

ENCOURAGING COMMUNICATION BEYOND REQUESTS

Many AAC users start by using their device to ask for things ('more cookie'). However, communication goes beyond just requesting! We can model and encourage other types of communication, like asking questions, commenting, and sharing ideas.

COMMENTING

Commenting allows users to share observations, express excitement, and engage in conversation.

Model words like *'fun', 'like', 'yummy'*

EXPRESSING FEELINGS

The ability to express emotions helps AAC users communicate how they feel which can decrease frustration.

Model words like *'happy', 'mad', 'tired'*

ASKING & ANSWERING QUESTIONS

Asking questions encourages curiosity, helps build relationships, and allows AAC users to participate socially.

Models words like *'What's that?', 'Where go?', 'Who is it?'*

PROTESTING

Learning to protest and say no gives AAC users control over their environment, helps them set boundaries, and promotes independence.

Model words like *'stop', 'no', 'go away'*

PROVIDE PERSONAL INFO

Sharing personal information helps with social interactions, fosters independence, and increases safety.

Model words like *'My name is..', 'I am..', 'I live in ..'*

TELLING STORIES/SHARING IDEAS

Story telling and sharing ideas build connections, enhance social participation, and help AAC users engage meaningfully with others.

Model words like *'Look', 'Guess what', 'Remember'*

By encouraging communication beyond requesting, we can help AAC users become **confident** and **independent communicators** who can fully participate in the world around them.

