**alk about going

**A**lways Available

**K**eep modeling

**E**ncourage language

**I**nspire others!

**T**each others!

## Talk about going



Use the AAC to talk about where you are going!

1. Think about core words you could use that will help in that location.
2. Familiarize yourself with how to navigate to the appropriate fringe folder!



**Always available**

**Just like at home, your child needs to have easy access to their AAC system.**

1. Your child needs opportunities for learning through comments, choices and open ended questions.
2. They also need opportunities to use different AAC options! Practice using picture fringe boards and paper core boards before heading out!



**Keep Modeling!**

**Modeling using your child's AAC system is still critical as they learn to communicate using their language system!**

1. Practice modeling comments and thoughts about the place you will be going!
2. You can model using their device with other people in that setting!



**Encourage language!**

**Modeling using your child's AAC system is still critical as they learn to communicate using their language system!**

1. Practice modeling comments and thoughts about the place you will be going! (I like books, I do not like jellyfish. The seahorse is over here)
- 2.



## Inspire, Don't require! Inspire others!

**Choose joy and design activities that will inspire your child to communicate!**

1. Be mindful to choose activities that support your AAC users and inspire others to communicate with your AAC users!
2. Have a plan to communicate with others how your child communicates and to share with them important information, such as not asking questions without giving adequate time to respond!





**Teach others!**

**By teaching others about AAC, we become agents of change!**

1. The more others see our AAC, the more expected it will become!
2. As people learn to “Speak AAC to Teach AAC” they become additional communication partners, making our AAC users feel valued and respected!

# Grocery Store

## AAC Modeling: Grocery Planning

### Comment!

- YUM!
- NOT LIKE IT
- FISH GROSS
- DELICIOUS
- MY FAVORITE
- THINK OK
- HUNGRY NOW
- TASTE GOOD
- LOVE THAT
- IT ALL GONE
- FRUIT GREAT

### Ask for Things!

- GET ICE CREAM
- WANT CHEESE
- MORE CHIPS
- MAC & CHEESE
- EAT BACON
- CHICKEN NUGGETS
- GET SNACKS

### Ask Questions!

- WHAT NEED?
- WHAT MAKE?
- WHAT THINK?
- WHICH WANT?
- WHEN GO?
- WHY I NOT GO?
- HAVE TOILET PAPER?

### To the Shopper!

- WRITE IT
- TAKE BAGS!
- HURRY UP
- THANK YOU

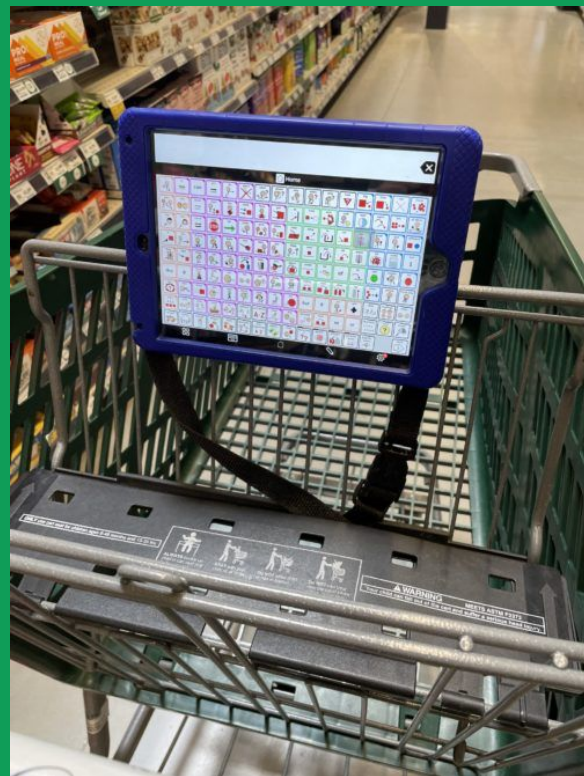
### Share Ideas!

