

CIRCLE TIME • MODELING GUIDE

Modeling During Circle Time

Circle time is full of natural moments to model AAC. Modeling shows learners how their device works in real conversation, use these quick prompts to give every child a voice, from the first greeting to the last song.

Quick Tips for Modeling

Keep it charged & close

Have the AAC device charged and within reach so you can model all day long.

Keep it simple

Model just 1–2 key words at a time so the target is clear.

Pause & wait

Give learners time to process and respond count to ten before prompting again.

Respond to every attempt

Honor all communication every message matters, however it's expressed.

What to Model, Activity by Activity

Activity	Words to Model	Example Phrases
Greetings	hi, hello, good morning, peer / staff names, my turn	"Hi + name"
Attendance	who, here, not, you, I	"Who is here today?" "Name is not here."
Feelings	how, feel, feelings	"How are you today?" "I feel happy / tired / mad."
Calendar Time	what, time, days of the week, months, today, yesterday, numbers	"What day is it?" "Today is Monday."
Weather	hot, cold, rain, snow, sunny, windy, clothing items, look, what	"It is snowy." "We need a jacket." "Look, the sun is out."
Movement Activity	listen, dance, sing, jump, watch, my turn, what, like	"What song will we listen to?" "It's my turn to choose." "I like to dance!"

CIRCLE TIME · VISUAL SCHEDULE

Circle Time Visual Schedule

Follow the routine from first to last. Point to each symbol as you go and model the core words along the way, so every learner can predict what comes next and join the conversation.



1 Greetings

Say hi & good morning



2 Attendance

See who is here today



3 Feelings

How do you feel?



4 Calendar Time

What day is it today?



5 Weather

Look outside — what do you see?



6 Movement Activity

Sing, dance & move together

Symbols shown are AbleTeams core words, model them on the learner's own device. Pair each step with your classroom's photos or objects for extra support.