

They have an AAC device!

What do you do with it?

All The Words

- Your AAC learner needs full access to a robust language system. They can't learn or use words if they do not have access to them! Let them explore all the words on their AAC device. So much learning will happen during the time they spend exploring and experimenting!

Model Without Expectation

- An important step to learning to use an AAC system is seeing and hearing it being used. A lot! Use your AAC learner's AAC system to talk. Point to/touch symbols on the AAC system during routines and authentic interactions. Do not expect or require them to repeat or respond to what you say.
- Talk about what is happening. Describe what you are doing. Narrate your thoughts, feelings, and problem-solving. Talk about what they are interested in, doing, and expressing in other ways. Start with saying 1 or 2 words at a time using the AAC system as you verbalize your complete statement.
- Your AAC learner might not appear to pay attention to your modeling. That is okay. Keep modeling anyway! You might touch/use the AAC system more than they do at first. That is okay. Keep going!

What to Expect

Your AAC learner may...

- "Play" with the device.
 - Tap buttons to explore
 - Open folders in the device
- Experiment with the device.
 - Tap buttons that make strings of words
 - Tap words that don't seem relevant to the moment
 - Play with language - this is studying and learning!
- Repeat on the device
 - Find a favorite word they think sounds funny
 - Find a word they think sounds interesting
 - Press this word over and over again

You may see this in the first few days and weeks. And also, over many months! Your AAC Learner may not use their AAC device to communicate in a 'traditionally expected' way. They may not suddenly use it to communicate in a complex way. Trust that they are learning and communicating.

It is a process and takes time!

All these things are normal and are part of the learning process.

*Adapted from www.nwacs.com