- MAKE COOKIE
- PIZZA PARTY
- TATER TOTS!
- ME COOK YOU
- DIFFERENT DINNER



We all may not be able to get to the grocery store, but we can plan together! Write a list together. There's lots to talk about. Use your learner's AAC system to connect over food likes, dislikes, and ideas!

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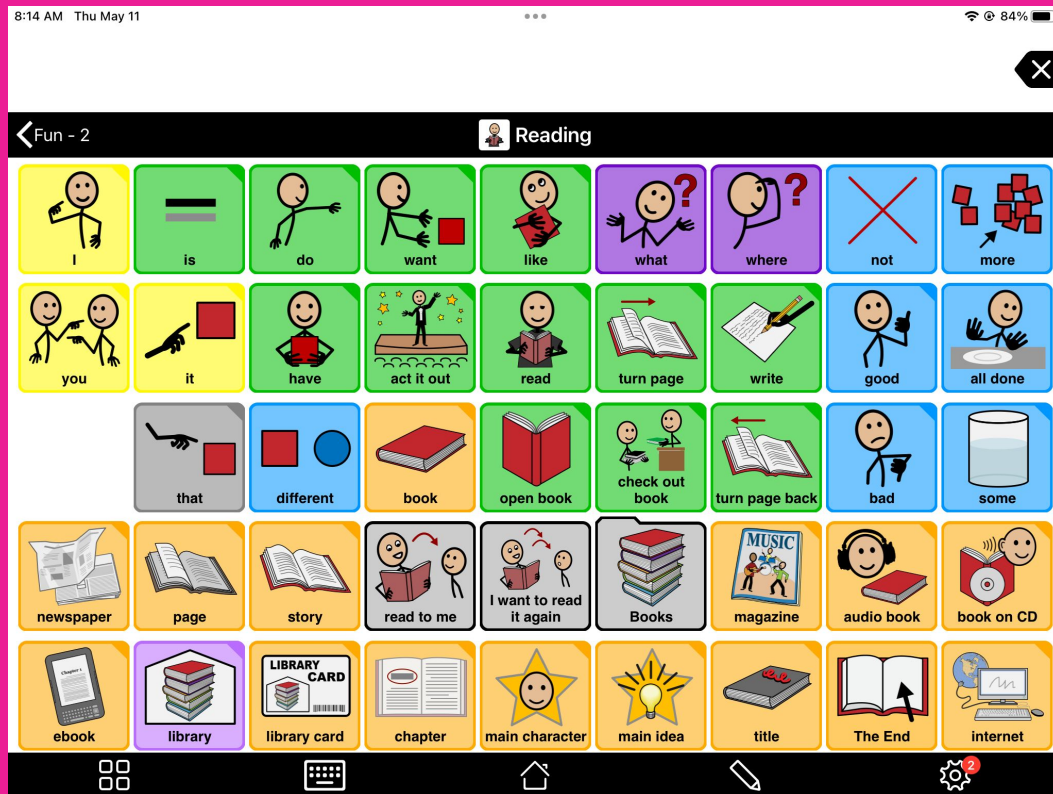
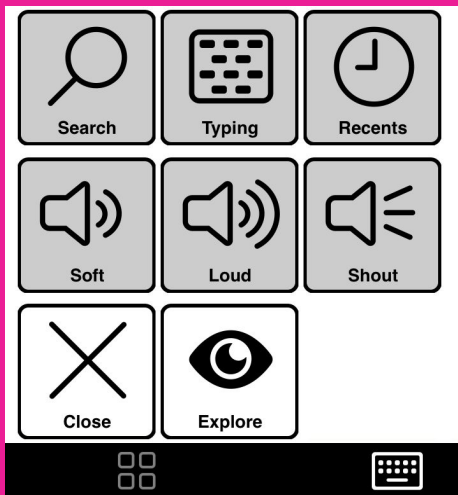


# Grocery Store

- If you take a trip to the grocery store with your child and bring your child's AAC device, there are ways you can work in using the device and talking with your child to your grocery store run.
- Before going with your child in a grocery store, create a shopping list of ingredients for their lunch or dinner that day. Then, you can walk through the store searching for the items and using the AAC device to label and describe each ingredient.
- Have your child be in charge of the grocery list. Once the child has found the ingredient, they can identify the item and cross it off their list!
- When you get to the store, you can walk through the aisles and the produce section and have your child label some of the foods that he or she likes. Then once they start showing interest in those foods or drinks, you can have them request those items or describe the items on their device.

