

# Aided Language Stimulation (ALS): A Quick Guide for SLPs

## What is Aided Language Stimulation (ALS)?

A common strategy where communication partners **model language** by pointing to symbols on an AAC system **while simultaneously speaking**.

### Core Principles of ALS:

- **Model what you want the AC user to learn**
- Use the AAC system **while talking naturally**
- No expectation for the individual to respond or imitate
- Input should be **frequent, functional, and motivating**
- Modeling should reflect a variety of language functions

### Why it Works:

- Builds **receptive language skills**
- Increases familiarity and confidence with AAC
- Demonstrates how to navigate and use the system
- Provides language exposure at the user's level;
- Encourages communication across different contexts

### What to Model:

- **Core Vocabulary** (e.g., go, stop, want, more, help)
- **Functional language** (e.g., greetings, questions, comments, protests)
- **Expanded language** (e.g., combining symbols to build phrases and sentences)
- **All communicative functions** – not just requesting!

### Tips for Effective ALS:

- Speak normally
- use the AAC system consistently across settings
- Model one step above the user's current level
- Be patient
- Use aided language in real moments
- Encourage all communication partners to model