



Add One More Step

When someone says one word, you can model two or three words. Use a short phrase or sentence. Say a little bit more to help them grow their communication skills.



How do we facilitate the expansion of someone's communication skills?

We do this by staying one step ahead of their current abilities. If they use a single word, we can model two to three words. For an AAC user, we do this by modeling on their communication device. We want the learner to both hear and see the expanded utterance.

If we always used the same words, the AAC user wouldn't learn anything new. We need to stay a step or two ahead. If they produce a single word, we can model two to three related words. If someone says, "coffee" with their device, we might model, "want coffee". This shows the user how to combine their noun with other parts of speech. When you have the ability to combine words, you are

able to say new things. A communication system based entirely on nouns would not provide access to language.

The ability to combine words gives us superpowers. Language makes it possible to comment, joke, greet, and reject. Being able to say "NO" is powerful. With the use of language, someone can say, "I don't want coffee. I want something different."

What if the AAC user is already making short sentences?

We can expand by modeling more words, such as adjectives, adverbs, and prepositions. We help them to grow the complexity of their language. Language is powerful.