# Library

Going to the library is an excellent place to use AAC! Not only are there wonderful books to talk about, but you can practice using the volume buttons and a “soft” voice!



# Park/Playground



## AAC Modeling: Playground

### Comment!

- IT FUN
- THAT GOOD
- NOT LIKE IT
- UH OH
- YOU CRAZY
- LOOK THAT
- FEEL TIRED
- I HOT/COLD
- COOL!
- THINK GREAT
- EXCITING
- NOT GET ME!

### Tell Each Other What to Do!

- GET ON/OFF
- GIVE PUSH
- PUSH ME
- CLIMB UP
- COME DOWN
- DON'T HELP
- WATCH ME
- PLAY
- RUN FAST
- DO DIFFERENT
- STOP IT

### Ask Questions!

- WHAT DO?
- WHERE GO?
- WHO DO?
- WHO THAT?
- HOW PUSH?
- WHEN GO?

### Ask for Things!

- WANT SWING
- GO WALK
- NEED COAT
- DO MORE
- BIG PUSH
- SWING HIGH
- GET ME
- WANT TURN
- GO SLIDE

There is a lot to talk about on the playground. What a great time to model AAC! Get outside and enjoy the playground together. That's the real goal! Use AAC to talk to your learner about the things they're interested in. Use comments and describing words to talk about their experience at the playground. Do what you can and build on it on your next trip to the playground.



TIP: Make sure you have an AAC support that works well outside. A light tech book or a device with a no glare screen protector work well!

# Restaurant



Make sure that  
your child's  
favorite foods and  
places to eat are  
easily accessible  
in their food pages  
and places pages!

## AAC Modeling: Restaurant

### Ask Questions!

- WHAT WANT?
- WHAT YOU GET?
- WHERE FOOD?
- WHERE BATHROOM?

### Prestored Messages

- CAN I HAVE...
- I'M ALLERGIC TO...
- CHECK PLEASE!

### Talk About The Meal!

- LOOK MENU
- WANT THAT
- GET SODA
- COME SOON
- HURRY UP
- NEED FORK
- MORE WATER
- YOU TASTE
- NEED SALT
- GET DESSERT
- NEED PAY
- WE GO NOW

### Comment!

- I'M HUNGRY
- HARD WAIT
- IT HOT/COLD
- YUM
- FANCY
- MY FAVORITE
- GROSS
- DON'T LIKE IT
- LOOK GOOD
- I'M FULL
- SPICY
- LOUD HERE
- THIS NICE



Going out to eat can be a treat. There are also lots of opportunities to model language on your learner's AAC device. Remember to program some pre-stored messages. You can use sentences starters (e.g., I would like) or full messages (e.g., I have a peanut allergy). Enjoy your meal and connect using AAC!

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# Going on a Walk



What would you say on a walk near your house?

## AAC Modeling: On A Walk

**Tell each other what to do!**

- COME WITH ME
- STOP HERE
- SLOW DOWN
- LET'S GO
- HURRY UP

**Comment on your walk!**

- NICE DAY
- IT COLD
- I TIRED
- LOVE GO OUT
- FEEL GOOD
- LONG WALK
- SEE BIRD
- WALK FAST
- WALK SLOW
- BIG TREE
- FUN OUTSIDE
- WINDY DAY

**Get attention!**

- LOOK!
- SEE THAT!

**Ask questions!**

- WHERE GO?
- WHAT THAT?
- HOW LONG?
- WHEN DONE?

AAC modeling can happen anywhere. A walk can be a lot of fun! Make sure you have an AAC option that works outside! It could be a light-tech book and/or a high tech device with an anti-glare screen protector. Enjoy your time outside and connect with your AAC learner.

