

Modeling AAC in Elementary 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 elementary 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
Morning Meeting	"GOOD morning friends! How are YOU?" "Today, we GO to Library"
Snack	"ALL DONE snack, let's clean UP" "PUT your snack ON your desk"
Centers	"I LIKE this game" "MY TURN with math cubes"
Recess	"WHAT do you want to PLAY?" "HELP me ON the swing"
Reading	"THAT is silly" "WHO will they SEE next?"
Math	"Which pile has MORE blocks?" "I SEE 4 triangles"
Music	"This music is FAST" "Turn the music UP"
Art	"WHAT color do you WANT?" "LOOK at my picture!"
Physical Education	"STOP and wait" "Jump UP, get DOWN"

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](#).