



Winter Break AAC Guide for Families

Embrace Speech Device Use During the Winter Break

Winter break brings a special opportunity to strengthen bonds and enhance communication for Speech Device users. Winter Break is the perfect time for families to practice being an effective communication partner.



You don't need to be a Speech Device expert to be an excellent communication partner! ***It's about connection, not perfection.*** This resource guides you in supporting and celebrating every effort to communicate, emphasizing patience and understanding over technical skill.

Speech Device Communication Partner Tips For Winter Break

Patience is Key:

Understand that communication with Speech Device might take more time. Encourage without rushing, allowing the user to express themselves fully.

Stay Flexible & Have Fun:

Be prepared to adeptly handle any unpredictability in communication.

Encourage Choice-Making:

Offer choices instead of yes/no questions to encourage more expressive communication. Example: "Would you like hot chocolate or apple cider?" instead of "Do you want a drink?"

Be Persistent:

Remain steadfast in your efforts to utilize the Speech Device for effective communication, recognizing that learning a new language is challenging.

Model Speech Device Use:

Use the Speech Device system yourself to demonstrate its use. This helps normalize Speech Device communication and provides a learning model.

Celebrate All Attempts:

Acknowledge and praise all efforts to communicate, even if the message isn't clear initially. This builds confidence and encourages further communication attempts.

Approach with an Open Mind:

Appreciate diverse communication styles and avoid making judgments about your Speech Device partner's cognitive abilities.

Extend the Circle of Communication:

We encourage families to invite extended family and friends to become a part of this enriching experience. By including grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins as communication partners, you can create a more inclusive, supportive environment for your Speech Device user.



Speech Device Activities For Winter Break



Holiday Decoration Scavenger Hunt:

Organize a scavenger hunt with clues provided through the Speech Device. This can include finding various holiday decorations around the house or neighborhood.

Express Gratitude with Speech Device:

Have each family member use the Speech Device to express what they are thankful for. This can be a meaningful activity that fosters appreciation and reflection.

Holiday Song Sing-Along:

Use the Speech Device devices to participate in singing or reciting holiday songs. This can be a joyful and inclusive family activity.

Hide and Seek:

Play a modified game of hide and seek with toys. Hide a toy and ask the Speech Device user, “Is it here?” while pointing to a nearby location, or “Is it there?” while pointing to a distant location.

Holiday Simon Says with Speech Device:

Play a festive round of ‘Simon Says’ using the Speech Device, with holiday-themed commands like ‘Simon says, twinkle like holiday lights.’ This fun adaptation encourages Speech Device interaction and brings holiday cheer to the classic game, making it an inclusive family activity.

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.

