

AAC Adventures at a Restaurant



OBJECTIVE

Utilize a visit to a restaurant as a chance to encourage real-world AAC use, promote decision making, and build social interaction with familiar and unfamiliar listeners. Incorporating AAC into community activities provides opportunities for contextual language use and carryover beyond the therapy room or home!

BEFORE LEAVING FOR A RESTAURANT



Communication Opportunity

Picking the restaurant or what type of food to eat.

Communication Facilitation

Before leaving the house, ask your AAC user where they want to eat or what type of food they want. If needed, present them with options on the AAC device and allow them to make a choice.

ARRIVING AT THE RESTAURANT



Communication Opportunity

Greeting the host and asking for a table.

Communication Facilitation

If applicable, encourage your AAC user to greet the host and say the number of people in your party. Practice before entering the restaurant. Use the speech bar to hold a message, such as “Hi, 3 please” so that your user can hit the speech bar or speak button when appropriate. If your AAC user is not ready to practice device use with others, try modeling on the device for them when you arrive to increase their comfort using the device with new communication partners.



ORDERING FOOD



Communication Opportunity

Ordering preferred food

Communication Facilitation

Have your user try ordering their meal with their device! Based on their current language level, they can use single word or sentences (“tacos” or “I+ want +tacos”). Help navigate to the food page or provide options as needed. The AAC user can also practice telling you what they’d like to order, and you can relay the message to the waiter.

DISCUSSING FOOD



Communication Opportunity

Expressing feelings about the food.

Communication Facilitation

Once the food arrives, use the device to comment on how it tastes and if you like the meal (“it’s good,” “yummy,” “I don’t like it.”) If the user is comfortable with it, each party member can take a turn modeling how their food tastes on the device!

DINNER TABLE CONVERSATION



Communication Opportunity

Engaging in casual, table conversation.

Communication Facilitation

You or your AAC user can select a topic for the table to discuss, such as sports or what people did today. Model where icons related to this topic are on the device. Engage in back-and-forth conversations with increased wait time to allow the AAC user to participate. Ask open-ended questions and provide support and models as needed.