

Modeling AAC Across the School Environment

Progress is a team sport. This guide puts SLP-authored modeling prompts, the words to model and ready-to-use example phrases, in every team member's hands, for ten everyday school settings.

What's inside

Gym / PE

Music

Art

Library

English Language Arts

Math

Science

Cafeteria

Life Skills

Social Emotional Learning

Blank template

Every message matters

Keep it simple, model 1–2 key words at a time, pause and wait, and respond to every attempt. No more guessing. No more gaps, just a connected team moving every child forward, one session at a time.

Modeling AAC in Gym / PE

Quick tips for modeling

- Keep the AAC device charged and available to model AAC all day
- Pause and wait to give students time to respond
- Keep it simple and model 1–2 key words at a time
- Respond to all communication attempts, every message matters

Model these during Gym / PE

✓ Stretching / Warm Up

WORDS TO MODEL

go/stop, again, all done, help, tired, body parts, up/down

EXAMPLE PHRASES

- I am **all done** this stretch!
- Let's **touch** our toes.
- Put your arms **up**!

✓ Sports Game

WORDS TO MODEL

run, jump, throw, kick, fast/slow, my turn

EXAMPLE PHRASES

- **Run** fast!
- My **turn** to shoot!
- **Throw** it fast!

✓ Cheering on Team

WORDS TO MODEL

go, good, like, my turn / your turn, wow

EXAMPLE PHRASES

- **Good** job!
- **Go** team **go**!

✓ Ball Skills

WORDS TO MODEL

stop, wait, look, go, kick, push, catch, throw, bounce, roll, ball, give, pass, watch

EXAMPLE PHRASES

- **Kick** the ball
- **Wait** for the ball
- **Look** where you are throwing

✓ Exercise & Fitness

WORDS TO MODEL

body parts, I, you, me, turn, move, go, stop, jump, fast, slow, up, down, run, walk

EXAMPLE PHRASES

- Let's **walk** fast
- Ready, set, **go**!
- Move your arms **up** and down

✓ Health

WORDS TO MODEL

body parts, healthy, unhealthy, good, bad, walk, fitness, move, like, want, need, fruits, vegetables

EXAMPLE PHRASES

- Moving your body is **healthy**
- Fruits are **healthy**
- We need to make **healthy** choices

Modeling AAC in Music

Quick Tips for Modeling

- Keep the AAC device charged and available to model AAC all day
- Pause and wait to give students time to respond
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- Respond to all communication attempts, every message matters

Model these during Music



Playing Instruments

WORDS TO MODEL

instrument names, my turn, music, play, listen, like, sound

EXAMPLE PHRASES

- I like **playing** the drums!
- Let's **play** the guitar
- My **turn** with the shakers



Rhythm Clapping

WORDS TO MODEL

play, go/stop, loud/quiet, fast/slow, hands/feet

EXAMPLE PHRASES

- **Clap** loud!
- Let's clap our **hands**



Singing & Movement

WORDS TO MODEL

up/down, dance, like, don't like, fun, sing

EXAMPLE PHRASES

- This is **fun**!
- Stand **up** and sing!



Describing Music

WORDS TO MODEL

like, don't like, fun, fast, slow, loud, quiet, cool, boring, beautiful, exciting

EXAMPLE PHRASES

- I **like** this song
- This song is **cool**



Requesting Songs

WORDS TO MODEL

want, play, song, favorite, my, you, turn, again, listen

EXAMPLE PHRASES

- I **want** to listen to ____
- It's my **turn**

Modeling AAC in Art

Quick Tips for Modeling

- Keep the AAC device charged and available to model AAC all day
- Pause and wait to give students time to respond
- Keep it simple and model 1–2 key words at a time
- Respond to all communication attempts, every message matters

Model these during Art

✓ Painting, Cutting & Gluing

WORDS TO MODEL

paint, cut, glue, colors, paper, get, more, all done

EXAMPLE PHRASES

- Let's **get** blue paint
- We need scissors to **cut**

✓ Cleaning up Materials

WORDS TO MODEL

put, in, clean, dirty, all done, messy, need, where, go

EXAMPLE PHRASES

- I am **all done**
- The table is **messy**!
- Let's **put** brushes in the sink

✓ Sharing Artwork

WORDS TO MODEL

look, like, great, colors

EXAMPLE PHRASES

- **Look** at my picture
- I used **red** and blue!

