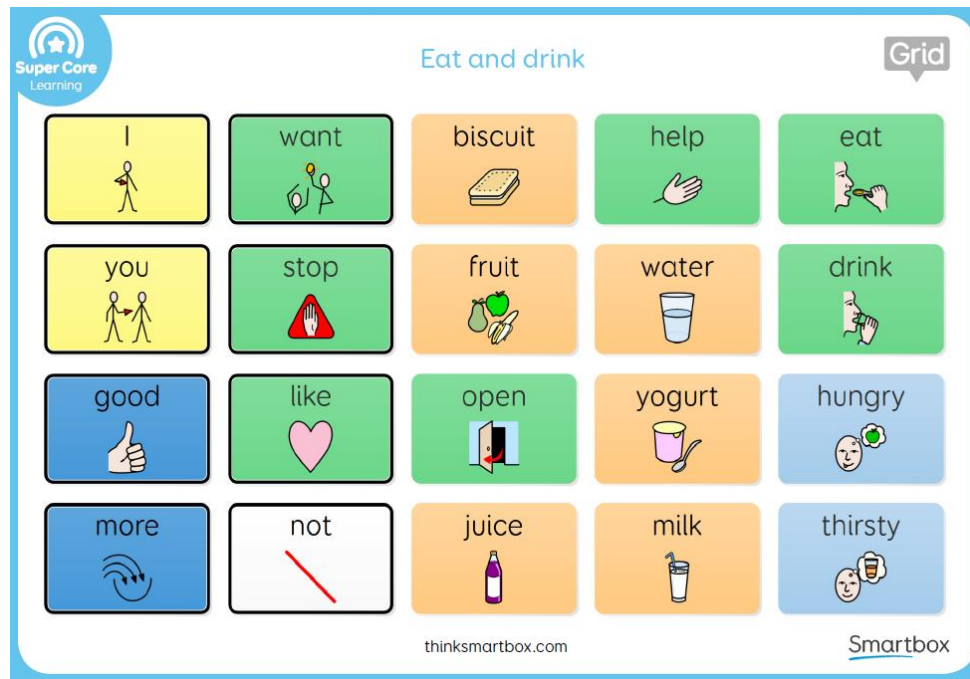# Aided Language Display

What is an Aided Language Display (ALD)?

An Aided Language Display (ALD) is a symbol display on a single page containing relevant symbolised vocabulary for a specific activity.

What are Aided Language Displays (ALD boards) used for:

- teaching new words

- extending the length of sentences

- using new language functions (making requests, instructions, comments, questions etc.)

- ALDs can be used to facilitate speech **and/or** instead of speech.

How to use an ALD board?

Before a child is able to use an ALD to communicate, they need to see other people using it LOTS of times (just like speech!). We need to:

- point to key words on the page when we talk (e.g. when you say "Do you want more?" point to 'more' symbol)

- say the word as well as pointing to it (i.e. if you point to 'more' you say "more" at the same time)

- make the ALD available at all times during the activity – the child may not ask for the ALD so we need to remember to get it out at the right times!

- keep ALDs in a consistent place when they are not being used so that the child can get to it, such as a low shelf or cupboard

- model and wait for your child to respond (this can be verbally or non-verbally). They may respond by pointing to the same symbol, by nodding or by vocalising. That is okay. Acknowledge any attempt they might be making to communicate and you can reinforce this by pointing to the symbol and repeating it back to them (e.g. if you are asking them if they want juice and they respond by nodding, you can reply by saying and pointing to the symbol and saying 'juice').