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# Going on a Walk

- Take a walk outside. Notice all the things that are changing in different seasons. What animals do you see? Are the trees changing? Comment on the world around you.
- Bring a digital camera with you so children can take photos of things that interest them to share with family members. And you can take other photos to print to create a scavenger hunt for children the next time you take the same walk.
- Play “I spy with my little eye” from your window and help children learn to give clues about what they spied.
- Model using all five senses. You might say, “I’m seeing the big clouds,” “I’m touching the wet grass,” “I’m hearing the jets of an airplane,” or “I’m smelling the fallen pine tree needles.” It’s not safe to taste many things outdoors, but you can “taste” the air.
- Carry along an inexpensive magnifying glass so children can get up close and personal with nature. Many smartphones have a magnifier app.



# Summer Time is almost here! What do you say in the water?

## AAC Modeling: Beach

### Comment!

- EXCITED
- BEAUTIFUL
- IT HOT
- SUN BRIGHT
- WET
- SAND ON FEET
- I LOVE IT
- THIRSTY
- THIS FUN
- LOOK
- SEE BIRD
- DON'T LIKE
- I TIRED

### Talk About The Fun!

- SUNSCREEN ON
- GO WALK
- IN WATER
- BUILD CASTLE
- MAKE BIG
- DIG SAND
- LOOK SHELL
- SAND ON ME
- STOP THAT
- COME
- SIT DOWN
- GO HOME

### Ask Questions!

- WHAT SEE?
- WHEN EAT?
- WHAT DO?
- WHEN GO?
- WHY HAVE GO?

### Ask For Things!

- NEED TOWEL
- WANT SNACK
- GIVE MORE
- SWIM WITH ME
- WANT DRINK
- SUNGLASSES
- WANT BREAK
- NEED SHOVEL
- WANT TOY

There is so much to talk about at the beach, so it's great time to model AAC! If you're planning a day at the beach, make sure you pack your learner's AAC! Worried about damage and sun glare? Bring a light tech AAC support, like a communication book!



## AAC Modeling: Pool

### Comment!

- FUN
- LIKE SWIM
- AWESOME
- IT HOT
- FEEL GOOD
- YOU SPLASH
- UH OH
- NICE DAY
- POOL GREAT
- YOU WET
- GET COLD
- FEEL SCARED
- FEEL EXCITED

### Talk About The Fun!

- SUNSCREEN ON
- TAKE OFF
- PUT ON
- GET IN/OUT
- DRY OFF
- JUMP IN
- COME SWIM
- TAKE BREAK
- GO BATHROOM
- DO MORE
- GET CLOTHES
- ALL DONE

### Ask Questions!

- WHAT THINK?
- WHAT NEED?
- WHAT HAPPEN?
- WHEN GO?
- WHAT NEXT?

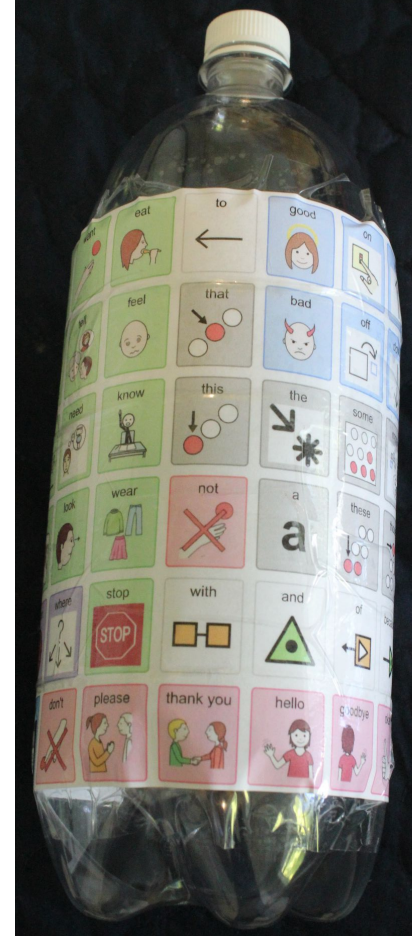
### Ask For Things!

