

Communication: Core Vocabulary



What is it?

Core vocabulary in the context of Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) refers to a set of commonly used words that make up the majority (about 80%) of our daily communication. These words are versatile and can be combined in various ways to convey a wide range of meanings. Examples include words like "want," "go," "help," "more," and "stop." Core vocabulary is essential in AAC because it provides users with a foundation for expressing basic needs, thoughts, and ideas efficiently and effectively.

Why use it?

Using core vocabulary is paramount due to its versatility and efficiency in communication. Core vocabulary facilitates the development of expressive language skills and promotes communication independence, empowering AAC users to express themselves effectively and efficiently across different settings. Emphasizing core vocabulary simplifies the learning process for both users and communication partners, making AAC more accessible and promoting successful communication exchanges.

How to use it?

To use core vocabulary effectively, AAC users should focus on learning and using these words consistently across different contexts. Communication partners can support AAC users by modeling core vocabulary during interactions, encouraging its use, and providing opportunities for practice. Additionally, integrating core vocabulary into structured activities and daily routines can help reinforce its usage and promote communication independence.

Inclusive classroom example

During a group discussion about a story, an AAC user might utilize core vocabulary words like "like," "want," and "more" to express their thoughts and preferences regarding the plot or characters. The teacher and peers can support the AAC user by modeling these core vocabulary words and incorporating them into their own responses, creating an inclusive environment where everyone communicates using similar language.

