

Modeling AAC in High School

During the high school years, the primary focus for a lot of our users becomes independence. A major way we foster independence is by working on carrying skills over outside of the classroom and increasing self-advocacy.

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 high schools and ideas of what to model. 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	"I WANT to order ____" "HOW MUCH money is it?"
In the Hallway	"WHERE are we GOING?" "I LIKE your SNEAKERS"
Work-Based Learning	"WHAT job are YOU doing TODAY?" "HELP me!"
English	"Do the stories sound the SAME or DIFFERENT?" "WHO is the story about?"
Math	"HOW MUCH money do you have?" "WE NEED to solve the problem"
Physical Education	"I WANT to PLAY basketball" "WE need to CHANGE in the locker room"

Make sure the device is with you when you are going into the community for instructional-based trips or work opportunities. This allows students the incredible opportunity to practice all of their skills outside of the school environment. Modeling during these times may look different, and the focus may be more on using pre-programmed phrases to ensure smooth and impactful communication

Routine	What to Model
Greetings	"HELLO, HOW ARE YOU?" "THANK YOU"
Communication Repairs	"I DON'T UNDERSTAND" "CAN YOU REPEAT THAT"
Advocacy	"I NEED HELP" "I use this device to help me speak, please give me time to answer"

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](#).