- NEED TOWEL
- WANT SNACK
- NEED DRINK
- FLOAT
- SWIM MORE
- SUNGLASSES

When the weather gets hot, there is nothing better than the pool! Get out there and cool off. Use your learner's AAC system to talk about the fun! Worried about damage or sun glare? Use a light tech version of your learner's AAC. A printed communication board on a kickboard works well! Make sure you laminate or use waterproof paper!



# Water friendly AAC



# AAC and Water

**Communication can be accessible in the pool, at the beach, and even at home in the bathtub!**



- Use a heat-sealing laminator: be sure to cut out your printed board first so there is enough plastic sealed together on all sides—run it through twice to be sure it is sealed, or even double laminate it!
- Attach your waterproof board to your beach chair or bag, the pool/shower wall or a pool ladder.
- Wrap your waterproof board around pool noodles or 2L soda bottles and attach with rubber bands, glue or waterproof Gorilla tape—even regular duct tape or packing tape will hold for a while. Smaller boards can be attached to the sides of a milk jug.
- Attach your waterproof board with glue to a piece of foam, a kickboard or a gardening knee board—laminated boards actually stick fairly well to a wet board without even being attached.
- If you have a big plastic jar, like a pretzel barrel, attach a regular printed board on the inside and close it tightly.

# Things to Consider: Preparing to Go to New Places

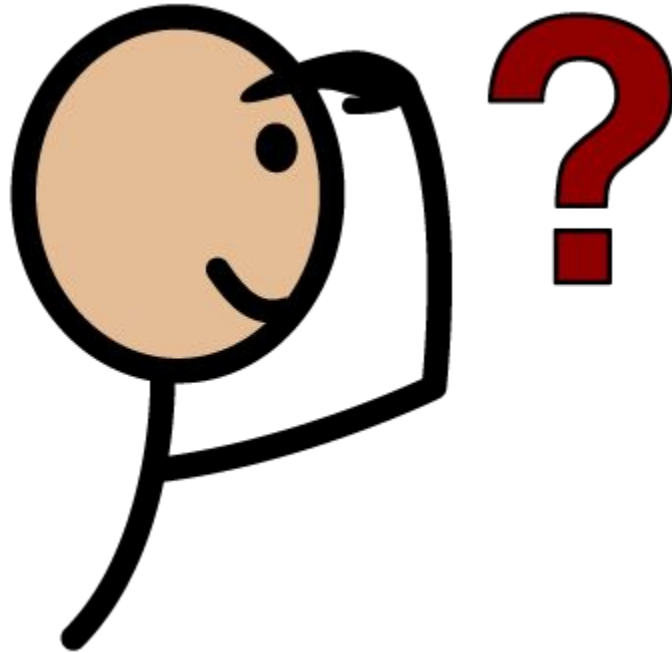
- Take a video tour of the specific location. If the new location doesn't have an online video tour, suggest that they create one or, if you're feeling ambitious, create your own.
- Create a visual schedule or picture checklist for the visit.
- Consider the rules and expected behaviors of the new place and make a plan for those.
- In some cases, this may mean some advanced preparation with the AAC user, such as being aware of loudness levels when speaking and/or practicing quiet voices.
- Ensure that the AAC user has access to appropriate communication strategies and vocabulary for the visit to a new place.

## When going out, everyone needs to be responsible for the AAC!

You can also assign someone to be the AAC monitor! Their job is to:

- Make sure it's always available
- Monitor battery usage (Don't forget your charging cord!)
- Help the AAC user choose the best form of communication for the situation!
- Make sure it leaves the location

# Where will you take your AAC?



# Access to AAC



- In the community, the AAC needs to be easily and readily available.
- Make sure the child's AAC is in an area that they can access it (i.e. in the car, at the store, on vacation).
- Sometimes electronic AAC devices can malfunction or are not available. If that happens, have a paper back up available.
- Make sure the AAC device is charged each day. When using an electronic device, having a designated charging area helps to locate a device and to establish a routine for the whole family.
- When going out, everyone needs to be responsible for the AAC!