

Expanding with AAC



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

For language to develop to meet future needs, we should be showing an AAC users how to their communication methods can be used to express a wide range of functions to a wide range of people.

One of the ways this can be done is to expand what someone has already expressed.

Aim

To use AAC in a way that shows possible next steps towards more complete or specific messages

How

Respect the message

Anything that the individual does to communicate a concept counts as a 'word' to expand on.

Pointing at something could be the name of that object.

A facial expression can mean "Yuck!", or "Wow!".

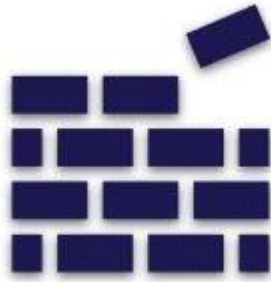
Sentences could be a combination of methods including speech, gestures, and pictures.

Build it up

Build on what the individual has 'said' by adding:

- *Extra words, or*
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- *Including new and different grammar*
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Building up single words and concepts

Add people words

"Car" could become:

- *"his car"*
 - *"my car"*
 - *"mum's car"*
 - *"dog car"*
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Add an action

"Play" could become:

- *"Stop play"*
- *"More play"*
- *"Help to play"*

- *"Lets go play"*
 - *" Like playing"*
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Add describing words

"Car" could become:

- *"Loud car"*
 - *"Fast car"*
 - *"Long car"*
 - *"Red car"*
 - *"Hot car"*
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Add a question

"Fast" could become

- *"Who likes fast?"*
 - *"Go faster?"*
 - *"Can I go fast?"*
 - *"Does dad like fast?"*
 - *"Who is the fastest?"*
-



Add people words



Add an action



Add a describing
word



Add a question

Building up sentences

Add grammar forms and linking words

"Want play" could become:

- *"You want to play"*
 - *"I want to play too"*
 - *"You wanted to play"*
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Create longer, more complete sentences

"Go camp" could become:

- *"We went to camp"*
 - *"Time to go to camp"*
 - *"Have you been camping?"*
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Add information

"We went slide" could become:

- *"We went down a slide on the weekend"*
 - *"The slide was hot when we went down"*
 - *"You went to the big slide"*
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Add grammar &
linking words

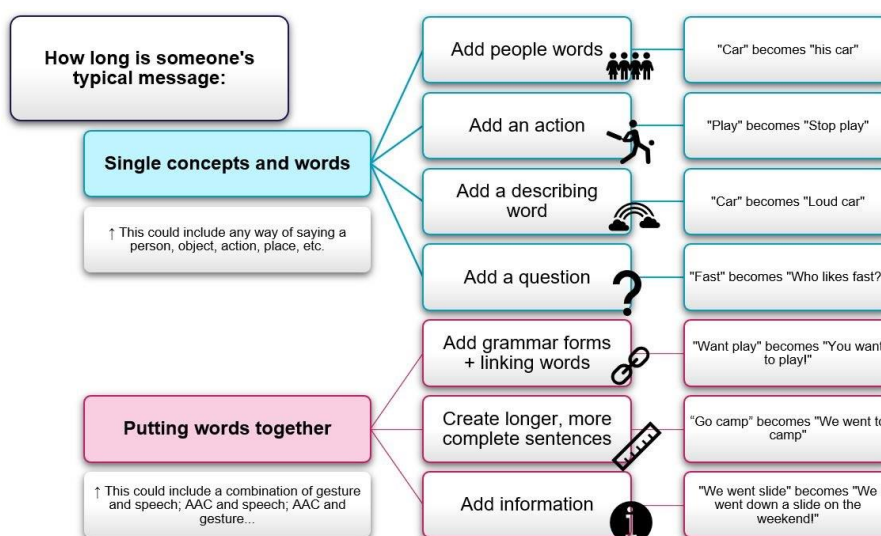


Create longer, more
complete sentences



Add information

Building up words and sentences



Plan to expand with AAC

It can be helpful to think about planning to expand using AAC from two sides.

- 1. What does the individual currently do and how could those messages be expanded*
 - 2. Do the people around them know the AAC system well enough to expand the messages*
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The gaps in knowledge around an AAC system can be a good goal for communication partners to improve and focus on.



For more information

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

Download this as a PDF document: Expanding with AAC²

 *Phone: 08 9381 0600*

 *Web: www.indigosolutions.org.au*

 *Email: help@indigosolution.org.au³*

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/06_expandingwithaac.pdf

³<mailto:help@indigosolution.org.au>