

Communication is supported in Strathmore in many ways such as; PECS, Aided Language Displays (ALD), Varying Applications and devices and Makaton. Through previous communication with Speech and Language Therapists and school you may be aware of which communication support your child has and if you have access to these at home, (e.g. PECS book and ALD) then these should be used at home.

Please have a browse through the relevant pages on the website and contact the school if you need any communication resources.

Why we use Aided Language stimulation:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=flFNMky22-U>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?edufilter=NU&v=vUY6oQoSTXw>

If you do not have access to a printer but have an iPad or tablet have a look in our App folder.



Communication support should be available to your child as much as possible!

Make it fun!

If your child is really motivated by an item, sound, song or dance.

Get them to use their communication support to request it – this is promoting functional communication.

Top tips!

- Keep your communication support in the same place in the house
- Use the communication support whenever possible – spontaneously go and take it and use it for yourself!
- Timetable in a time to use it that is motivating and routinely e.g. lunchtime and snack times

Show



Point to symbols as you talk
This SHOWS the learner what to do and models language for them. It's okay to make mistakes and you don't have to point to every single word - just the important ones!

Interesting



Remember to keep things fun!
Relate your teaching to the AAC learner's favourite things to keep them INTERESTED. We all learn more when we are interested and motivated!

Months and months



Learning AAC takes time
Some learners will need MONTHS of modelling, to see and hear their AAC being used, before they are ready to start using it themselves. This is okay!

Pause



Give learners lots of time
Learners might need longer to process what you say and respond. A PAUSE also shows it's their turn to talk. It can help to count to ten in your head to make sure you pause for long enough!

Language



Teach different types of words
Try to remember all the reasons we use LANGUAGE. It's not just to ask for things! So model a range of words and how to use them - to comment, protest, ask questions and more!

Explore



Give learners time to explore
Allowing learners to 'play' with their device is okay! In fact, it's really important that we give learners time to EXPLORE their AAC and see what it can do.

Always available



Make sure AAC is available
AAC users need access to language all of the time! This can be a high tech device, or a low tech communication book. But if they don't ALWAYS have their AAC - they can't learn to use it!

Add words



Add new words as you teach
Once a learner begins to use their AAC, support their language development by ADDING WORDS to what they say. If they say one word, repeat it back and add another word.

Comment



Swap questions for comments
Questions can be testing, not teaching. So instead of asking questions we know the answer to, say the answer instead, or just COMMENT on what is happening.