

Communication at Home

At school, we believe that there are *many different ways to communicate*: facial expression, gestures, signing, pictures, photographs, typing and more. We call it **AAC**.

AAC are tools or technology that help people communicate if they can't rely on speech.

All our learners are encouraged to use these different forms of communication. Whether your child talks a lot, not at all, or only talks sometimes, AAC can help.

We use some tools such as paper and iPad versions of Proloquo2Go and PODD books.



Talk to your child's teacher to learn more!

With a communication tool in hand, there are many things that you can do at home that can help your child's communication. Here are our 7 quick tips:



1. Model - not down the catwalk, but by pointing and showing words on the board or book as you speak to your child.

2. Talk about things your child loves. Make it fun and motivating.

3. Give your child a little more time to say something or touch the communication board. **Pause and wait** for them before you help them.



4. When you do help them - talk to your child about pressing buttons on the AAC, show them again, but **do not take their hand** & make them touch it. They deserve to choose when and if they will communicate, just like speaking children.

5. Show your child how they can ask for things, but also **make comments, tell stories & boss you around**.

6. Notice when your child tries to communicate something to you. **Point to words** on the communication tool to say what you think they are telling you.

7. Your child may communicate in lots of different ways - accept them all. If sometimes they speak and sometimes they point to pictures, it is all communication.

Enjoy your communication adventure together!