✓ Expressing Opinions

WORDS TO MODEL

like, don't like, cool, wow, great, bad, exciting, yay, proud, boring, beautiful

EXAMPLE PHRASES

- I **like** your picture
- My picture is **cool**

Modeling AAC in Library

Quick Tips for Modeling

- Keep the AAC device charged and available to model AAC all day
- Pause and wait to give students time to respond
- Keep it simple and model 1–2 key words at a time
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Model these during Library

✓ Read Aloud

WORDS TO MODEL

listen, look, turn, book, page

EXAMPLE PHRASES

- Turn the **page**.
- Look at the **pictures**.

✓ Choosing Books

WORDS TO MODEL

take, out, in, book, like, don't like, read, open, where, help, want, hold

EXAMPLE PHRASES

- Where is the **book** you want?
- I will **help** you find it.
- Hold your **book**.

✓ Library Rules

WORDS TO MODEL

listen, quiet, read, sit, wait, calm

EXAMPLE PHRASES

- The library is **quiet**.
- We **sit** at the table.
- We **listen** to stories.

✓ Using the Computer

WORDS TO MODEL

look, open, on/off, help, hold, push, press, wait, go, find, see

EXAMPLE PHRASES

- Turn the computer **on**.
- I can help you **find** the website.

Modeling AAC in English Language Arts

Quick Tips for Modeling

- Keep the AAC device charged and available to model AAC all day
- Pause and wait to give students time to respond
- Keep it simple and model 1–2 key words at a time
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Model these during English Language Arts



Describing Characters

WORDS TO MODEL

feelings, who, people, family, pronouns

EXAMPLE PHRASES

- **She** is mad
- Look, the **family** is going to the pool



Sequencing a Story

WORDS TO MODEL

first, next, last, when, where

EXAMPLE PHRASES

- **Where** does the story take place?



Class Discussion

WORDS TO MODEL

answer, tell, favorite, like, don't like

EXAMPLE PHRASES

- I **liked** the ending
- My **favorite** character is the boy



Listening to a Story

WORDS TO MODEL

listen, read, like, look, book, wait, help, turn, page

EXAMPLE PHRASES

- **Help** me turn the page
- I **like** this book
- Let's **listen**



Comprehension Questions

WORDS TO MODEL

what, who, where, why, how

EXAMPLE PHRASES

- **Where** did they go?
- **Who** did it?

Modeling AAC in Math

Quick Tips for Modeling

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Model these during Math

✓ Word Problems & Equations

WORDS TO MODEL

read, count, add, subtract, more, less, take away, put together

EXAMPLE PHRASES

- Let's **read** the problem
- **Take** away two
- Which has **more**?

✓ Worksheet Activity

WORDS TO MODEL

next, first, write, pencil, how

EXAMPLE PHRASES

- Here is the **next** problem
- Let's **write** the answer
- How **many** are there?

✓ Compare & Contrast

WORDS TO MODEL

same, different, more, less, shapes

EXAMPLE PHRASES

- The triangle has 3 **sides**
- The **square** and circle are different

✓ Counting

WORDS TO MODEL

number, count, more, less, same, different, how many

EXAMPLE PHRASES

- How **many** blocks do we have?
- Let's **count** together

Modeling AAC in Science

Quick Tips for Modeling

- Keep the AAC device charged and available to model AAC all day
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Model these during Science

✓ Making Observations

WORDS TO MODEL

look, listen, feel, different, make, change

EXAMPLE PHRASES

- **Look**, the plant makes a flower
- Leaves **change** colors

✓ Describing Concepts

WORDS TO MODEL

hard/soft, hot/cold, up/down, colors, not

EXAMPLE PHRASES

- Is the desert **hot** or **cold**?
- A rock is **hard** but leaves are not

✓ Specific Topics

WORDS TO MODEL

weather, animals, plants, space

EXAMPLE PHRASES

- The **tree** has leaves
- **Earth** is a planet
- **Lions** live in the jungle

✓ Experiments

WORDS TO MODEL

first, next, last, take, put, give, cool, wow, look, help, want, more, all done, same, different, change

EXAMPLE PHRASES

- **First** we add water
- **Wow**, look, it changed!

✓ Asking Questions

WORDS TO MODEL

what, when, where, why, how, think, know, happen

EXAMPLE PHRASES

- **What** happened?
- **How** will it work?

