

# PRESS for Success

## with AAC device modelling



**AAC modelling means using the communication system yourself.**

That might look like:


- talking on your own device (e.g., the same language system on your iPad)
- using a low-tech version of their vocabulary (e.g., a printout of their homepage)
- using the AAC communicator's device – always ask permission before using someone's device.

**Modelling AAC means:**

**Saying what you would usually say + saying it with AAC as well.**

This shows the AAC communicator how AAC can work in real life.

The more they see AAC used naturally, the more confident they become using it themselves.

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# Use the PRESS strategies to make your AAC modelling count



## P – Parallel Talk

Narrate what the AAC communicator is doing or experiencing, without expecting a response – say the words for what's happening in the moment.

**Example:** Say “Oh, you’re pushing the car!” + model “**push car**” on the device.

“You’re pushing the car!”



## R – Repeat Often

Use the same words and phrases across many different activities and situations – the same word in many different contexts builds real understanding over time.

**Example:** Say “You want more?” + model “**more**” on the device at snack time, during a game, and in the bath.

“You want more?”



## E – Expand & Extend

When the AAC communicator says something, model a slightly longer or richer version back to them to show them how to say more.

**Example:** If they say “dog”, expand by modelling “**big dog**”, or extend by modelling “**dog run**”.

“big dog”  
“dog run”



## S – Self-Talk

Narrate your own actions and thoughts using AAC as you go about everyday activities, so they can see AAC used naturally and purposefully. We can learn so much from seeing others communicate the same way that we do.

**Example:** While making a snack, say “I’m hungry!” + model “**hungry**” on the device, “I’m going to cut an apple” + model “**cut apple**”, “This is yum!” + model “**yum**”.

“I’m going to cut an apple”



## S – Slow Down & Pause

Give extra time after modelling or after the AAC communicator communicates – resist the urge to fill the silence, as processing and responding can take longer than you expect.

**Example:** After modelling a word or asking a question, count silently to ten before saying anything else – it can feel longer than it is, but that wait time is doing important work.

**Remember: you don’t need to model perfectly – every time you use AAC yourself, learning happens and you show that AAC is for everyone.**