



Summer AAC Practice: Weekly Activities for Families

A great way to continue AAC utilization throughout the summer is to incorporate AAC into daily activities. Our summer carryover calendar offers weekly activities and vocabulary suggestions to help integrate AAC across various environments this summer. Remember to also customize vocabulary relevant to your user's summer plans and interests!

Week 1: Play Time

Focus on using the device during play time. This is a fun way to start the summer! Follow your user's lead by finding activities they enjoy, and model on the device while you play together.

Target Words: play, more, fun, turn, stop, go, help, like, want, again, my turn, your turn, build, push, throw, catch

Target Phrases: Do it again, let's go, this is fun, let's play _____

Week 2: Mealtime

Focus on using the device during mealtimes. This can be in the kitchen while you are cooking or while eating. Allow your user to make choices about their meals and explore how food tastes!

Target Words: eat, drink, more, all done, hungry, thirsty, yummy, yucky, hot, cold, spoon, fork, napkin

Target Phrases: I'm hungry, I need more, it's good, I like it, I don't like

Week 3: Transitions

Focus on using the device during transitions. When leaving a space or changing activities, use the device to terminate the activity and indicate or have your user pick what's next!

Target Words: all done, finished, next, stop, go, ready, now, later, first-then, goodbye, hello, in, out, car, home, outside

Target Phrases: I'm all done, what's next, let's go, come on, here we go, see you later, It's time for _____

Week 4: Morning and Nighttime Routines

Focus on using the device during morning and nighttime routines. Give yourself extra time to model labels, greetings, and requests in the morning and evening.

Target Words: wake up, sleep, brush, wash, toilet, pajamas, clothes, shoes, tired, good morning, goodnight, on, off

Target Phrases: Time for bed/ time to get up, I'm tired, let's go to sleep/ let's wake up

Week 5: Media Engagement

Focus on using the device while watching TV or engaging with media. Watch videos or listen to music together and discuss the experience.

Target Words: watch, listen, music, movie, favorite, loud, quiet, again, like, don't like, dance, sing

Target Phrases: Let's do it again, let's watch _____, I love it, this is fun, it's too loud, turn it on/ off

Week 6: Emotions

Focus on using the device to discuss emotions throughout the day in a variety of settings. Label how you are feeling and model how your user is feeling.

Target Words: happy, sad, mad, scared, tired, excited, calm, hurt, feel, need, hug,

Target Phrases: I need a break, I need help, I don't feel good, can I have a hug, I'm so _____

Week 7: Social Communication

Focus on using the device with others! Use the device with friends and family this week to build comfort with the device for all parties. Always ask the user's permission before allowing someone else to touch the device.

Target Words: hello, goodbye, friend, name, my, your, share, play, together, tell, show, like, thanks, please

Target Phrases: My name is _____, how are you, nice to meet you, let's play, my turn/ your turn

Week 8: Bringing It All Together

Bring it all together! Reflect on which parts of the day are the easiest to incorporate AAC and which ones are goals for the future. Start to build a routine of using the device in a variety of different environments!



Tips for Success:

- Model words on the device yourself instead of prompting your user.
- Target commonly used core words that are applicable in different contexts as well as motivating fringe vocabulary.
- Personalize the device based on preferred activities. Don't be afraid to be silly! Program sounds (e.g., animal sounds) or favorite phrases to make the device engaging.
- Celebrate all communication attempts.
- Remember that consistency builds communication confidence!

 **Have a great summer!** 