

MODELING

WHAT IT IS:

“Modeling” using AAC means that you use the communication system while you talk to show how it can be used. For example, if you said “Let’s go to the library”, you could model “go” or “go library” on the AAC system. You can also model what you think the AAC user is thinking or trying to say!

WHY IT’S IMPORTANT:

Learning a new language always involves a significant amount of input (listening, seeing) before you get output (speaking, using the system). Modeling helps both you and the AAC user learn the system. It helps to increase motivation and it shows that the AAC system is a valid way of communicating.

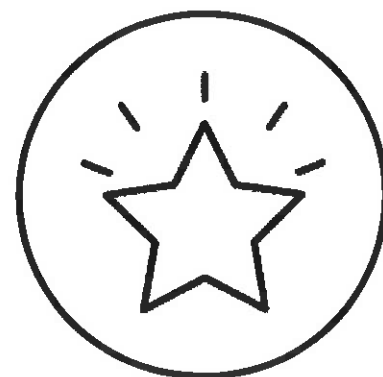
TAKE ACTION:

Set a goal for yourself. To start, aim to model using the communication system more often than you don’t every time you talk to the AAC user. Focus on key words as you speak. For example, if you say “Let’s go to class” you might just model “go” or “go class” using the system. Try to model slightly above what the AAC user does on their own. Work up to modeling 100% of the time.

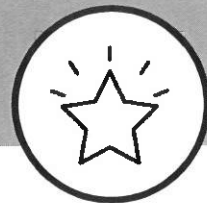
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Some Important Notes:

- 1) Consistent modeling is important even if it doesn’t seem like the AAC user is paying attention.
- 2) Don’t expect responses right away! Modeling is about exposure.



4 WAYS TO MODEL



If you've ever had trouble thinking of what to model, below are four different ideas that can be used at any time!

1

WHAT THEY'RE DOING:

Describe what the AAC user is doing. For example, if they are jumping, you might try modeling phrases like "jump", "I jump", "silly", or "fun". You can also model emotions they may feel!

2

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WHAT YOU'RE DOING:

Use the AAC system to talk about what you are doing and thinking.

For example, if the AAC user does something good, you could model "happy", "I feel proud", or "good".

3

PROVIDE THE WORDS:

Watch the AAC user and provide the words for their gestures or vocalizations. For example, if they reach for a snack, you could model "want eat" or if they push something away you could model "no", "don't like", or "stop".

4

EXPAND ON THAT:

Expand on, or add a word to, what the AAC user says. If they use their system to say "snack", try expanding that to "eat snack", "want snack", or "like snack". Expand on things they say both verbally and with their system.



TIP: Don't be afraid to repeat phrases and keywords over and over. Repetition is needed for learning, especially when learning a new skill. And remind yourself, you don't need to be perfect.