Consider Communication

Choosing Words– Vocabulary Choice

Does the person have the words available to say what they want to say?

Much of the power of the AAC is the vocabulary selected and symbols that represent them–reflecting what user wants to say and not what others want said

"We need to provide… a wide range of symbols that represent a **robust vocabulary** that …supports them to develop into an autonomous communicator." (Jane Farrall, 2015)

•AAC vocabulary needs room for language to grow.

Core Words
•80% of vocabulary consists of core words
•Commonly used by people, no matter the situation
•Primarily consists of pronouns, verbs, descriptors, prepositions, and very FEW nouns.
•Everyone uses and needs core vocabulary to communicate effectively.

Fringe Vocabulary
•Core vocabulary plays a critical role it isn't everything!
•20% of our vocabulary is made up of fringe words
•Used for specific activities and topics
•Large number of different words–mostly nouns

•"All learners need words that allow them to speak about the things they hold near and dear:…." (PrAACtical AAC)

Prestored Phrases and Sentences
•Important socially–it's easier and faster
•Social communication is fast–with prestored sentences more likely to communicate.
•Putting together social phrases like these: How are you?; I did something fun; See you later, alligator

What does an effective AAC vocabulary look like?
•Mostly core words that people use every day
•Some fringe vocabulary
•Prestored phrases for quick social language
•AAC Symbol Sets
•Word is printed above symbol. Partners need to see words as they may not know symbols
•People with visual impairments—easier in black and white, line drawings, or high contrast colors
•Commonly used Symbol Sets: Boardmaker/PCS Symbols, Symbol Stix, MinSpeak

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