

Teaching Core Words for AAC

Step One

Introduce the core word. Show the individual where on the device they can find it and practice navigating and using the word.

Step Two

Choose an activity that can help implement the use of the core word you are targeting.

Step Three

Review the core word in a variety of contexts and track the progress of using the core word throughout the week.

Core Words

Activities

Week One:

Core Time Words:
Now, Later, Before & After



Time Traveler Game: Pretend to be time travelers with the child. Start in the present (now) and talk about what you might do “later” or what you did “before” you arrived in the present. You can use simple scenarios like, “We’ll have lunch later, but first, we need to do our homework.”

Core Location Words:
Around & Under



Obstacle Course: Set up an indoor obstacle course. Instruct the child to navigate the course, giving them directions that involve these location words. For instance, “Go around the chair, then crawl under the table.”

Core Size Words:
Big, & Small



Comparative Playdough Shapes: Use playdough to create various shapes and sizes. Ask the child to make a “big” ball of playdough, a “tiny” one, and so on. Encourage them to compare the sizes of their playdough creations.

Core Communication Words:
Ask, Say



Role-Play Conversations: Engage in role-playing scenarios where you and the child take turns being different characters. Use the core communication words to have conversations. For example, “Let’s pretend you’re a customer, and I’m a cashier. You can ask for a snack, and I’ll say the options.”

Week Two:

Core Social Interaction Words:
Friend, Share, Help



Friendship Bracelets: Create friendship bracelets with the child, and as you work on them together, discuss what it means to be a good friend. Emphasize the importance of sharing, helping, and saying kind words.

Core Action Words:
Run, Jump, Sleep, Eat



Action Videos: Watch age-appropriate videos or animations that showcase the core action words. Afterward, discuss the actions seen in the videos and encourage the child to imitate them.

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Week Three:

Core Directional Words:
Up & Down



Bubble Game: Play with bubbles and ask if they want you to blow them “up” or “down.”

**Core Pronouns : You, I,
He, She, They**



Mirror Activity: Sit facing a mirror with the child. Point to yourself and say, “I.” Then, point to the child and say, “You.” Ask the child to do the same, pointing to themselves and saying, “I,” and then pointing to you and saying, “You.” This activity helps reinforce the use of “I” and “you” in a simple context.

Core Describing Words:
Heavy, Light, Hard, Soft



Soft and Hard Objects Scavenger Hunt: Go on a scavenger hunt around the house or outdoors to find objects that are “soft” and “hard.” Discuss the items you find and why they fit these descriptions.

**Core Time of Day
Words: Morning, Afternoon,
Evening**



Time Sorting Game: Prepare cards with pictures or phrases representing activities that occur at different times of the day. Have the child sort these cards into morning, afternoon, evening, and night categories.

Week Four:

Core Greeting Words:
Hello & Goodbye



Greeting Songs: Sing songs or rhymes that include the words “hello” and “goodbye.” For example, you can sing “Hello, Hello, How are you?” or “Goodbye, Goodbye, See you soon.”

Core Words: Yes & No



Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down: Play a game where the child gives a thumbs-up for “yes” and a thumbs-down for “no” in response to statements or questions you present.