



Communication Opportunities Around the School, Clinic, and Other Settings

It is important for AAC users to bring their QuickTalker Freestyle everywhere they go to allow for consistent access to communication!

You may be surprised at the number of communication opportunities various environments allow for. Lean into their natural surroundings to show them how meaningful communication can be!

Within the school, clinic, or community environment, there are a multitude of opportunities to use the QuickTalker Freestyle and a variety of individuals to communicate with! You can make the most of these opportunities to expand on an individual's communication abilities.

Communication Around the School or Clinic

It is important to view all daily interactions as an opportunity for the user to learn and communicate. You can help them by providing prompts, cues, and modeling during these interactions verbally and on the device.

Communication Opportunities:

- Asking for help during an activity
- Answering a question during math, English, Science, etc.
- Providing a preference during play time

Communication Partners:

- Teacher
- Paraprofessional
- Peers

Example Activities & Messages:

- ✓ **During art class, the student is unable to open their paint:**
Message: "help", "I need help", "Open paint"
- ✓ **During reading time, the teacher asks, "what color is the truck?"**
Message: "The truck is red", "red", "I see red"
- ✓ **During playtime, the students get to choose a station to go to.**
- ✓ **The AAC use would like to choose a station:**
Message: "Can I play playdoh?", "I want to play cars."
- ✓ **During snack time, the students can talk about their food:**
Message: "Yummy cookie", "I don't like peanut butter"

Communication Around the School or Clinic

Around your school or clinic setting, there are many natural occurring opportunities to use AAC to communicate!

Communication Opportunities:

- Greeting upon arrival for their session
- Conversation with someone in the hallway
- Expressing how they feel

Communication Partners:

- Secretary or Front Desk Staff
- Custodian
- Nurse

Example Activities & Messages:

- ✓ **When the individual arrives for their session, let the secretary know they are there:**
Message: “Hi, How are you?” “My name is _____”, “I am here for my appointment”, “You look nice today.”
- ✓ **Walking to their therapy room, they see someone in the hallway:**
Message: “Where is the speech room?”, “Good morning!”
- ✓ **The individual needs to see the nurse as they are not feeling well:**
Message: “I feel sick”, “My arm hurts”, “help”

Communication Around the School or Clinic

When you are out and about in the community, that is the perfect opportunity for communication! Communication is everywhere you look!

Communication Opportunities:

- At a restaurant
- At the zoo or aquarium
- At the library

Communication Partners:

- Waiter or Waitress
- Mom, dad, siblings, etc.
- Librarian or peer

Example Activities & Messages:

- ✓ **Have the individual order when the waiter/waitress comes:**
Message “Can I have chicken fingers, please?”, “I want more milk.”
- ✓ **At the zoo or aquarium, name the animals and say what they are doing!**
Message: “I see a zebra!”, “The fish are swimming.”, “Let’s go see the penguins!”
- ✓ **In the library, engage in shared book reading with others!**
Message: “Turn the page, read more!”, “I like dinosaur books!”
“Where are the car books?”

Communication occurs everywhere! It is important to model language across many settings so that the user understands that communication is always accessible.

Ready to document messages? Please email us at fundingservices@ablenetinc.com to receive your client’s unique Caregiver Observation Tool to document messages that have occurred outside of the speech room!