Modeling Basics for Effective Communication

Modeling is not just a technique—it's a transformative tool in the communication journey of Speech Device Users. Modeling is pivotal in the communication development of Speech Device Users. Essential for effective speech device use, it's a shared responsibility of family, caregivers, educators, and SLPs to engage in modeling, aiding the user's communication journey.

Why Should I Model?

Learning Tool: Modeling demonstrates the effective use of speech devices for expressing ideas, requests, and emotions, which is especially helpful for new or limited-skill users.

Reinforcement: Highlights the value of the user's voice, empowering and validating their communication.

Reducing Frustration: Helps users overcome initial difficulties with the device by showing how to find words or symbols and form sentences.

Confidence Building: Successful modeling and positive interactions increase users' confidence, encouraging more frequent device use in various contexts.

Simple Modeling Activity – Learning Colors

Introducing Colors: Start by introducing different colors using the speech device. Model sentences like "This is red" or "Look, a blue sky."

Asking Questions: Ask questions to encourage participation, such as "What color is this?" while pointing to objects.
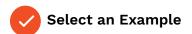
Expressing Preferences: Model sharing preferences, like "Blue is my favorite color" or "I like green apples."

Color Identification Game: Play a game where the child identifies the colors of various objects. Model questions like "Can you find something red?"

Color Sorting Activity: Have a sorting task with colored items. Model instructions like, "Put all the blue things here."

Tips on Incorporating AAC Modeling into Other Activities

✓ **Outline the Framework**   ✓ **Select an Example**   ✓ **Demonstrate Activity**

Creative Modeling Activity: AAC Mystery Box

Preparation: Before you start, ensure that the AAC device has the vocabulary that aligns with the objects in the mystery box and the activity. This might include words for guessing, questioning, describing, and reacting.

Introducing the Activity: Begin by explaining the activity to the child using their AAC device. For instance, you might model phrases like "Let's play a guessing game" or "I have a mystery box."

Providing Clues: Give clues about the object in the box, using the AAC device to model how to describe it. For example, if the object is a soft toy, you might model phrases like "It is soft" or "You can cuddle it."

Encouraging Guesses: Prompt the child to make guesses using their AAC device. You can model questions or guesses, like "Is it a toy?" or "Can I play with it?"

Helping: If the child struggles to find the right words, offer support by modeling phrases or showing them where to find words on their device.

Revealing and Reacting: Once the child guesses correctly or after a few attempts, reveal the object. Model reactions on the AAC device, such as "You found it!" or "It's a teddy bear!"

Encouraging Expression: After revealing, encourage the child to express their thoughts about the object or the game. Model phrases like "I feel happy" or "I like this game."

Repeat the Process: Continue with different objects, each time modeling the use of the AAC device for different parts of the guessing process.