

Modeling AAC in Middle School

When you select words on an AAC system while talking, you are modeling. We model so that users can learn AAC.

Here are some FAQs and reminders about modeling:

- **Do I need to model every word?**
No, pick one or two key words to model.
- **I can't find the words to model!**
Focus on words you can easily find or that are readily available on the home page. Use a search feature to find other words when time allows.
- **What if I hit the wrong button?**
Mistakes happen! Keep going, users benefit from seeing communication attempts AND repairs.
- **The user doesn't say anything back.**
It takes time, sometimes a LOT of time. Users have to see their language first to learn it.
- **I don't know where to start, this is overwhelming!**
Progress over perfection. Just start small with what feels manageable. Pick one word a week to focus on, or a few routines per day!

Let's put these modeling tips into action. Take a look at these routines you frequently see in middle schools and ideas of what to model. Middle school is a time of academic and social growth, so modeling may look different as users get older. Here are some ways to model while encouraging socialization. You would say all of the words in the quotes and model the words in **bold** on the AAC!

Routine	What to Model
Home Room	"HELLO __! How are YOU__?" "FIRST is MATH, NEXT is GYM"
Lunch	"ALL DONE lunch, let's clean UP" "WHAT snack do YOU have?"
In the Hallway	"WHERE are we GOING?" "I LIKE your SNEAKERS"
Recess	"WHAT do you want to PLAY?" "HELP me!"
English	"We put the period at the END" "WHO is the story about?"
Math	"Do we need to ADD or SUBTRACT?" "I SEE 4 triangles"
Music	"This music is LOUD" "I PLAY the DRUM"
Art	"WHAT color do you WANT?" "That picture is BEAUTIFUL"
Physical Education	"It's MY TURN" "Go FAST"

Need more help? Check in with your user's SLP to see if they have a "Core Word of the Week" schedule or Core Word activities. You can also check out [AbleNet's Support Hub for more lessons and activities](#).