



I CAN communicate. Here's how to help me!

Please keep this card attached to my AAC system!



Do this...

MODEL, MODEL, MODEL for me.

Show me what to do before asking me to do it.



PRESUME MY COMPETENCE. I can do it!



WAIT 10 – 12 seconds before re-prompting me. (count in your head!)



FOLLOW a prompt hierarchy, only going as far as I need.

(Here's one from Environmental Communication Teaching – Dr George Karlan.)

1. Pause. Focus your attention on me. Pause.
2. Ask me an OPEN-ENDED question. Pause.
3. Give me a partial prompt. Pause
4. Request my response. Pause
5. Give me a full model. Pause.

Let me know what you heard and then model what I can add.



TEACH me to direct action, comment, reject & more



GIVE me CORE WORDS including verbs, describing words, and function words...NOT JUST NOUNS!



COLOUR CODE parts of speech for me.



MAKE SURE I have access to my words at ALL TIMES.



PROVIDE aided language input. **USE SYMBOLS** when talking to me!



Don't do this...

DON'T expect me to know how to communicate without first **SHOWING ME HOW.**



DON'T talk so much that you forget to let me talk.



DON'T prompt me every second. I need time.



DON'T teach me **ONLY** to request or communicate wants & needs. I have lots of other things to say.



DON'T take away my device. That's my voice!



DON'T put words on my system that I won't use again.



DON'T always stop me from "babbling" or exploring my device by pushing buttons. I need time to learn.



DON'T move my symbols. I need them to stay in the same spot so I can develop a motor plan.



DON'T leave my device out of reach.



DON'T expect me to talk in sentences right away. No one else does when they learn to talk!