

Levels of learning to communicate with pictures

Where is your child at?

Exposure

The child tolerates your use of the communication aid in his/her presence, but seems to pay no attention.

Acknowledge

The child will occasionally glance at the communication aid if he/she hears something interesting.

Curiosity

The child watches to see what you are modelling.

Try it

The child is engaged and interested. At this time you're seeing the child start to touch the communication aid and look for your response.

Acceptance

The child expects you to model when you're there. He/she will look to the communication aid to cue you to model language that is useful to the situation.

Exploration

The child readily and frequently joins in when you're modelling. He/she explores new or unfamiliar vocabulary in the communication aid and looks to you to assign meaning. This looks like a conversation using visual communication.

Remember: If the child joins in and starts using the communication aid at any of these levels, respond positively to the communication and keep the conversation going.

Content reformatted with permission from Heidi LoStracco, MS, CCC-SLP.

LoStracco, H. (2015). AAC Modeling: A Piece of Cake and a Bite of Broccoli - Speak For Yourself AAC. [online] Speak For Yourself AAC. Available at: <http://www.speakforyourself.org/uncategorized/aac-modeling-part-1-a-piece-of-cake-and-a-bite-of-broccoli/> [Accessed 20 July. 2017].