Core Words Planner

Questions answered by this document

* What does the person you are supporting do with their body or voice to communicate currently?
* What messages are they communicating?
* What core words could we teach?

How to use this document

* Observe the person in a range of different activities, situations, and environments.
* Try to collect the following information with several communication partners and at various times across the day.
* Complete column 1 and 2 across a 1-2-week period before your device trial or when looking to set some new AAC goals.
* In column 1, look at the person’s body language and be specific about what they do to communicate.
* In column 2, write down what they would say in that moment if they could say it.
* Fill in column 3 with your Speech Pathologist or support team.
* You can use the [‘100 Frequently Used Core Words’ handout](https://aaclanguagelab.com/resources/100-high-frequency-core-word-list) to help you choose the core words to teach.

Example

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| **1) What is the person doing?** | **2) What does/could this mean?** | **3) What core words could we teach?** |
| Flaps their handsMakes grunting noiseStomps their feet | “Stop it!”“I’m angry”“I need a break” | StopBreak |
| Hands me an item | “Help me open it” | HelpOpen |
| Points to objects | “Want that/it” | Want |
| Pulls at adult’s legs | “I want to stand up” | UpDown |

**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Person Completing this form: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **1) What is the person doing?** | **2) What does/could this mean?** | **3) What core words could we teach?** |
| **Day 1****Date: \_\_/\_\_/\_\_** |
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| **Day 2****Date: \_\_/\_\_/\_\_** |
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| **Day 3****Date: \_\_/\_\_/\_\_** |
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| **Day 4****Date: \_\_/\_\_/\_\_** |
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| **Day 5****Date: \_\_/\_\_/\_\_** |
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| **Day 6****Date: \_\_/\_\_/\_\_** |
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| **Day 7****Date: \_\_/\_\_/\_\_** |
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Which words occurred the most? Write them in the boxes below.

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Why is this person communicating?

What functions do these words serve (they may serve more than one)?

Are you targeting a range of functions, or might you be missing an opportunity?

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| --- | --- |
| **Language Function** | **Words** |
| **Direct** |  |
| **Protest** |  |
| **Request** |  |
| **Comment** |  |
| **Ask for help** |  |
| **Ask for recurrence** |  |
| **Other** |  |

What are some communication partner goals that might be developed from this information?

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| --- |
| 1)  |
| 2)  |
| 3)  |

What are some ways that we can support the device user’s learning (e.g. modelling without expectation, prompting, fading)?

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Additional comments or notes

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