

Teaching Core Words for AAC

Analytical Language Learners

When teaching core words, understanding the learner's processing style is crucial.

Analytical Language Learners tend to focus on the details and structure of language.

They learn best through activities emphasizing logic, sequencing, and categorization, which helps them understand the specific function and use of core words in various contexts.

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 Word:
Play



Things We Can "Play" within a Natural Environment

- Musical instruments (e.g., drums, xylophones)
- Sports equipment (e.g., balls, frisbees)
- Pretend play sets (e.g., kitchen, doctor's kit)
- Interactive electronic devices (e.g., tablets with educational games)



Activities to Work on the Core Word "Play"

- Use musical instruments and encourage the child to "play" a song, focusing on using the word to initiate or describe the action.
- Engage in sports or physical activities where "play" can be used to start the game or pass the ball.
- Set up pretend play scenarios and have the child use "play" to choose roles or actions within their imaginative environment.
- Incorporate educational games on tablets or computers, using "play" to select and start games.

Week Two:

Core Word:
Off/On



Things We Can Turn "Off/On" in a Natural Environment

- Lights or lamps.
- Electronic toys.
- Tablets or computers.
- Music players.



Activities to Work on the Core Word "Off/On"

- Play "lights on/lights off" game, toggling a light switch and using "off/on" to control the action.
- Use electronic toys that can be turned off and on, encouraging the child to use the words to control the toys.
- During tablet or computer time, have the child turn the device off and on, using the core words.
- Play music and use "off/on" to pause or play, integrating the words into a fun activity.

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**Week
Three:**

**Core Word:
Now**



Things We Can Do “Now” in a Natural Environment

- Starting or stopping play activities.
- Opening or closing objects immediately.
- Eating snacks or reading books at this moment.



Activities to Work on the core word “Now”

- During play, emphasize “now” to signal when to start or stop, e.g., “We play now” or “We stop now.”
- Use “now” when opening or closing toys, books, or snack containers, signaling immediate action.
- Incorporate “now” in arts and crafts, indicating when to use materials, e.g., “Use the glue now.”

**Week
Four:**

**Core Word:
Look**



Things We Can “Look” at in a Natural Environment

- Animals or insects.
- Different types of vehicles.
- Various plants or flowers.
- Cloud shapes in the sky.



Activities to Work on the Core Word “Look”

- Go on a nature walk, encouraging the child to “look” at different objects and describe them.
- Play “I Spy” games, using “look” to direct attention, e.g., “Look, can you find something red?”
- Use books with detailed illustrations, guiding the child to “look” at specific parts of the picture and talk about what they see.
- Create a scavenger hunt where “look” is used to find items or clues.