

Modelling AAC Without Expectations



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

Modelling without expectations is a way to connect and use AAC to communicate without the expectation or pressure for someone else to respond.

There is no pressure or expectation to answer questions, imitate, say particular words, or use specific ways to communicate.

Aim

To increase the number of times an AAC user sees their communication method being used to communicate real messages.

To take the pressure off interactions so they can be fun, rewarding, and enjoyable for everyone.



How we do it

Say Something

Make a comment about something you are:

- *thinking about*
 - *seeing*
 - *doing*
 - *smelling*
 - *listening to*
 - *feeling*
-

Point to pictures and words

At the same time (or just after) you are talking, use an AAC system to say some, or all, of the words you just said.

If you want to use someone else's device, make sure to ask them first.

If they say no, use something else.

Wait

Take some time to give the individual space to participate if they want to.

It is ok if they don't have anything to say right now.

Keep it going

Don't give up.

It can take time to learn a new language.



Say something



Point to pictures
and words



Wait



Keep it going

Plan to model without expectations

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:

- *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

- *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

- *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

*For more information visit our website: Telethon: Country Kids Communicate
(indigosolutions.org.au)¹*

Download this as a PDF document: [Modelling without Expectations](#)²

 Phone: 08 9381 0600

 Web: www.indigosolutions.org.au

 Email: help@indigosolution.org.au³

References

Rangel-Rodríguez, G., Badia, M., & Blanch, S. (2021). Encouraging Emotional Conversations in Children With Complex Communication Needs: An Observational Case Study. *Frontiers in psychology*, 12, 674755. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2021.674755>

Sennott, S., Light, J., & McNaughton, D. (2016). AAC Modeling Intervention Research Review. *Research and Practice for Persons with Severe Disabilities*, 41(2), 101–115. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1540796916638822>

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

²https://www.indigosolutions.org.au/docs/default-source/telethon-resource-sheets/03_modellingwithoutexpectations.pdf

³<mailto:help@indigosolution.org.au>