Modeling AAC in the Cafeteria

Quick Tips for Modeling

- Keep the AAC device charged and available to model AAC all day
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Model these during Cafeteria Time

✓ Ordering food

WORDS TO MODEL

I, me, you, like, want, eat, please, thank you, have, take, food items

EXAMPLE PHRASES

- I **want** milk
- Chicken nuggets, **please**
- One slice of **pizza**

✓ Eating

WORDS TO MODEL

more, all done, eat, snack, drink, thirsty, hungry, napkin, lunchbox, take, out, in, put, give, need, help, want

EXAMPLE PHRASES

- It's time to **eat**.
- **Take out** your snack.

✓ Cleaning Up

WORDS TO MODEL

more, all done, finished, drink, lunchbox, take, put, in, give, help, need, napkin, wipe

EXAMPLE PHRASES

- “**Put** trash in the garbage”
- “**Take** lunchbox back to class”

✓ Socializing

WORDS TO MODEL

hello, goodbye, how are you, help, share, like, yes, no, give, I, me, you, want

EXAMPLE PHRASES

- **Hello** John.
- I **like** pizza.

Modeling AAC in Life Skills

Quick Tips for Modeling

- Keep the AAC device charged and available to model AAC all day
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- Keep it simple and model 1–2 key words at a time
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Model these during Life Skills

✓ Activities of daily living

WORDS TO MODEL

take, hold, more, all done, stop, put, on, off, give

EXAMPLE PHRASES

- **Take** hairbrush
- **Put on** jacket

✓ Hygiene

WORDS TO MODEL

wash, soap, need, more, all done, turn, on, off, clean, dirty, bathroom, toilet, sink

EXAMPLE PHRASES

- Let's **wash** hands
- You need **soap**

✓ Cooking

WORDS TO MODEL

take, hold, stir, put, in, out, give, need, mix, pour, hot, cold, smell, taste, like, ingredients, utensils

EXAMPLE PHRASES

- **Put in** the milk
- I **like** cupcakes
- You need a **spoon**

✓ Job skills

WORDS TO MODEL

first, next, last, job, work, help, need, want, put, take, hold, on, off, in, out, give, go, more, stop, all done, break

EXAMPLE PHRASES

- **First** we need to ____
- **Help** me, please
- **Take** ____ and put down

✓ Cleaning

WORDS TO MODEL

take, hold, wipe, wash, help, clean, dirty, supplies, locations

EXAMPLE PHRASES

- Let's **clean** the table
- **Help** me dust the shelf

✓ Shopping & Community

WORDS TO MODEL

buy, pay, help, want, go, need, money, credit card, give, look, see, find, where

EXAMPLE PHRASES

- **Give** money to the cashier
- I **need** help to find something

Modeling AAC in Social Emotional Learning

Quick Tips for Modeling

- Keep the AAC device charged and available to model AAC all day
- Pause and wait to give students time to respond
- Keep it simple and model 1–2 key words at a time
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Model these during Social Emotional Learning

✓ Identifying feelings

WORDS TO MODEL

I, you, me, feel, happy, sad, tired, angry, mad, frustrated, excited, proud, good, bad, bored, silly, surprised

EXAMPLE PHRASES

- I **feel** happy
- She feels **mad**

✓ Self-awareness

WORDS TO MODEL

like, don't like, good, hard, different, same, me, I

EXAMPLE PHRASES

- I **like** music
- That is **hard**
- I had a **good** day

✓ Sharing & turn taking

WORDS TO MODEL

I, you, me, he, she, take, turn, my, give, want, need, have

EXAMPLE PHRASES

- I **want** a turn
- **Give** the toy to Jane
- It's your **turn**

✓ Emotional regulation

WORDS TO MODEL

walk, headphones, fidget, break, space, quiet, stop, help, breathe, calm, wait

EXAMPLE PHRASES

- I need a **walk**
- It's too loud, I want **headphones**
- I want a **break**

✓ Friendship skills

WORDS TO MODEL

I, me, you, play, share, help, want, friend, together, kind

EXAMPLE PHRASES

- Want to **play**?
- **Help** friend

Modeling AAC in _____

Quick Tips for Modeling

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Build your own Modeling Map



Activity

WORDS TO MODEL

EXAMPLE PHRASES



Activity

WORDS TO MODEL

EXAMPLE PHRASES



Activity

WORDS TO MODEL

EXAMPLE PHRASES