



Teaching Vocabulary with Descriptive Teaching

What is Descriptive Teaching?

It is a way to teach academic vocabulary and concepts using core words, along with other high frequency words.

A student doesn't need every academic word programmed in their speech-generating device.



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What is Referential Teaching?

Referential teaching often requires a specific answer to a question to tell if a student has learned a concept.

"What is the action that changes or maintains a body or object?"

Answer: Force



2

Using Descriptive Teaching

The student needs the word (e.g., force) in their speech-generating device to answer this question. Instead, change the question:

"Tell me what you know about force using the words in your AAC system."
You may hear: "go fast," "make move different way."



3

Adding New Words

Consider adding an academic word to the speech-generating device if:

- It is a content-specific word used repeatedly in school subjects.
- It represents a high interest area for the student and will be used often.



Scan the QR code or select the link to watch the short video, [Considerations for Adding Words to Your AAC System](#)

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