

# Modelling AAC for a range of reasons



This resource was produced by Indigo therapists with funding received from Telethon 2021

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*People communicate for a wide range of reasons each day.*

*This is sometimes called: Communication Functions.*

*For individuals who use or rely on AAC, it is essential they experience their communication methods being used to express a range of communication functions.*

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## Aim

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*To increase the variety of communication functions modelled on an AAC system.*

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## How we do it

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*Plan Ahead*

*Find out:*

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- *What functions does the AAC user express now?*
  - *What functions are being modelled now?*
  - *What functions could be modelled more?*
  - *Are there enough words available to express all the functions?*
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***Have lots of words available***

*Have the words available to express different ideas in different situations.*

*This might mean getting your own copy of a communication system.*

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***Recognise, respect, and acknowledge***

*Recognise and respect the different ways an individual might communicate a message.*

*Acknowledge the message and build on it if needed.*

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***Start using it***

*Limitations to communication systems may be noticed as different types of messages are modelled.*

*If communication partners don't have enough words to talk about what they want, then the AAC user doesn't either.*

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Plan Ahead



Lots of words



Recognise, respect,  
acknowledge



Start using it

## Plan to model without expectations

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*It can be helpful to think about how AAC can be used to communicate that helps learning and is enjoyable for everyone.*

*In the planning process, consider the following:*

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- *What times could modelling be done more*
  - *What words can be modelled more*
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*When reflecting on how AAC is used, these sorts of things could be done more*

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- *Is AAC used to emphasise speech*
  - *Are AAC users given time to contribute*
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*When reflecting on how AAC is used, these sorts of things could be done less or none of the time*

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- *Are AAC users asked to repeat or use specific words (e.g., "Say -more- if you want more")*
  - *Are AAC users asked to use specific ways of communicating (e.g., "use your talker")*
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For more information

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For more information visit our website: *Telethon: Country Kids Communicate* ([indigosolutions.org.au](http://indigosolutions.org.au))<sup>1</sup>

Download this as a PDF document: *Modelling a Range of Functions*<sup>2</sup>

 Phone: 08 9381 0600

 Web: [www.indigosolutions.org.au](http://www.indigosolutions.org.au)

 Email: [help@indigosolution.org.au](mailto:help@indigosolution.org.au)<sup>3</sup>

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## References

Ahern, K. (25 Oct 2015) 5 Reasons to use the high-quality vocabulary already included in your AAC system [Blog post]. Retrieved from <http://teachinglearnerswithmultipleneeds.blogspot.com/2015/10>

AssistiveWare (2020). All the reasons we communicate [Blog post]. Retrieved from <https://www.assistiveware.com/learn-aac/consider-communication-functions>

Langley, R. (12 Oct 2018). Building AAC Awareness: Using AAC to express a range of functions [Blog post]. Retrieved from <https://praacticalaac.org/praactical/building-aac-awareness-using-aac-to-express-a-range-of-functions/>

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.indigosolutions.org.au/our-services/services-for-schools/telethon-country-kids-communicate>

<sup>2</sup>[https://www.indigosolutions.org.au/docs/default-source/telethon-resource-sheets/04\\_modellingarangeoffunctions.pdf](https://www.indigosolutions.org.au/docs/default-source/telethon-resource-sheets/04_modellingarangeoffunctions.pdf)

<sup>3</sup><mailto:help@indigosolution.org.au>